Two Sentence Sermons for Lent

From Timothy Wengert’s article in Living Lutheran,

“Lutherans distinguish law from gospel. God’s law reveals human sin and threatens judgment. But the gospel reveals God’s mercy and comforts the terrified. Melanchthon wrote: “For these are the two chief works of God in human beings, to justify the terrified or make them alive. The entire Scripture is divided into these two works. One part is the law, which reveals, denounces, and condemns sin. The second part is the gospel, that is, the promise of grace given in Christ” (Apology, article XII).”

Morning prayer from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory 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.

Read scripture and reflection

Let us pray.

A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

Other thanksgivings may be added.

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

February 17 Ash Wednesday

You are dust and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe the good news.

February 18 Eileen Hosey

Getting a devastating medical diagnosis stops you in your tracks.

     Then - - - -

Loving hands and hearts that join you on your journey bring hope and clarity to look to the future without fear.

February 19 Theresa Ross & anonymous

Sometimes kindness is difficult to give away, because it keeps coming back.

February 20 Mindy Birk & anonymous

Not everyone believes in her, Not everyone supports her.

But her God goes with her, And that's what Sustains her.

February 22 Nadine Marx & Martin Luther

Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong (sin boldly), but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world.

February 23 Galatians 5

14 The entire law is fulfilled in a single decree: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you keep on biting and devouring one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another

February 24 Alice Gates & Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Glorious indeed is the world of God around us, but more glorious the world of God within us. There lies the land of song; there lies the poet's native land.

February 25 Kirt Stage-Harvey

Evil is a deed as I live.  Do go to God. (It’s a palindrome!)

February 26 Christy Wallace

For it is with the Lord that we can enter into clarity and mindful thought; let us be grateful this moment for His abundant vision.

February 27 Virgil Fredenberg

God has shared with you his love, teaching, and salvation through Jesus Christ, now, with the help of the Holy Spirit, love it, live it and share it with others.

March 1

John 15:12 Love one another as I have loved you.

March 2 Glenn Mitchell

I have learned when it comes to God, the Holy Spirit is always active.

March 3 Katherine Andrews

God’s kingdom is all about love: God loves us so we love each other.

March 4 Alice Gates and Black Elk

For the Great Spirit is everywhere: He hears whatever is in our minds and hearts, and it is not necessary to speak to him in a loud voice.

March 5 Kristin Wright

“God is Love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them…” (1 John 4:16): Be kind, considerate, caring and love one another for you are loved.

March 6 Marsha Buck

All is good.  You are accepted.  The past is approved.  The future is open.

March 8 Lisa Wallace

Love thy neighbor,

       or else.

Just kidding

  (sort of).

God loves you,

     no matter what.

March 9 Gail Fenumiai

Look back and thank God. Look forward and trust God.

March 10 Marsha Buck

It's an affirmation, life is good…

Whatever you are, you are received…

Whatever your past, it's stamped approved…

All is possible, the future is yours.

March 11 Nancy Hixson

Follow Me. The follow is the command and the “me” of Jesus is the good news.

March 12 Kristin Larson

Life is really hard and it takes a lot of work to make sense of grief. Be gentle and practice gratitude.

March 13 Marie Kanan

Reading what everyone has to say is thought provoking, fun, serious, or whatever… it’s nice to have a thought for today and remind us all of our Christian connections.

March 15 Doug Larsen

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  but by God’s amazing grace we are saved.

March 16 Kristina Abbott

Faith is a journey. Our journey through life is often arduous and exhausting. I believe only through our faith and God's grace is how we make it through. My faith journey has gone through many highs and lows. Ultimately, through my faith journey, the only constant I've seen is God's faithfulness to me. My faithfulness has often petered out through frustrations, exhaustion, or feeling flummoxed by human nature.

March 17 Aaron Doten-Ferguson

"Jesus sacrificed himself for us because he loved us. Jesus's life was chosen for him ( by God ) to die on the cross, for us, so we could continue living and striving while we trust, believe in him as our saviour, Lord our God,  forgiveness for all, and listener to all.

March 18 Doug Larsen

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  but by God’s amazing grace we are saved. In all things be humble, forgiving, and kind; for there, but by the grace of God, go I.

March 19 Nancy Davis

The will of God never takes you to a place to where the grace of God will not protect you.

March 20. Steve Carls

Recognize that people tend to come from a place of good intent, even those you disagree with.  Never fear being wrong, sharing forgiveness or standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

March 22 Virgil Fredenberg

I am ever amazed by God's faith in me at all times.  Yet, I often forget that and waver when I should be forging ahead.

March 23 Sue Trivette

“This is how we know what love is:  Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers & sisters.” See John 3:16

March 24 Teresa Kissel

God is the only comfort. He is also the supreme terror: the thing we most need and the thing we most want to hide from. He is our only possible ally, and we have made ourselves His enemies. Some people talk as if meeting the gaze of absolute goodness would be fun. They need to think again. They are still only playing with religion. Goodness is either the great safety or the great danger—according to the way you react to it. And we have reacted the wrong way. . . Of course, I quite agree that the Christian religion is, in the long run, a thing of unspeakable comfort. But it does not begin in comfort; it begins in the dismay I have been describing, and it is no use at all trying to go on to that comfort without first going through that dismay. In religion, as in war and everything else, comfort is the one thing you cannot get by looking for it. If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end: if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth—only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin with and, in the end, despair.

From [*Mere Christianity*](https://link.biblegateway.com/click/22940474.67301/aHR0cHM6Ly9iaWJsZWdhdGV3YXkuY2hyaXN0aWFuYm9vay5jb20vQ2hyaXN0aWFuL0Jvb2tzL3Byb2R1Y3Q_aXNibj05NzgwMDYwNjUyOTIw/5fb2a15fb83820160079aa9dB5ca80e0b) by C.S. Lewis

March 25 Alice Gates

Can I get your help with something? You don't even have to do it my way.

March 26

March 27

March 29

March 30

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday