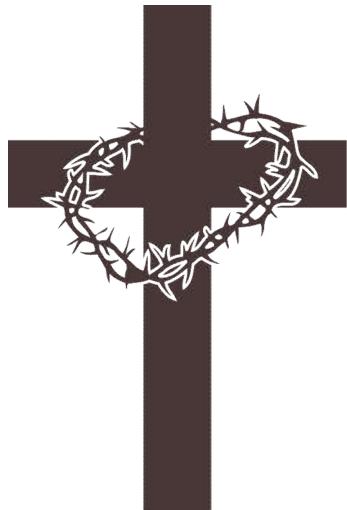


Real Life Repentance and God's Amazing Grace

A Lenten Series

“Christian Contentment by God’s Grace”



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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March 22, 2023

As We Gather

“Give us this day our **daily bread**.” This we pray in the Lord’s prayer, as our Lord Jesus taught us. The Proverbs declare: “Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my **daily bread**.” Every day in the wilderness, God provided His people with “daily bread,” that is, Manna from heaven. God was faithful, the people complained. God was faithful giving them what they *needed*; the people grumbled against Moses and against God. Complaining and grumbling often comes from human beings who, at times, are simply not content with God’s gracious provision for our bodies and souls. May we learn to be content, by God’s grace, and because of God’s amazing grace, repent of the evil of grumbling and complaining!

Opening Hymn

“Seek Ye First”

LSB 712

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev’ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

Invocation and Opening Sentences (Psalm 32:1-5)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
People: Whose sin is covered.
Pastor: Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
People: and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
Pastor: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
People: through my groaning all day long.
Pastor: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
People: My strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
Pastor: Then I acknowledged by sin to you, and I did not cover up my iniquity;
People: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave
the iniquity of my sin.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: The 32nd psalm continues, “Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found.” As God’s precious people, let us make confession to our Father, trusting in His amazing grace:

All: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by the command and authority of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As God’s forgiven children, set free from sin and death, go forth to live a new life by the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Collect for the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you daily and richly provide for all our needs of both body and soul, providing food and drink and especially grace and mercy for our sins.

People: Deliver us from grumbling and complaining, and fill us with a spirit of thankfulness and contentment in your provision of Daily Bread;

Pastor: Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The 145th Psalm – Selected Verses

Pastor: The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

People: The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Pastor: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

People: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Pastor: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praise, and his greatness is

unsearchable.

People: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Pastor: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Pastor: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you.

People: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,
All: to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Pastor: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

People: The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.

Pastor: The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

People: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

Pastor: You open your hand; you satisfy the desires of every living thing.

People: The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

Pastor: The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

People: He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

Pastor: My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

All: Glory be 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.

Exodus 16: Selected verses

They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt.² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness,³ and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD

in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." ⁶So Moses and

³continued

Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" ¹⁰And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²"I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" ¹⁷And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each

of them gathered as much as he could eat. ¹⁹And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." ²⁰But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

³¹Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. ³²Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought

⁴continued

you out of the land of Egypt.'" ³³And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the LORD to be kept throughout your generations." ³⁴As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept. ³⁵The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan. ³⁶(An omer is the tenth part of an ephah.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 15:32-39

³²Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." ³³And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?" ³⁴And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." ³⁵And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground, ³⁶he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

³⁷And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ³⁸Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. ³⁹And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” LSB 918

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

5 continued

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Sermon “Grumbling and Complaining and Still God Satisfies”

Exodus 16

Offertory LSB, p. 192-3

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

Offerings As your offering is collected, please sign our fellowship folder 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 folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom

come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: The amazing grace of the Almighty God, the redeeming love of Jesus, His Son and our Savior, and the comfort and power of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.

People: Amen.

6

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

Preacher

Pastor Harold Bender

Lector
Organist

Dalen Heinzen
JoLynn Bender

Mid-Week Lenten Services

Wednesday March 29th

10:00 am & 6:00pm

“God’s Grace in Death”

Lenten Meal at 4:45pm

Beef tacos, beans, rice, dessert

Hot dog meals will be available weekly, as well as coffee,
juice and milk.