



Week Three; April 6-12
Theme: Faith

²² And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³² “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:22-32

Pastor Steve Voigt in a recent devotion reminded us that our Lord says “do not fear” 366 times in the Holy Scriptures, one for each day of the week, including the leap year. These words bring us great comfort in the midst of uncertainty, in the times of suffering, and in the weariness of sorrow and grief. We are reminded of the fear and anxiety suffered by the disciples on that first Good Friday and Holy Saturday, hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews and how those comforting words “do not fear” spoken by their risen Savior brought a peace that goes beyond all human understanding. May we be comforted by those words this week, a unique and uncertain Holy Week for all our world. May we find peace in knowing “it is finished”, that our faith is secure, our righteousness certain, and our heavenly home waiting all through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Savior Jesus.

Prayer suggestions – You can use these or lift up your own. We encourage you to pray these prayers each day. In addition, we urge you to add the names of those printed at the bottom of the page. These are individuals connected in some way to the ministries of Berea and Agape Hill. If you would like someone added to the list, make sure they approve having their name included and email the information to Pastor Jeff.

Monday – Fear or Faith: Dearest Holy Father, help us remember the words You shared through the prophet Isaiah, "*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are*

mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." 43:1-3. Father, may our faith always look toward you. We know that often we are those who Your Son says are those of little faith. Grant to us the faith like that of the mustard seed so that we, as Jesus says, "can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." Mathew 17:20. Take away all fear that our trust be always in You and Your Word. We pray this in the name of our Savior Jesus. Amen.

***I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only Thee
Trusting Thee for full salvation, great and free.***

LSB 729:1

Tuesday – Discouragement or Courage: Lord help us not to be discouraged. Satan uses it to cause doubt that You are present in our lives, that You provide for us strength and guidance in all situations. Give us courage to face all obstacles. Remind us that even as we experience fear and anxiety, when it appears that we do not have the answers we need, our lives are in Your hands and that all things happen according to Your will and plan. Point us always to Jesus' words, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world." John 16:33b May our courage be found in Jesus' overcoming sin, death, and Satan's power on the cross. We pray this in His precious name. Amen.

***I am trusting Thee for pardon, at Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy, trusting now.***

LSB 729:2

Wednesday – Weary or Peace: Precious Savior, Your Holy Word always brings comfort. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 Oftentimes, we are wearied and overwhelmed in the midst of pandemic, sorrow, pain, grief, and loneliness. May we always look to you dear Jesus for the mercy and comfort that only you can give. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:7. We pray this in Your powerful name. Amen.

***I am trusting Thee for cleansing in the crimson flood,
Trusting Thee to make me holy, by Thy blood.***

LSB 729:3

Maundy Thursday – Hate or Love: Loving Father it has been said that fear can lead to anger and anger to hate none of which bring the healing and comfort that your endless love gives. On this Maundy Thursday may we remember Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and to serve one another as he served us. Remind us also of the unifying gift He also gave to all of His Church as He institutes the new Covenant, making us one in His body and blood, given and shed for us. May we also remember on this day Your Son's High Priestly prayer as he prayed for us and the security and strengthening of our faith. And may we never forget His obedience to Your will Father, joyfully partaking in the whole cup of Your wrath for us. May Your unconditional love for us give us

courage and strength to display that love to our neighbor and the world around us. We pray this in the name of our suffering Savior Jesus. Amen.

***I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shall lead,
Every day and hour supplying all my need.***

LSB 729:4

Good Friday – Suffering: Dearest Savior, there is so much suffering, pain and sorrow in life, in our country and world. Oftentimes we ask the question “Where are you Lord?” On this Good Friday we know where you are. You are suffering for us on the cross. You became sin for us and with the joy set before you, endured the shame of the cross. You suffered pain, hell, forsakenness of Your Father and death to deliver us from the eternal death we deserved. We pray to **ALWAYS CLING TO THE CROSS**. May we be reminded that all things are in Your hands and that all things are possible in You. Relieve our suffering if it be Your will. If You choose for our suffering to remain, may we be reminded always that Your grace is sufficient for us and may our suffering bring glory to You. as Jesus prayed at Gethsemane "And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. We pray this in Your name, our Paschal Lamb Jesus. Amen

My death, O Lord!

