



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
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Rev. Dr. John Rickert, Pastor

## **OUR REDEEMER'S VOICE**

### **MARCH 2019**

#### **Psalms of Lent**

Martin Luther wrote:

I hold, however, that no finer book of examples ... of the saints has ever come, or can come, to earth than the Psalter ... For here we find not only what one or two saints have done, but what he has done who is the very head of all saints. We also find what all the saints still do, such as the attitude they take toward God, toward friends and enemies, and the way they conduct themselves amid all dangers and sufferings. Beyond that there are contained here all sorts of divine and wholesome teachings and commandments.



The Psalter ought to be a precious and beloved book, if for no other reason than this: it promises Christ's death and resurrection so clearly—and pictures his kingdom and the condition and nature of all Christendom—that it might well be called a little Bible. (*LW* 35:253f)

Of course, Luther is not the only one to praise the book of Psalms. C.H.L. Leupold wrote, "Who can sufficiently extol the merits and the value of the Psalter? Many eloquent words have been written on the subject. ... There does not seem to be any situation in life for which the Psalter does not provide light and guidance." John F. Brug wrote, "More than any other book, Psalms teaches us how to sing with gratitude in our hearts to God. Luther said, 'Every Christian ought to know the psalms as well as he knows his five fingers.'" In the book of

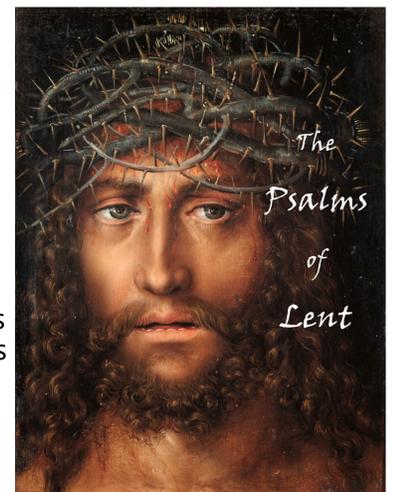
Psalms the Holy Spirit himself teaches us words and thoughts for our prayers. In the psalms we find many passages we can use without change as our own prayers. The psalms also give us many beautiful models to imitate in creating our own prayers. The book of Psalms expresses the whole range of emotions which God's people experience in this life."

More quotes could easily be added but the point has been made, the "experts" believe the Psalms are well worth spending time with for every Christian. This is reflected in our worship services, where we regularly use Psalms as part of our liturgy. Many of the great preachers of old have preached on the Psalms. We have an appointed Psalm for each Sunday. The Psalms was the hymnal of the Jews and the Early Church. Yet, for many a modern liturgical preacher who uses the pericope system, the Psalms get scant attention. The Psalm of the Day competes with the Old Testament Lesson, the Epistle Lesson, and the Gospel Lesson, and most often loses that competition.

This year, during our Wednesday Lenten services, we are going to push-back against this ignore-the-Psalms trend, if only a little bit. Each Wednesday we will use the same lessons for Sunday, but we will be using the appointed Psalm for our homily. Most of these Psalms will probably be familiar to you, even if you have not heard a message based on them. You will hear words of repentance and sorrow but also words of grace, comfort, hope, and assurance. You will, in other words, hear how Law and Gospel were sung and learned by the people of God throughout the ages.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 6. We will have a soup supper at 5:30 and begin our worship at 7:00. On the other Wednesdays in Lent we will begin our worship at 6:00 followed by refreshments. We are hoping that these hours, coupled with the longer days, will allow more people to attend these services.

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor





## Digging In The Nicene Creed First Article, Part 10

*I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.*

Last month we continued our look at angels, the chief creature of the invisible creation. This month we continue in that same vein.

One standard observation concerning the angels is that they are mighty. In 2 Kings 19 we have part of the story of the ongoing conflict between the Lord's people and the Assyrians. In one night, a single angel killed 185,000 battle-hardened Assyrian troops that were poised to attack Jerusalem. Needless to say, the invasion was a failure. This is referred to also in Isaiah 37:26.

In Psalm 103:20 angels are called "mighty ones." They are also called "mighty" in 2 Thessalonians 1:7. The Bible attributes the deliverance of Israel from the Egyptians to an angel (Exodus 14:16; Numbers 20:16). One should remember that, at the time of the Exodus, Egypt was the mightiest nation in the world. In Luke 1, the angel Gabriel, with just a word, struck Zechariah dumb. The very name "Cherubim" means "mighty ones." In Matthew 28:2 an angel causes an earthquake. However, they are not equal in might. In Daniel 10:10-14 we find a story where an angel had been sent to Daniel to provide him understanding. However, that angel was opposed by a powerful fallen angel, probably Satan himself. Then the Archangel Michael came and defeated the fallen angel. So, what one angel was unable to accomplish, another angel was, indicating a difference in might.



