

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 6 - July 4, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #617 - *“Christ, by Heavenly Hosts Adored*

**Christ, by heav’nly hosts adored,
Gracious, mighty, sov’reign Lord,
God of nations, King of kings,
Head of all created things,
By the Church with joy confessed,
God o’er all, forever blest -
Pleading, at your throne we stand:
Save your people, bless our land.**

**On our fields of grass and grain
Send, O Lord, the kindly rain;
O’er our wide and goodly land
Crown the labors of each hand.
Let your kind protection be
O’er our commerce on the sea.
Open, Lord, your bounteous hand;
Bless your people, bless our land.**

**Give us rulers who will be
Known for love and honesty;
Let the pow’rs that you ordained
Be in righteousness maintained.
In the people’s hearts increase
Love of piety and peace.
Thus united, we shall stand
One wide, free, and happy land.**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins

to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command 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.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Lamentations 3:22-33

By the mercies of the Lord we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. My soul says, "The Lord is my portion. Therefore, I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man that he bears a yoke early in his life. Let him sit alone and be silent, because the Lord has laid this upon him. Let him stick his face in the dust. Perhaps there still is hope. Let him turn his cheek toward the one who strikes him. Let him be filled with disgrace. For the Lord will not push us away forever. Even though he brings grief, he will show compassion on the basis of his great mercy. Certainly it is not what his heart desires when he causes affliction, when he brings grief to the children of men. (EHV)

Psalm 30

Refrain: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

**Sing to the LORD, you 'saints of his;
Praise his 'holy name.**

**For his anger lasts only a 'moment,
But his favor lasts a 'lifetime;**

Weeping may remain 'for a night,

But rejoicing comes in the ‘morning.

**Refrain: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I
sing for joy.**

**To you, O ‘LORD, I called;
To the Lord I cried for ‘mercy.**

**Hear, O LORD, and be merci’ful to me;
O LORD, ‘be my help.**

**You turned my wailing into ‘dancing,
That my heart may sing to you and not be ‘silent.**

**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.**

**Refrain: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I
sing for joy.**

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-14

Now brothers, we want you to know about the grace of God that was given in the churches of Macedonia: In a severe test of trouble, their overflowing joy and their deep poverty overflowed into an abundance of their generosity. I testify that of their own free will they gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability, pleading with us with an urgent request for the gracious privilege of joining in this service to the saints. And they did this not as we had expected, but in keeping with God’s will they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us. As a result we urged Titus, since he had already made a beginning, to bring to completion this gracious gift on your part. But just as you overflow in every way - in faith, in word, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us - see that you also overflow in this gracious gift. I do not say this as a command, but to test how genuine your love is, by comparing it with the eagerness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich. Certainly, our goal is not that others take it easy while you are burdened, but that there may be equality. At the present time, your abundance will provide what they

lack, in order that their abundance will also provide what you lack - in this way there will be equality. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

When Jesus had again crossed over in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him near the sea. Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet and repeatedly pleaded with him, "My little daughter is near death. Please come and place your hands on her so that she may be healed and live." Jesus went with him, and a large crowd was following him, pressing tightly against him. While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue ruler's house arrived, saying, "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Teacher anymore?" But when Jesus heard this report, he told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid. Only believe." He did not allow anyone to follow him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. They went into the house of the synagogue ruler, and Jesus saw a commotion with people weeping and wailing loudly. When he entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." They laughed at him. But after he put everyone out, he took the father of the child, her mother, and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Grasping the hand of the child, he said to her, "Talitha, koum!" (When translated, that means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!") Immediately the little girl stood up and began to walk around. (She was twelve years old.) They were completely and utterly amazed. Then he gave them strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and he told them to give her something to eat. (EHV)

The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come 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.