My sin, my hell, and my damnation were in that cup.

My gratitude is unspeakable.

My wonder is silence.

My life is yours. Amen."

(from "Reliving the Passion" by Walter Wangerin Jr.)

***I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou thyself shalt give me must prevail.***

LSB 729:5

Holy Saturday – Sorrow or Comfort: Dearest Father, our hearts feel sorrow and pain and it hurts so much. Loved ones need us and we cannot be with them. Families grieving over loss and cannot gather for comfort and assurance. We are reminded on this day of your disciples who didn't understand what has just happened and are mourning Your Son's death. May we always be reminded and comforted knowing Jesus took our sorrow, our fear and our unbelief and destroyed its power on the cross. As He rests in the grave after His redeeming work, may we be comforted in knowing that our loved ones who have died in the faith are also at rest and waiting for the great and glorious day of the Lord when we will all be raised to new life. May that bring us comfort in the midst of sorrow. In the name of our rising Savior Jesus. Amen.

"See from His head, His hands, His feet,

Sorrow and love flow mingled down!

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,

Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,

That were a present far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all." LSB 425:3-4

***I am trusting Thee Lord Jesus, never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever, and for all.***

LSB 729:5

Lord's Prayer: 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.

***My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!***

***May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!***

***While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.***

***When ends life's transient dream, when deaths, cold sullen stream shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!***

LSB 702

Some wise advice for this time of quarantine...

According to Steven C. Fox D.O. of the Home Care Association of America COVID-19 Medical Advisory Council: "Hand washing and social distancing are the two most effective ways to prevent you from getting and spreading the infection. Hand washing with plain old soap and water actually destroys the chemical structure of the virus. The outside coating of the virus is sticky and oily-the soap breaks this layer apart. Then the water rushes through the breaks to the layer below which mixes with the water and essentially breaks apart the entire shell, killing the virus."

Wash your hands for at least 30 seconds (sing: "Jesus Loves Me") scrubbing all the parts of your hands.

It is the soap lather and the friction of the scrubbing and then the water rinsing the soap off your hands that rids your hands of germs. If soap and water are not available use hand sanitizer.

Parish Nurse Joanie Kolton, Family Connections Director

PRAYER REQUESTS as of the date of the printing: *Welcome! It is not by accident that our Lord has led us here to this moment. We pray with you for His guidance and encouragement as we strive to be His disciples and share the message of salvation with others. Amen.*

Cancer: *Carol Spatzek, breast, Judy Branson, breast, Tom Brueckner, prostate, Julia Grau, granddaughter of Chet & Marge Grau, eye, Eli Kessler, great nephew of the Heckerts, leukemia, Kathy Schmid, aunt of Robin Mueller, liver, Randy Clinard, former Berea member, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Gordy Fabry, cousin of Pastor Jeff, Sharon Beay, step-sister of Ray Leidy, eye melanoma, Ron Schroeder, former member, Stem-cell transplant T-Cell lymphoma, Diane, friend of Shannon Biedenbender (former member), lung,*

Hospice: *Carol Timme, The Kathy House, West Bend, Linda, Dearest friend of Sally Goelz (Agape Hill), brain tumor/cancer, Bill Schoeller one of our Luther Manor bible study and church regulars, Luther Manor*

Sympathy: *Family of Lester Tews, one of our Luther Manor bible study and church regulars, who entered eternal rest on Wednesday, April 1*

Rehabilitation: *Lorraine Biang, Luther Manor, fall, George DeJarlais, Terry's husband, heart surgery, home*

Ongoing needs: *Maxine Dudley, severe back pains, Lane Branson, multiple health challenges, Lavonne Biedenbender, multiple health concerns, Steve Biedenbender, lung disease, Henry Klaves, epilepsy, Irm Tewes, Luther Manor Monday attendee, severe and continuous pain, Mady, daughter of Megan Wylie's friend, torn ACL, Shirley McMahon, Aunt of Robin Mueller, fall*

Homebound: *Rev. Richard Borchers, Lutheran Home, Dorothy Britton Brookdale Assisted Living, Rose Eisner Home, Elinor Heitman Harwood Place,*

Birthdays: *none*

Anniversaries: *none*