

HOLY VESSELS



A LENTEN SEASON OF RECOVERY

***Calvary Lutheran Church
Lenten Services***

Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery
March 24, 2021
“Holy, Wholly”

‡AS WE GATHER‡

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. Let us enter this Lenten “season of recovery” focusing on Jesus, our healer.

Prelude Music and Time for Silent Reflection

We have spoken a lot about brokenness these past few weeks. our story about the paralyzed man for tonight reminds us that not only can Jesus cure us from physical ailment, Jesus can also heal us from sin. There is nothing we can do or say, nothing in the realm of our lives, that is beyond the saving grace of Jesus. As we prepare to watch Jesus make his final trip to Jerusalem starting on Palm Sunday, heading toward death on the cross and the empty tomb, we are assured that there is nothing, not sin, not brokenness, not even death, that can keep us from God’s love.

Prayer of Confession

In preparation for this time of confession, I invite you to take hold of your broken piece of glass, as we acknowledge those broken, sinful places of our lives and our need for the healing, restoration, and renewal of our Holy Vessels that only God can give.

Let us pray:

Forgiving God,
**We acknowledge before you our brokenness
but sometimes it is easier to pray nice prayers
than to be honest with you about our sin,
to keep you at a distance and pretend that nothing is wrong.
Forgive us when we put on a mask of goodness and perfection and
teach us how freeing it can be to name our sins and receive your forgiveness.**

**Help us, Healer.
Show us your grace.
Forgive our sin.
Move us to move
one step at a time toward your merciful grace.**

In this time of silence, we acknowledge and confess our brokenness
and our yearning for forgiveness, healing and wholeness.

Silence

Hymn:

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

ELW #617

vv. 1

**We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit’s touch we may again be whole.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Know this: Through Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
No. Matter. What.
Our God is gracious
to you, to me, to all
and He will not allow anything to keep us from Him.

Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...

...and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

‡A READING FROM GOD’S WORD‡

Mark 2:3-12

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone? At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home. And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

The Gospel of the Lord
Thanks be to God

(Silence for reflection and meditation)

Hymn:

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW #733

vv. 1 & 2

**1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou has been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

Refrain

Prayers of the People

Faithful God,
especially when we find it difficult to believe or trust that our sins are forgiven,
we come before you to make our petitions known.
Hear our cries for healing of body, mind, and spirit.
We know that already you are at work among us,
showing us the way to recovery from the toxicities and grief of our time.

Even when we cannot seem to believe it,
we know that you see beauty in our brokenness.
We pray especially for those who feel there is no possibility of forgiveness,
or think that somehow they have to earn back your love.

We give thanks for those around us
who through their words and actions, remind us of your grace
and share with us the promise of forgiveness.

Having received your grace and mercy,
help us offer hope of forgiveness and grace when we have the opportunity.

In the midst of our fear and doubt,
Reveal yourself to each of us in a way that shows your unfailing love.
Provide moments of rest, peace, and refreshment for our souls.

We pray especially this night for...

...and now as our Lord Christ taught us, we are bold to pray...

**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.**

Ritual Action for the Week

The words of Jesus we heard in this week's healing story were many, but let us hone in on two words, "Take heart." The French word for "heart" is "couer" and, besides its reference to the physical heart organ, it also means "courage." Courage in the face of difficulty, and care in the face of being disheartened, go hand-in-hand.

Healing is not always an absence of illness, but rather a trust that God is holding our brokenness and we can move on in life with assurance, making beauty in the midst of hard times.

So this week for our symbolic ritual action, we are going to add some beauty to our glass pieces. If you are with us in-person tonight, you should have received thin craft wire as you came in (if you are worshiping with us online, you are welcome to stop by the church in the next few days to pick up some wire). I invite you to wrap the craft wire around your piece of beach glass, creating a pendant that can be hung in a window, in your car, or perhaps as a necklace, as a constant reminder that God can bring healing out of brokenness and life out of death.

Closing Hymn:

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

**ELW #324
vv. 1, 2 & 4**

**1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

**2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

Blessing for the Journey

This week we hear Jesus' words in response to the challenge of the scribes, “which is easier, to say, your sins are forgiven or to say, stand up and walk?” Jesus' words remind us that there is no part of our lives, physical, emotional or spiritual, in which Jesus cannot bring healing and wholeness.

So go with confidence
that God is making us whole and holy,
for you are treasured and loved by God,
broken and sinful though you may be.

Go assured of the depth of God's love for each and every one of us;
And be filled with the peace that passes all understanding.

May the words of Jesus ring in your ears:
'your sins are forgiven.'

And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver
salve to your soul
and a spring in your step.

Amen.

Postlude

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Hymns: We Come to You for Healing, Lord: Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-705226; **Great Is Thy Faithfulness.** CCLI Song # 18723, Thomas Obediah Chisholm | William Marion Runyan © 1923. Renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #1825044; **In the Cross of Christ I Glory:** Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872 ©Public Domain

✠In Our Thoughts and Prayers✠

Prayers for healing: **John Rahrs** (heart surgery—Val Rahrs’ dad), **Kristi & Jack Baker** (health issues—Pam Eskam’s daughter & son-in-law), **Barb Gorr** (back surgery on Friday), **Syl Holdt** (knee surgery recovery), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Ron Wegelin** (health issues), **Shirley Schuldies** (health issues-mainly her heart), **Caleb Payne** (health issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Laynette Van Anne** (brain tumor—friend of Dee Brady), **LaDonna Schmidt** (colon cancer), **Bill Steele** (Recovering from COVID-19), **Beth Janecek** (Radiation), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **Cathy Rahrs** (rehab @ home), **Nancy & Tracy Steele** (COVID-19 health issues), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller’s uncle), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Barb** (cancer—Marlene Downer’s sister-in-law), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world: in this time of Covid-19 and general unsettledness. For everyone in need!

Holy Week Schedule

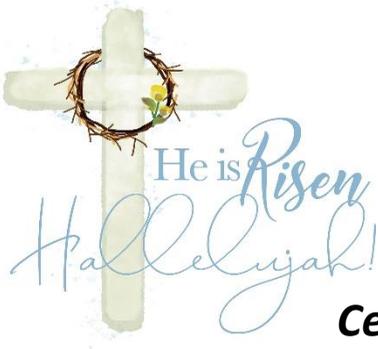


March 28th - Palm Sunday Service @ 10:00 a.m.

April 1st - Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30 p.m.

April 2nd - Good Friday Service with Youth @ 7:30 p.m.

April 3rd - Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Service @ 5:30 p.m.



April 4th - Easter Sunday Service

@ 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord!

**All Services will be in-person and will broadcast
LIVE on our Facebook Page:
Calvary Lutheran Scottsbluff**