Hymn #785 - "*O Lord of Nations*"

**O Lord of nations, hear our prayer.
We thank you for this land most fair,
Created by your might.
For mountain sunset, lake at dawn,
For woodland bloom and robin song,
For stars that lace the night.**

**For farms and fields of golden grain,
For science and for medicine,
For wealth beyond compare,
For leisure time and work to do.
Lord, all these blessings come from you,
Signs of your loving care.**

**Most grateful, gracious God are we
That in this country we are free
To worship you above.
We gather here to speak your name,
Then leave this place to spread your fame
That all may know your love.**

**Forgive us, Lord, when we forget
Our gifts to share, your Word to spread
To those who ache and bleed.
Renew our will to help the weak,
To feed the hungry, and to speak
Your Word to souls in need.**

**And for the leaders you ordained
We pray, O Lord, that they remain
Courageous, honest, wise.
Oh, give them guidance, make them strong
To stand for right, to battle wrong,
That freedom's song may rise.**

**When storm and terror strike our land,
Remove our fear and help us stand
Against our enemies.
Lord, may no wicked men prevail.
May ev'ry plot of treach'ry fail.
May we remain at peace.**

**And when at last all nations fall
And you return as Lord of all
To make the earth anew,
Then may we join that shining band
Of saints from ev'ry tribe and land
And make our home with you.**

**The Sermon: Lamentations 3:22-33
 “Hope In The Middle Of Ruins”**

Today is a **special** day. Yes, it's the Fourth of July, the day on which we celebrate our independence from Great Britain, but it's also special for **another** reason. Today we're able to experience something very **unique**, because we have the opportunity to make use of a text from the Book of **Lamentations**. In the three-year cycle of readings which our congregation uses - out of the more than 180 different readings we have - there is only **one** which is used from the Book of Lamentations. And **today** is the **day**. What do we **know** about the **Book** of Lamentations? What exactly **is** a lamentation, anyway? The dictionary describes a lamentation as: a cry of **sadness** or **grief** - and that's what we **find** in this book of the Bible. It's a book **filled** with sadness and grief. However, the verses which we have before us **today** are **not** verses of sorrow. They are words of **hope** - and that's exactly the **point** which we want to take **home** from this text. Even in the middle of **tears** and **sorrow**, even when that sorrow is the result of our own **sinful** mistakes, we can still have **hope**. Our God is a God who provides **Hope In The Middle Of Ruins**.

The **author** of this book of the Bible is the prophet **Jeremiah**, and Jeremiah certainly had many **reasons** to be **sad** and **lament**. Jeremiah wrote those words as he stood among the **ruins** of the once great city of **Jerusalem**. What **happened**? How could things have gotten **so bad** in God's chosen city? In order to understand the **depths** of Jeremiah's **grief**, we need to remember the entire history of God's people which **led up** to this point. It all **started** with **Abraham**. God chose

Abraham to be the father of His **special** nation. God led Abraham to the land of **Canaan**, and told him that this land would one day belong to his **descendants**. It didn't happen **right away**. In fact, it took over **500 years** - **most** of which God's people spent as **slaves** in **Egypt**. But after Moses led them **out** of their slavery in Egypt, they were finally able to **take possession** of the land of Canaan for themselves.

Now, we would **think** that after experiencing **400** years of **slavery**, and another **40** years of wandering in the **wilderness**, that God's people would have been more than willing to do **anything** which God asked them to do. But, it didn't take very long before they started to **rebel**. So, throughout the period of the **judges**, God would use the neighboring **nations** to cause His people **sadness** and **grief**. As a **result**, the people would **repent**, and ask God to **help** them. In His **mercy**, God would send a **judge** (kind of like a **hero**) to **deliver** them.

But, the people got tired of **that** arrangement too. They wanted to be like all the **other** nations which surrounded them, so they pleaded for God to give them a **king**. And once again, be careful what you **wish** for, because you might just **get** it. They **got** their **wish**. First, God gave them King **Saul** - a man who really **looked** the part of a king, but who let his heart drift **away** from the LORD. So God **replaced** him with King **David**, ushering in the **glory days** for God's people - days which would **continue** under the rule of David's **son**, King **Solomon**. It was **Solomon** who oversaw the building of a magnificent **temple** in Jerusalem - a building which was counted as one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.

