



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

(MISSOURI SYNOD)

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✠ **A Service of Repentance, Supplication and Prayer** ✠
Calvary Lutheran Church—Plymouth, Indiana
March 29, 2020

OPENING HYMN: #664 “Fight the Good Fight”

- 1 Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.
- 2 Run the straight race through God’s good grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
- 3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is your life and Christ your love.
- 4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is all eternally.

THE INVOCATION & MARTIN LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



- P:** For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised;*
he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.
- C:** For all the gods of the peoples are worthless | idols,*
but the LORD made the | heavens.
- P:** Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him;*
strength and beauty are in his sanctu- | ary.
- C:** Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the | peoples,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength!
- P:** Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!
- C:** Worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness;*
tremble before him, | all the earth!
- P:** Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall nev- | er be moved;*
he will judge the peoples with | equity.”
- C:** Let the heavens be glad, and let the | earth rejoice;*
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- P:** let the field exult, and every- | thing in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- C:** before the LORD, | for he comes,*
for he comes to | judge the earth.
He will judge the world in | righteousness,*
and the peoples in his | faithfulness.
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

COLLECT

- P:** Let us pray.
Most merciful Father, with compassion You hear the cries of Your people in great distress.
Be with all who now endure affliction and economic calamity, bless the work of those who
bring healing and relief, and enable us to aid and comfort those who are suffering that they
may find renewed hope and purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C:** Amen

THE CONFSSIONAL ADDRESS

Explanation of Small Catechism

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in god above all things.

The Central Thought: All people everywhere are constantly looking for happiness, identity, security, and meaning in life.

Where do people today look to find these things? Matthew 7:24–27

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.⁷And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

✠ ***As Christians, we look to the one true God for all that we need. This is the God who created and sustains us, who redeemed us by giving Himself to be crucified for us in the God-man Jesus, and who sanctifies us through the power of His Holy Spirit. There is no other God.***

What does it mean to have a god? It means to trust in and rely on something or someone wholeheartedly to help us in times of need and to give us all good things.

Why does God not want us to have any other gods besides Him? As our Creator and the only true God, God loves us and knows that only He can provide us with all we need for time and eternity.

What does God require of us in the First Commandment? We should fear, love, and trust in Him above all.

Should all people fear, love and trust in God? Yes. He created all people to live under His care and to trust and rely upon Him. He is the one true God, who reveals Himself in Jesus Christ, the world’s only Savior. There is no other God.

What does it mean to fear God above all things? It means to take God seriously as our Creator and Judge. He means what He says when He threatens to punish those who disobey.

What does it mean to love God above all things? It means that we cherish and adore God more than anything else and gladly devote our lives to Him.

What does it mean to trust in God above all things? It means that we rely on God to take care of us and to keep all of His promises to us.



THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *(kneel)*

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose compassion never fails and who invites us to call upon You in prayer, hear the heartfelt confession of our sins and receive our humble supplication for Your mercy. Spare us from the just punishment of sin, which our Lord Jesus Christ has borne for us, and enable us to serve You in holiness and purity of life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

HYMN: #729 "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

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|--|---|
| 1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free. | 4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need. |
| 2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now. | 5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail. |
| 3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood. | 6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all. |

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I | be afraid?

C: **When evildoers assail me
to eat | up my flesh,*
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stum- | ble and fall.**

P: Though an army encamp against me,
my heart | shall not fear;*

though war arise against me,
yet I will be | confident.

C: **One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek | after:***
**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his | temple.**

P: For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of | trouble;*

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

C: **And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and will offer in his tent
sacrifices with | shouts of joy;***
I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

P: Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud;*

be gracious to me and | answer me!

C: **You have said, | “Seek my face.”***
**My heart says to you,
“Your face, LORD, | do I seek.”**

P: Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in | anger,*
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my sal- | vation!

C: **For my father and my mother have for- | saken me,*
but the LORD will | take me in.**

P: Teach me your way, | O LORD,*
and lead me on a level path
because of my | enemies.

C: Give me not up to the will of my adver- | saries;*
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out | violence.

P: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness | of the LORD*
in the land of the | living!

