



RED HILL LUTHERAN

CHURCH & SCHOOL

8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Tom Brashears, Senior Pastor

Rev. Seth Britton, Associate Pastor

March 21, 2010

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
In the Cross of Christ I Glory
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Staszeki
Held
Dinda

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *please stand*

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection. Congregation kneels/sits

Leader: Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. By the authority of Jesus Christ, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Christ the Life of All the Living

Red hymnal #339 (back of book)

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Leader: From our God who loves us with an everlasting love, who brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us by the Spirit in the wilderness: Grace and abundant mercy be with you all.

People: And also with you.

KYRIE

Red hymnal #157 (back of book)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LENTEN SONG

O God in Heaven

Red hymnal #748 (back of book)

Verse 1 only

FIRST READING

NIV pew Bible page 1127

Isaiah 43:16-21

This is what the LORD says—

he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

¹⁸“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. ²⁰The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, ²¹the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”

SECOND READING

NIV pew Bible page 1828

Philippians 3:4-14

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Reader: Here ends the reading

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ACCLAMATION

Let Your Steadfast Love Come To Us

Red hymnal #176 (back of book)

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to _____.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

NIV Pew Bible page 1670

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³Then Mary took about a pint^[a] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵“Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.^[b]” ⁶He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MUSIC MINISTRY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Chancel Choir (8:00)

arr. Gilbert Martin

Hold on to Jesus
Heather Koskovich-Reithmeier (11:00)

Chapman

KIDS TALK & CHILDREN'S CHURCH (11:00 ONLY)

*The children are dismissed with their teachers for age appropriate activities.
Parents may pick up their children after the service.*

MORNING MESSAGE

Pastor Seth Britton

For an outline of this morning's sermon, please consult the "Brick"

APOSTLES' CREED

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 born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Please kneel*

PEACE

The congregation shares the peace of Christ.

Pastor: The Peace of the +Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please complete your worship response card and place it in the offering plate.

OFFERTORY

Were You There?

Visser

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join them in exclaiming:

People:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Red Hymnal #192 (back of book)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & 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

COMMUNION

In our church, all believing and baptized Christians are invited to receive communion. Please join us.

Although we use wine, a chalice of white grape juice is also available.

LAMB OF GOD

Red Hymnal #195 (back of book)

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Red hymnal #803 (back of book)

POSTLUDE

Petite Marche

Tritant

Readers

8:00 Gerry Aust 9:30 Carol Moore 11:00 Carol Pickford

Altar Guild

9:30 Pat Kramer 11:00 Sally Scalzo

Ushers

8:00 Jessie Hernandez Group 9:30 Dutch Kramer Group

11:00 Frank Schaefer Group

Greeters

8:00 a.m. Dorie Smith 9:30 a.m. Tiffany Illingworth

11:00 a.m. Taine & Diana Howard

Communion Servers

8:00 Richard & Sharon Lehman

9:30 Michael & Sue Portune, Matt Hendricks & Phil Schaffer

11:00 Leo & Marlys Lano

Worship Leaders

Director of Liturgical Arts James M. Schaefer

Director of Music Jason Harney

Organist Dennis Siebenaler

Praise Leaders Isaiah Coughran



RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

THE WEEKLY BRICK

March 21, 2010.

As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:4-5

Lenten Sermon Series: “Jesus Who?”

“Why Should We Trust Jesus?”

John 12:1-8

Context:

The recap: Weeks 1 and 2 focused on the divinity and humanity of Jesus; Jesus is true God and true man. In week 3, the Old Testament offices of prophet, priest, and king describe the ways that Jesus relates to us today: as truth-telling prophet, loving and sacrificial priest, and reigning king, calling us to live under the reign of God. Last week, we explored that Jesus is a savior who searches for and finds, the lost, inviting us to God’s kingdom “party!” Today, we will see through Mary’s loving and somewhat risky action of anointing Jesus, why Jesus can be trusted. Mary believed (sensed?) that Jesus was actually going to do what He said He was going to do: die in Jerusalem for the sins of the world. This leads her to publicly demonstrate her love for and trust in Jesus.

Core Theme/Idea: Jesus can be trusted because He went to the cross and finished what He started. Jesus invites us to exhibit (and rewards) risk-taking faith!

Relevant Scriptures:

I. The “Risky Interruption.”

John 12:1-3 Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.

To Trust or Not to Trust Jesus?