Another standard idea about angels is that they are numerous. We really don't know how many there are, but there are lots and lots of them. When the birth of Jesus was announced to the shepherds, scripture records, "suddenly there was with the angel a large number of the angels of heaven ..." (Luke 2:13). In Psalm 103:21, the angels are called a "host," which means a whole lot, like an army. In a vision of heaven, before the throne of the Ancient of Days, are "a thousand thousands ... and ten thousand times ten thousand." Mind you, that is only the ones standing before the throne and not a complete count. In Revelation 5:11 the number of angels around the throne are "myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands". To put all this another way, there are more angels than we can count.



One last thing about angels; we usually think of angels as looking like human beings, only with wings. Certainly, angels do appear in human-like form. In Mark 16:5 the angel the women saw at the resurrection of Jesus is described as having the appearance of a "young man." However, the Bible can describe them in very strange terms. In fact, the name Seraphim (a type of angel) means "burning ones" (Isaiah 6:2, 6). Cherubim are described as human-like yet possessing four faces (one human, one lion, one ox and one eagle), four wings, feet like a calf, and shining like burnished bronze (Ezekiel 1:4-14). The angel described in the deliverance of Israel from the Egyptians is described as looking like a pillar of fire and a pillar of smoke (Exodus 14:16; Numbers 20:16). It seems that human form is but one form that an angel might take.

So far, we have considered when the angels were created, their nature as spiritual beings, some of their duties, their strength, number and appearance. Next month we will turn our attention to the fallen angels. Until then, "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14). Amen.



## LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

### Forgiveness Has Two faces

*.Psalm 103:2-3. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases."...*

I cherish this psalm as one of the most beautiful passages about the true nature of God's forgiveness, straight from David's heart. Not

only does the Lord forgive and heal, He crowns our life with goodness and strength, renewing our daily steps as with the wings of eagles. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, slow to scolding. He does not keep score nor repay our backslidings and lack of fidelity as we deserve. Our sins are removed from our lives as high as the heavens are above the earth, the east from the west, and tossed behind His back into the depths of the sea, never to be heard from again (see Isaiah 38:17; Micah 7:19). Merciful, gracious, compassionate, long-suffering, steadfast in love is our God! Without God's forgiveness, there is no life, no salvation. With His forgiveness, the doors of paradise are open wide, but forgiveness has two faces: from God to you and from you to your neighbor.

Your neighbor is not only the guy who lives down the street but also includes your closest "neighbors": your spouse, your children, your fellow employees, your fellow-saints who sit in the pew next to you. A heart that is melted by the love of God is a heart smitten by the blood and pain of Jesus upon His cross. Such a heart will always stand ready to forgive those closest to us who often bring us the most pain in life. Can't forgive your spouse, can't forgive your son, your daughter, your neighbor, or that irritating saint from your church? Then turn your face to God and think of Christ first—His brutal, bloody cross. He is the only reason God forgives you, your backsliding, your lack of fidelity. Then, turn your face to your neighbor and see the same cross standing between you both. Forgive, as Paul says in Ephesians 4:32—forgive, even as God in Christ has already forgiven you.

God's forgiveness is not conditional. He did not seek your opinion nor ask for a demonstration to prove you are worth the sacrifice when He sent Christ Jesus into the world to save our souls. Our feeble attempts to amend our sinful lives are dwarfed by the immensity of God's grand forgiveness. Forgiveness isn't free. It came with a priceless price tag, the cross of Christ, and a sacred obligation.

The ancient Romans used the Greek gods for their own religious purposes. The Roman god Janus was the exception. He was uniquely Roman. Janus was the god of the doorway, the god of entering and exiting, a two-faced god, looking forward and looking backward. For the Romans, January, the month dedicated to Janus, inaugurated new beginnings and marked out old departures. Janus, the two-faced Roman god, looked both ways. Your God, O Christian, He is infinitely greater. His eyes see the whole sweep of your life, backwards and forwards. The Lord looks upon your life and in Christ Jesus forgives all. Such unconditional forgiveness comes with a sacred obligation because God's forgiveness has two faces. Forgive others, just as you have been forgiven at the cross of Christ.

*This Devotion was written by Dr. Mark Schreiber.*

Arlen D. Besel – Ambassador

### THROUGH THE WORSHIP WINDOW



#### March — Lent Begins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and our Gospel lessons are taken from Luke. We are first told about the temptation of Jesus followed by His early ministry and we see His lament over Israel's refusal to accept Him. Jesus urges them to repent of their sins lest they perish. Jesus shares the parables of the lost sheep and the prodigal son.

The Old Testament begins with a look at the law and the tithes of the first fruits in Deuteronomy. Jeremiah is threatened by the Jewish leaders for his words of warning. Ezekiel is commissioned as the watchman over Israel. His task is to remind them of their sin. While Isaiah first offers songs of praise to the Lord. And later the message is a reminder of

all the Lord's blessings to Israel as He leads them from slavery.

Even the New Testament lessons are a reminder of the unbelief in Israel. Their rejection of the Messiah and His message of salvation. Paul, in Philippians, is urging them to follow his example of faith and service to the Lord. He suggests they follow Christ's example as well. But in Corinthians he warns about following the example of Israel's frequent rebellions. In stead we are to be new creations of the Lord by His Spirit.