C: Wait | for the LORD;*
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait | for the LORD!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

READING: Matthew 6:25-34

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

READING: Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

READING: John 3:16-17

[Jesus said:] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

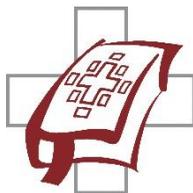
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

READING: Philippians 4:4-13

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

READING: Joshua 1:5b, 9

“Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”



HYMN: #732 "All Depends on Our Possessing"

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|---|---|
| 1 All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken
By their God are not forsaken
And will keep a dauntless heart. | 4 When with sorrow I am stricken,
Hope anew my heart will quicken;
All my longing shall be stilled.
To His loving-kindness tender
Soul and body I surrender,
For on God alone I build. |
| 2 He who to this day has fed me
And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine.
He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me
Will remain my help divine. | 5 Well He knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt His wisdom never;
As God wills, so be it ever;
I commit to Him my way. |
| 3 Many spend their lives in fretting
Over trifles and in getting
Things that have no solid ground.
I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure
And that now is seldom found. | 6 If my days on earth He lengthen,
God my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in Him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding;
Safe I anchor in His grace. |

PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS FOR OUR NATION

At numerous points in our nation's history, "National Days of Fasting and Prayer," were held during times of war, civil war, tragedy, crime, drought, thanksgiving, epidemic, death of a president, and political turmoil.

Why did our nation and her leaders do this? Hear these words of St. Paul, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

With this in mind and because of our current climate of anxiety, fear, and illness, it is fitting that our congregation comes together on this day to pray for our nation, our leaders, our citizens, and the church. Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, Merciful Father, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, Your ways are not our ways. In Your wisdom You have permitted the Coronavirus to befall us. We implore You, let not the hearts of Your people despair nor our faith fail us, but sustain and comfort us. Direct all efforts to attend to the sick, console the bereaved, and protect the helpless. Bring hope and healing that we may find relief and restoration; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G: Amen

P: Look mercifully, O Lord, we implore You, on the affliction of Your people. Let not our sin destroy us, nor hopelessness overwhelm us, but let Your boundless mercy save us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

P: Lord God, we humbly confess to You that we deserve Your fatherly chastisement for our sins; yet we earnestly implore You, for Your name's sake, to spare us in this time of disaster. Restrain all harmful powers and help Your suffering people that Your Word may be declared faithfully and without hindrance and that we, amending our sinful lives, may walk in safety and peace according to Your holy commandments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of illness and distress. In mercy put an end to the epidemic that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all that mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors, and cause Your people ever to serve You in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

P: O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon those who are ill, including.....Assure them of Your mercy, deliver them from the temptations of the evil one, and give them patience and comfort in their illness. If it please You, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Lord God, be with the doctors and nurses and all others who minister to the needs of those who are ill. Through their wise and compassionate service, grant relief to the suffering and hope to the afflicted so that all may know of Your boundless care; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort, deal graciously with all those who mourn including..... That casting every care on You, they may know the consolation of Your love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Heavenly Father, into whose keeping we entrust our loved ones, help us to look to You in our time of sorrow, remembering the cloud of faithful witnesses with which we are surrounded. Grant that we may one day share in the joys of those who now rest in Your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

P: Almighty God, You have commanded us to pray for all our public servants and so we come to You now putting them all in Your omnipotent hands. Especially we pray that you would bless our leaders with godly wisdom to meet the deep needs and persistent challenges before us. Help us as a people to turn to You, to learn from You, to value what You value and to prize what You prize. Without Your blessing, we will surely bring it all to ruin; with Your blessing, we will not fail. We ask all these things in the name of Him who gave His very life in love for us and for all, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Heavenly Father, Your beloved Son Jesus Christ reigns as Lord of lords and King of kings. As our country faces our current crisis, we ask You to keep us in Your care. Bless all with peace and faith, trusting that You are our great Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Give wisdom to those who rule over us. May they curb evil and protect the innocent. Give to Your Church wisdom to serve and love our neighbors, that all might seek the reason for the hope that we have. Increase our faith, that we might trust in You all our days; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns over all things.

C: Amen.

P: Eternal Father, Ruler of all nations, in Your mercy, You have sustained this nation in times of trouble and preserved its liberties. Teach us anew to treasure especially that dearly won freedom of conscience and worship that is the cornerstone of this country's principles. Let us not misuse this liberty nor forget that true freedom is freedom to serve. Give our leaders willingness to work for the preservation of its institutions. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Strengthen all those who strive to do Your will. Protect us and our fellow citizens from all subversive acts. Above all, dear God, speed the course of Your Gospel among us, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, hearts are turned to that freedom from sin and death that You alone graciously give; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: God our Father, we thank You for this good land of ours, for the blessings of home, school, and church. Bless our government and all those You have placed in authority over us. Direct their decisions so that we may continue to enjoy the blessings of freedom, which we recognize as a gift of Your grace. Help us to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens. Give us the wisdom to make good and faithful use of our possessions and resources. Be merciful to us. Preserve us. And cause Your kingdom to flourish among us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen



THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

THE 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: #575 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

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| 1 | My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain

ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand. | 3 | His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
Refrain |
| 2 | When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain | 4 | When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne!
Refrain |