But once again, many of God's people **rebelled** and quickly **fell away** from the LORD, and before long, God divided them into **two** kingdoms - **Israel** in the north, and **Judah** in the south. Israel was ruled by **wicked** kings for 200 years, and was then finally taken away into **captivity** by the **Assyrian** empire. Again, we would **think** that the people of **Judah** would have learned a lesson from what happened to their brothers in the north. We would **think** that they would have **listened** to the **warnings** from the prophets which the LORD sent to them, in order to get them to **turn away** from their rebellion. But it didn't **work** that way, and in the end, so many hearts had become hardened **against** the LORD, that He brought punishment against **Judah** as well. The mighty **Babylonians** came in, and in the year 586 BC, the people who were living in the city of **Jerusalem** saw their city **destroyed**, and God's people were carried away from the land which they had been promised, to live in **captivity** for 70 years.

This was the **horrible** situation which the prophet Jeremiah was **lamenting**. He lamented the people's **wickedness** and **stubbornness**. He lamented the sad fate of their **nation**, and the destruction of **Jerusalem**. He lamented the **shame** and **disgrace** which God's people had become in the eyes of the world. And what made these things all the more **painful** was the inescapable fact that **God's people** had caused **all** of it. They had **ruined** everything, and they **deserved** their fate.

Have you ever felt that kind of **sadness**? Have you ever found yourself in a really **bad** situation, and then realized that you caused it **yourself**? Sin always has **consequences**. Those consequences might come in the form of physical or emotional **pain**. They might show themselves in a damaged or destroyed **relationship**. But **whatever** the case, those consequences will bring a mixture of **guilt** and **regret**. And unfortunately, just like the people in **Jeremiah's** day, we have the tendency to dig ourselves **deeper** and **deeper** into those **sinful**, self-**destructive** situations. That is, until we finally hit **rock bottom**, and **wake up**. Maybe you've never **been** there, and maybe you never **will** be. But whenever people **are** suffering so severely, and seem to be unable to see any **light** at the end of the tunnel, we have an **opportunity** - an opportunity to show them just how **merciful** and **compassionate** our **God** is. God is the **only** one who can bring **Hope In The Middle Of Ruins**.

It was that **hope** which Jeremiah still **clung** to in the middle of the ruins of **Jerusalem**. He **knew** the one true God, and he knew God's **love** and **compassion**. That's why Jeremiah could write with confidence, "*By the mercies of the Lord we are **not** consumed, for his **compassions** do not **fail**. They are **new** every morning.*" Jeremiah knew that when things are **so bad** that there's nowhere else to **turn**, then it's time to turn to the **LORD** - the God who brings **Hope In The Middle Of Ruins**. Jeremiah served as a **wonderful** example for God's people. At a time when everything seemed to be **slipping away**, he understood that he still had an **inheritance** from the LORD. Just listen to his **attitude**. "*The Lord is my **portion**. Therefore, I will **hope** in him. The Lord is **good** to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.*" Jeremiah was willing to **wait** for the Lord's deliverance, because he knew the LORD is always **faithful** to His promises. The LORD had **committed** Himself to **loving** this group of people and **saving** them, and nothing would be able to **stop** the LORD from following **through** on His commitment.

Waiting for the LORD's deliverance would take great **patience**. Waiting is never **easy** - we **hate** to wait. But Jeremiah realized that even this difficult time of **waiting** was **good**. He wrote, "*It is **good** to hope quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is **good** for a man that he bears a **yoke** early in his life. Let him sit **alone***"

