



Wednesday Evening Worship – April 2

We believe that Jesus taught and exemplified a life of love.

We commit to **welcoming, loving, and celebrating** the sacredness of all people

TITLE/THEME

Lent 4 Change of Heart

OPENING DIALOGUE

L: Jesus’ words to the Pharisees give us pause: “You honor me with your lips, but your hearts are far from me.” Jesus invites us to experience a change of heart that will in fact change every part of our lives.

L: Beloved, set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is strong as death; passion fierce as the grave.

C: O God, search me and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

(Song of Sol. 8:6, Ps. 139:23-24)

*GATHERING HYMN

Stay with Me

ELW 348 (4x)

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: **O God of our longing, strengthen us and dwell in our hearts, that we be rooted and grounded in your love. Help us to comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of your mercy shown to us on the cross. Fill our hearts with your grace, that we lead lives that radiate your love to all. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.** *(Eph. 3:14-4:1)*

CENTERING SONG

Bread for the Journey

by Bret Hesla



1, 5 Give us bread for the jour - ney, give us bread.
2 Guide our way as we trav - el, guide our way.
3 Make us one with each oth - er, make us one.
4 Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home.



Give us bread for the jour - ney, give us bread.
Guide our way as we trav - el, guide our way.
Make us one with each oth - er, make us one.
Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home;



When our legs are get - ting heav - y, and we’re hang - ing down our heads,
With so ma - ny roads be - fore us, where to go is hard to say.
All the walls we’ve built a - round us: may we learn to tear them down.
where we’ll live with all cre - a - tion, find our place and nev - er roam.



give us bread for the jour - ney, give us bread.
Guide our way as we trav - el, guide our way.
Make us one with each oth - er, make us one.
Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home.

PSALM 119:1-16 (*read responsively*)

¹ Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!

² **Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts, ³ who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.**

⁴ You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them. ⁵ Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

⁶ **Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.** ⁷ **I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.**

⁸ I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. ⁹ How shall the young keep their way clean? By keeping to your word.

¹⁰ **With my whole heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commandments.** ¹¹ **I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you.**

¹² Blessed are you, O LORD; instruct me in your statutes. ¹³ With my lips I recite all the judgments of your mouth.

¹⁴ **I take greater delight in the way of your decrees than in all manner of riches.**

¹⁵ I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways.

¹⁶ **My delight is in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

READING: Ezekiel 36:22-28

²² Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³ I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations and which you have profaned among them, and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸ Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶ He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

“You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION

“Children of the Stony Heart”

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us share Christ’s peace in presence and in song.

The congregation comes together to join hands and sing Dona Nobis Pacem.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Steadfast God, you bless us amid all the changes and chances of life. Grant us servant hearts, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION AND PRAYERS

During our midweek services in this season of Lent, all are invited to offer their prayer immediately following communion. This can be done silently or with a pastor/prayer partner. You are welcome to utilize the kneeler, to sit or stand with the pastor/prayer partner, or to enter into a time of prayer in another way that is more comfortable for you.

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God, through our savior Jesus Christ. Who, on the night before his death, took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this is cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Just as he gathers the disciples together in mission and welcomes them to the table, Our Lord Jesus brings us together this night in prayer. Using words both faithful and fresh, let us offer the prayer Jesus taught us:

C: O triune God in heaven above, your blessed name we hallow. Your kingdom come, your will be done in this world as in heaven; give bread for each new day begun; our sins be all forgiven, as we forgive what others do; in every trial see us through; from evil save us. Amen.

L: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

L: O God of mercy, you satisfy our hungry hearts, you bend your ear to our supplications, and you fill us with your grace. In your mercy, strengthen us through these gifts, in faith, toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING

L: The Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in all ways. In the name of the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

DISMISSAL

L: Go now in peace, for nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
C: Thanks be to God.

Preaching
Accompanist

Pastor Rory Philstrom
Kristi MacKay

In your prayers this week, please remember:

- **To the family of Randy Janikowski who passed away.** His funeral will be at CTK on 4/10 at 11am.
- **Continuing Prayers: Jim and Arlene Knutson, Jacquie Craig** (Jodi Greiner's sister), **Brian Radman** (Rick Turnquist's brother-in-law), **Ryan Jones** (Jane B's nephew), **Robert Thornton** (Carol's husband), **Donna Woodward** (sister of Dan Pierce), **Pam Novak** (friend of Chris Gabel), **The Davis, Collins & Bjerke Families, Lavonne Kennedy** (Clare Erickson's sister), **The Schuller Family, Jim Wegge** (Bev Wegge's brother), **Ed Anderson, Carol Hinze** (Caitlyn Johnson's grandma), **Denny Becker, Carol Rathje, Mark Elliot** (friend of the Stoll's), **Jim Votaw** (Michelle Smith's dad), **John Munson** (friend of Kristi's) **Ron Senn, Matthew Howell** (nephew of Jean Stoll), **Jon Greiner, Rick Turnquist, Isaac Hill** (grandson of Gail & John, nephew of Melissa), and **Donna Smith**
- **New Prayers: Pat Meyer, Jackie Schmeidlin** (friend of Sean Bernier), **David Jaye** and **Dan Boria** (friend of Liz Olson)
- **Phyllis Berg** and all who are homebound
- **Our sister in China, Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, El comunidad de fe bilingue/The bilingual faith community of Tapestry Lutheran Church**
- **Lutheran Disaster Response**