

Lenten Mid-Week Worship

March 14, 2012

On the Wide Road

Our Lenten Mid Week Services will include portions of Martin Luther's Small Catechism; sermons will focus on the series "On the Road."

On the Road...

*Roads and paths, Roman highways and shepherd's trails, Biblical Palestine was crisscrossed with them. People leaving somewhere and headed toward someplace... what's left behind can be as significant as what lies ahead. Our 2012 midweek and Holy Week Lenten series focuses on some **roads** to and from in the Bible. Roads that we'll walk together.*

+ A SERVICE OF PREACHING AND TEACHING +

HYMN # 605 "Father Welcomes"

(Rise)

ADORATION

Pastor: Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents over disaster. *Joel 2:12-14*

People: Jesus said: "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

Pastor: Let us adore our heavenly Father, who created us, who sustains us, who loves us with an everlasting love and gives us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

People: We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Pastor: Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who in every respect was tempted as we are, yet without sinning; who went about doing good and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who

became obedient unto death, even death on a cross; who died and is alive forevermore; who had opened the kingdom of heaven to all who believe; who is seated at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; who will come again, as Judge and King.

People: You are the King of glory, O Christ.

Pastor: Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

People: All praise to you, O Holy Spirit.

HYMN # 616 "Baptismal Waters Cover Me" stanzas 1-3

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O God our Father, since you have set forth the way of life for us in your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Forgive us the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in your service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy

blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Amen.

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I declare to you that the almighty and merciful Lord grants you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. *(Sit)*

HYMN #616 "Baptismal Waters Cover Me" Stanzas 4-5

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 55:10-11

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

6:00 "O Jesus, I Have Promised" *Children's Choir*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM Part 1

Pastor: What is Baptism?

People: Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God' s command and combined with God' s Word.

Pastor: Which is that Word of God?

People: Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." *Matthew 28:19*

HYMN "Baptized in Water" W & R #679

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 3:18-21

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM Part 2

Pastor: What benefits does Baptism give?

People: It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Pastor: Which are these words and promises of God?

People: Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

HYMN "Baptized in Water" W & R #679

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.

HOLY GOSPEL St. Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM Part 3

Pastor: How can water do such great things?

People: Certainly not just water, but the Word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For

without God's Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy." *Titus 3:5-8*

HYMN "Baptized in Water" W & R #679

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
born of one Father, we are his children,
joyfully now God's praises we sing.

SERMON "It's A Broadway Show" Mark 7:13-14

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM *Part 4*

Pastor: What does such baptizing with water indicate?

People: It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Pastor: Where is this written?

People: St Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." *Romans 6:4*

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Dear Lord, today we come to you with thankful hearts as you have answered our call for a senior pastor. Please continue to bless and guide Pastor Bender, his family, the members of St. John's & St. Paul's during this transitional time.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, and for all your steadfast love we bless your holy name. For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the goodness and mercy that have followed us all the days of our life.

People: We praise you, O God.

Pastor: For the wonder and beauty of the world; and for all things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious,

People: We praise you, O God.

Pastor: For the gift of Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son; for the grace and truth which came by Him; and for His obedience unto death, even death on a cross,

People: We praise you, O God.

Pastor: For His glorious resurrection and ascension to your right hand, and for His kingdom and glory and everlasting dominion,

People: We praise you, O God.

Pastor: For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Lord and Giver of life; for your holy Church throughout the world; for all the means of grace; and for the fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth,

People: We praise you, O God.

All: Glory, thanksgiving, and praise be to you, O Father Almighty, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD' S PRAYER

BLESSING

Pastor: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

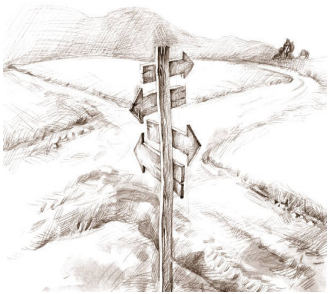
People: Amen.

HYMN # 405 "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"

Stanzas 1-3 & 6

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lector	Frank Coogan
Acolyte	April M DeLaCotera
Organist & Choir Director	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller

Next Week: Wednesday March 21st



ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

When Fury Gives Orders

Matthew 2:1-18

Worship at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Lenten Meal at 4:45pm

*Chicken wild rice soup, sloppy joes,
chips, pickles, apple crisp, hot dogs,*

chips, carrots, milk and coffee