*and be **silent**, because the **Lord** has laid this upon him. Let him stick his face in the **dust**. Perhaps there still is **hope**. Let him turn his cheek **toward** the one who strikes him. Let him be filled with **disgrace**. For the Lord will **not** push us away **forever**. Even though he brings **grief**, he will show **compassion** on the basis of his great **mercy**.” Jeremiah knew that although the LORD had brought this horrible **grief** and **ruin** to His people as a **punishment** for their **rebellion**, he knew that **ultimately** God would show them **compassion** - and He **did**. After 70 years of **captivity**, the people of God would be allowed to **return** to their homeland by **Cyrus**, the king of Persia.*

But as great as that deliverance **was**, it would be **overshadowed** by the deliverance which the LORD would bring for His people some 500 years **later**, when He would send **Jesus** - His only-begotten **Son** - to offer His perfect **life** on the **cross** - as **payment** for their sins. You and I are **included** in that deliverance. Do we ever take the time to sit back and **marvel** at what that really **means** for us? Our **sins** have all been **forgiven**, so now there’s nothing **blocking the way** for us to be in the presence of **God Himself** - **forever**. Even though we may have to face **consequences** for our sins in **this** life, we won’t have to suffer for those sins **eternally**, because all of our sins have been **removed** from us. We have been **washed clean** by the blood of **Jesus**.

When we face **guilt** and **regret** for things we’ve said and done, we can **calm** our troubled hearts with the assurance that there is **no sin** we can commit which hasn’t already been **covered** by the blood of Jesus. He is our **Savior**, and when He **returns** again on the Last Day, He will take us to be **with** Him in **heaven**, where we will finally experience the **complete results** of the salvation which Jesus **won** for us. May the LORD help us to wait **patiently** for that salvation, and as the world continues to **fall apart** all around us, may He continue to provide us with **Hope In The Middle Of Ruins**. Amen.

Prayers:

O Jesus, Lord of the Church, who commanded men to preach **salvation** in Your name, we pray for our **pastors**, who are Your servants. Through the Holy Spirit’s enlightenment give them a true **understanding** of Your Word, and sanctified **wisdom** to handle it correctly. Let them never become guilty of believing or teaching **false** doctrine. Make them **bold** to take a **firm stand** against all that is **false** and **sinful** - to reprove, rebuke, admonish, and exhort the hearts and souls of sinners. Fill Your servants with a holy fervor to **feed** the flock under their care with the precious **Gospel**, which alone can **comfort** sinners and **save** those who believe. Supply them with the enthusiasm of true **missionaries**, that they may

be compelled to go out into the highways and byways of this world to call sinners to **repentance**, and invite them to the feast of **salvation**. Bless their labors with much **fruit**, that many hearts may be **strengthened**, and many souls **won** through the Word they preach.

And as we ask You grace through the Spirit for our pastors, so also we plead a similar blessing for **all** the **members** of our congregations. Cause us to be **receptive** to the Word of God, setting our hearts aglow with faith and love for You, our Savior. May we never act **contrary** to Your Word, but always live in **harmony** with it. Cause us to be a continual source of **inspiration** and **encouragement** to others, always promoting **peace** and **harmony** between God's people. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Hymn #618 - "*Before the Lord We Bow*"

**Before the Lord we bow,
The God who reigns above
And rules the world below
In boundless pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring;
In joy and praise
Our hearts we raise
To heav'n's high King.**

**The nation you have blessed
May well your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest,
Protected by your care.**

**For this fair land,
For this bright day
Our thanks we pay -
Gifts of your hand.**

**May ev'ry mountain height,
Each vale and forest green,
Shine in your Word's pure light
And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue
Be tuned to praise
And join to raise
A grateful song!**

**Earth, hear your Maker's voice;
Your great Redeemer own.
Believe, obey, rejoice,
And worship him alone.
Cast down your pride!
Your sin deplore
And bow before
The Crucified!**

**And when in pow'r he comes,
Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs
Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng,
And, joyful, sing
To heav'n's high King
Salvation's song!**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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.

The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn #619 - "*God Bless Our Native Land*"

**God bless our native land!
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night!
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our country save
By thy great might.**

**For her our prayers shall rise
To God above the skies;
On him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry,
God save the state!**