Arlen D. Besel– Worship

## Humble Service

"He [Jesus] emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:7



Humility is not something prized by mankind; we like the spotlight, the accolades, the recognition. God, the Almighty Creator, certainly deserves these things that we crave, yet the Father, in mercy, sends the Son in humility, and fills believers with the Holy Spirit quietly. The Triune God hides Himself in the everyday rather than demanding fear of His awesome power. To be sure, God is All-powerful & we do well to respect the fact that we are sinful creatures deserving of His complete & righteous wrath! To stand before God in our sinfulness is to be justly damned to hell for eternity.

Yet, because God is Love and deals with His creation in lovingkindness, longsuffering & mercy, He comes to us in flesh & blood, to be our sin-bearer & ransom us.—meekly, quietly, humbly. As Christians, little Christs, we walk in the footsteps of Jesus; He is both our example & the One who empowers us to serve Him & our neighbors humbly, with the love with which He first loved us. He is also the Great Equipper; He gives to His Church all the gifts necessary to carry out our task of telling the lost about their loving savior, Jesus Christ, and building up the Body of Christ so that our faith is strengthened throughout our life.

So, we serve—quietly, humbly, wholeheartedly. Maybe you are on a board or committee (I hope so!); perhaps you walk the neighborhood or have a garden plot; you could be one of our prayer warriors who pray for our neighbors, our church, and our pastor (we can never have enough prayers!). However you serve, thank God for His perfect equipping for our service, His perfect forgiveness when we fail, and His perfect humility, serving unto death for us.

Kitty Rickert  
Evangelism Chair



### Bulletin & Newsletter Information Dates

Please have all information for the bulletin into the office no later than Tuesday of each week. Newsletter info is due no later than the 20th of each month to ensure its inclusion. Thanks!

### Build a Bag

We are still meeting each Saturday from 10 am till 2 pm making sleeping bags for th homeless. Please join us in this mission of mercy.

## March Birthdays

12 Scott Kruelle  
13 Carl Kruelle & Erika Bates  
25 Donald Hartwig

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office.  
(302) 737-6176 or email [secretary.orlcde@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.orlcde@outlook.com).



**MARCH 6, 2019**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPER (5:30 PM)**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will host a soup supper to be held before the service at (7:00PM).

Everyone is welcome to attend for worship and fellowship. If you wish to participate a sign-up sheet will be available in the entry way.

You may also contact me.

Lina Besteder,  
Congregational Life,  
(302-737-3234) or email [wbesteder@aol.com](mailto:wbesteder@aol.com).

Midweek Lenten Services will begin on March 13, 2019.

Pastor will have the service at 6:00PM and light refreshments will follow.

We hope everyone will be able to attend and enjoy God's word and fellowship.

God's blessings,

Lina

## **Spring Into The ORCHARD!**

It's nearly that time of year—spring thaw & time to put in a garden! The ORCHARD (Our Redeemer Chestnut Hill Assoc. Reaping Delights), our neighborhood garden, needs willing workers to get the soil & plots ready for planting. We have 9 plots already assigned & paid for, with equally as many awaiting final paperwork & payment. The plots are 4' x 8', with paths between & around, so there is a lot of dirt to de-grass! Weather permitting, we will be doing this labor of love for & with our neighbors on Saturday, March 16th, beginning at 8 am. Bring a hoe, a rake, and a friend & let's get this thing done! This is a perfect opportunity for teens to get in much-needed volunteer hours, so have them come along, too! Wahoo!!



## MARCH BIBLE READINGS

1	Isaiah 64:1-9 Numbers 16-18	16	Psalm 99 Deuteronomy 25-27
2	Psalm 85 Numbers 19-21	17	Psalm 100 Deuteronomy 28-30
3	Psalm 86 Numbers 22-24	18	Psalm 101 Deuteronomy 31-34
4	Psalm 87 Numbers 25-27	19	Psalm 102 Luke 1
5	Psalm 88 Numbers 28-30	20	Psalm 103 Luke 2-3
6	Psalm 89 Numbers 31-33	21	Psalm 104 Luke 4-5
7	Psalm 90 Numbers 34-36	22	Psalm 105 Luke 6-7
8	Psalm 91 Deuteronomy 1-3	23	Psalm 106 Luke 8-9
9	Psalm 92 Deuteronomy 4-6	24	Psalm 107 Luke 10-11
10	Psalm 93 Deuteronomy 7-9	25	Psalm 108 Luke 12-13
11	Psalm 94 Deuteronomy 10-12	26	Psalm 109 Luke 14-15
12	Psalm 95 Deuteronomy 13-15	27	Psalm 110 Luke 16-17
13	Psalm 96 Deuteronomy 16-18	28	Psalm 111 Luke 18-19
14	Psalm 97 Deuteronomy 19-21	29	Psalm 112 Luke 20-21
15	Psalm 98 Deuteronomy 22-24	30	Psalm 113 Luke 22
		31	Isaiah 64:1-9 Luke 23-24

