

LENT MIDWEEK

MARCH 4TH, 2020

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please sign the guest register in the entry
as you leave the church today.

TODAY'S SERVICE

March 4th, 2020

Speaker:

Pastor Matthew Ude

Organist:

Lila Brown

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

The First Image: The Evil Within Us

Whether man believes it or not, it is most certain and true that no torture can compare with the worst of all evils, namely, the evil within man himself. The evils within him are more numerous and far greater than any which he feels. If a man were to feel his evil, he would feel hell, for he has hell within himself. You ask, "How can that be?" The prophet says, "All men are liars" (psalm 116:11), and again, "Every man living is nothing but vanity" (Psalm 39:6). But to be a liar and a vanity is to be without truth and reality. And to be without truth and reality is to be without God and to be nothing. This condition in turn is to be in hell and to be damned.

Therefore, when God in his mercy chastens us, he shows us and lays upon us only the lighter evils, for God knows that if he were to lead a man to a full knowledge of his own evils, that man would die at once.

Thus we observe how those to whom their true evil has been revealed rage furiously against themselves.

-Martin Luther, *The Fourteen Consolations*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Hymn 324:1-4 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

INVOCATION

p In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

c Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS

p God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

c **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin.**

p If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

c **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

p Let us pray.

all **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen**

p Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

c **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

PSALM OF THE DAY, PSALM 6

P O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger,
c **Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure.**
p Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I *am* weak;
c **O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.**
p My soul also is greatly troubled;
c **But You, O LORD-- how long?**
p Return, O LORD, deliver me!
c **Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake!**
p For in death *there is* no remembrance of You;
c **In the grave who will give You thanks?**
p I am weary with my groaning;
c **All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch
with my tears.**
p My eye wastes away because of grief;
c **It grows old because of all my enemies.**
p Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity;
c **For the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping.**
p The LORD has heard my supplication;

- c **The LORD will receive my prayer.**
- p Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled;
- c **Let them turn back *and* be ashamed suddenly.**

PSALM PRAYER

- p Let us pray . . . Lord God, you are merciful and tenderhearted, abounding in love and faithfulness. Turn to us in our anguish over sin and hear our cry for mercy that we may be at Lord God, you are merciful and tenderhearted, abounding in love and faithfulness. Turn to us in our anguish over sin and hear our cry for mercy that we may be at peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

Ezekiel 18:25-32 ²⁵ "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? ²⁶ "When a right-

eous *man* turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. ²⁷ "Again, when a wicked *man* turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. ²⁸ "Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ "Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? ³⁰ "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. ³¹ "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? ³² "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

PASSION READING #2

Hymn 342 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

SERMON

Luke 23:39-43 ³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?" ⁴¹ "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

DON'T YOU FEAR GOD?

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING, LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

all In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me today, and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, wher-

ever I have done wrong, and graciously protect me tonight. Into Your hands I entrust my body and soul and everything else. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the devil may have no power over me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

all Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

p The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Hymn 324:5-8 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive



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