

THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER

April 10, 2016

THEME: Each of us is an instrument in God's hands.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

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

C: And also with you.

P: We make our beginning in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING UP TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

P: Today we are taking a look at the book of Esther. This is the only book in the Bible where the name of God is never mentioned. In addition, the Law, sacrifices, the temple and prayer are also absent. The time of Esther gives us the impression that a relationship with God was not seen as very important. We too can fall into the trap of just being semi-faithful. We take some time of reflection for this seeking God's forgiveness.

Silent Reflection

P: We confess our sins,

C: Lord, we confess that we have missed noticing Your presence in our lives. When we have received healing, we have forgotten to give You thanks. When we have been set free from difficult circumstances, we have failed to give You credit. When we have received favor and blessing in our life, we have counted it as mere luck.....not as a sign of Your providence. Lord, forgive us today and give us hearts that are open to Your presence.

P: God is ever-faithful. We know this especially through the work of His Son, Jesus. Jesus died for our sins so that we might have new life. The distance between God and ourselves has been removed because of Jesus' sacrificial love. To those who believe God's word of truth comes power to be the people of God. Praise God for the gift of love to us.

C: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE "Red Book" 142

We Will Glorify

We will glorify the King of Kings; we will
Glorify the Lamb; we will glorify the
Lord of Lords, who is the great I Am.

Hallelujah to the King of Kings; hallelujah
To the Lamb; hallelujah to the
Lord of Lords, who is the great I Am.

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty; we will
Bow before his throne; we will worship him in
Righteousness; we will worship Him alone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....

C: O God, thank you for the ways you are always at work in my life, regardless if I recognize it or not. Lord, let your spirit lead and guide me daily, that I may be open to follow you courageously as Esther did. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Esther Video

Old Testament: Esther 9:26-28 *God's people set aside time to recognize God's providence*

Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur. Therefore, because of all that was written in this letter, and of what they had faced in this matter, and of what had happened to them, the Jews firmly obligated themselves and their offspring and all who joined them, that without fail they would keep these two days according to what was written and at the time appointed every year, that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, in every clan, province, and city, and that these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants.

Children's Message

CHOIR ANTHEM

Exalted is the Lord

By John F. Wilson

GOSPEL: John 16:31-33

Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

SERMON HYMN "Green Book" 327

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me. Let me hide myself in thee.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And was born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate.
Was crucified, died, and was buried.⁸
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

(We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

OFFERTORY**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the teaching of Your Word and fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all evil living in which You and Your name are profaned. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. We pray that You would increase the number of Christians and that You would use us both in Peace Lutheran Church and in our neighborhoods to expand the kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Strengthen us by Your Spirit, not to simply do our own will, but to do Yours. We praise and thank You that Your intentions for us are good. Help us to trust Your will in the times of life that we are tempted to go our own way. We place into Your hands _____ and all those who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we praise You for the unity that we share with others because of Jesus. We pray that You would strengthen all the churches in the Philomath community. We thank you for their efforts to teach and live by Your commands. Bless their efforts to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we thank you for opportunities that You give us to serve. We pray Your blessing in our efforts to support the Feed My Starving Children event. We ask that the food be a blessing to those who receive it and that the event be a successful one that brings the community together. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and.....+ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Red Book" 114

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me—this I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong—They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me—loves me still, Though I'm very weak and ill;
That I might from sin be free, Bled and died upon the tree.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me—He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me—He will stay Close beside me all the way,
Though hast bled and died for me, I will henceforth live for the.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.