John 12:3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:4-6 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵“Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages” ⁶He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Jesus Rewards a Risk-taking Trust and Confirms His Destiny

John 12:7-8 “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Prayer/Implications:

This week, pray about the places in your life where trusting Jesus is difficult. What keeps you from trusting Jesus?

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

☐ Day #1--Monday, March 22nd Read: Psalm 119:105

This week, after some concluding some thoughts on the scriptures and spiritual maturity, we will shift to “Christin Community” as another path through which God will lead us as He shapes our souls and brings us closer to Him.

What does Martin Luther say about the Bible? Remember the “Small Catechism”? In the Small Catechism, Luther sums up what we have been focusing on this week:

The Bible is the Word of God...The Bible is the Word of God because these men wrote it by inspiration of God...”By inspiration of God” means that God the Holy Ghost moved the holy men to write, and put into their minds, the very thoughts which they expressed and the very words which they wrote...God gave us the Bible to make us “wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus,” and to train us in holy living... We should diligently and reverently read and study the Bible, listen attentively when it is read and explained, believe it, and live according to it.

Going Deeper: John 5:39; Luke 11:28.

Going Forward: God uses His word to help me become like His Son.

Prayer: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Lord, bring me closer to you through the words of the Bible that I may be faithful to you and love my neighbor. Amen.*

☐ Day #2--Tuesday, March 23rd Read: Matthew 18:20

We need each other. Jesus came that all people might know that they have been forgiven and accepted by God and now we can come home! Jesus brings together in His death, ALL the world. The Christian faith was made to be lived in community. Spiritual growth is nurtured through spiritual friendships that provide support, mutual accountability, prayer, acceptance, Biblical insights, and commitment to one another. Our goal here at Red Hill is that everyone in this church has a “place” where they are known, loved, prayed for, encouraged, and challenged. If you are not involved in a small group, regular Bible class, ministry team, or connected with other believers, commit now to joining one of our groups and/or studies and get connected into the Body of Christ.

Going Deeper: Ephesians 1:5; John 13:34-35

Going Forward: I belong in God’s family.

Prayer: *Jesus, you had twelve people you called your community. If you needed it, I need it. Please lead me to others that I may love them and be loved in return. Amen.*

☐ Day #3--Wednesday, March 24th Read: Matthew 16:18

You need your church! Why do you need your church? Because that is where God wants you to grow in His Word, serve His people, praise His name, and reach out to His world. The local church is the place that God has chosen to accomplish all these objectives. When we are baptized we become members of God’s church, which is the “body of Christ.” In this “Body” we have a part to play. We are not in the church to just receive, we are there to give. Rick Warren lists six reasons why you need to belong and be committed to a local church:

1. A church family identifies you as a genuine believer.
2. A church family moves you out of self-centered isolation.
3. A church family helps you to develop spiritual muscle.
4. The Body of Christ needs you.
5. You will share in Christ’s mission in the world.
6. A church family will help keep you from backsliding.

I think you can see why the church is important and where you BELONG.

Going Deeper: Romans 12:5.

Going Forward: I am a part of the Body of Christ.

Prayer: *God, thank you for the privilege of being a part of your body, the church. Amen.*

☐ Day #4--Thursday, March 25th Read: Acts 2:42-47

Biblical Community, also known as Small Groups, is the practice of fellowshiping with other believers in order to share my life with others and receive God's blessings from others. Are you in a Biblical Community? How do you know? What are the traits?

A Biblical Community is a small group of believers (3-12), where Jesus is the center, and people are known, loved, cared for, and served. In return, they know, love, care for and serve others.

The early church sprung out of these small groups of believers that met in homes and in the temple. These groups had possessions in common, ate together, served each other, and studied together. Sometimes a large church can lose sight of the importance of the individual.

At Red Hill, our small groups fulfill the practice of Biblical Community. Some of them are for Bible study, some for service, and some for recreation (softball team). But they are all Biblical Communities. We encourage you (again) to get involved in one of these communities.

Going Deeper: Psalm 133:1.

Going Forward: I need others to share my Christian life.

Prayer: *God thanks for putting other people in my life. Give me the courage to share my life with others. Amen.*

☐ Day #5--Friday, March 26th Read: John 17:20-26; 1 John 1:6-7

Love. That's what it's all about. We were created to love God, others, and ourselves. Love means giving one's self to another. When we truly love another, we "empty" ourselves and receive the other as they are. When we love like this we experience unity. Unity is the goal of Christian love. Jesus prayed that those who love Him (His disciples) would love like Him. In Jesus' love for the Father, Jesus emptied himself and accepted us as we are. We (humanity) can now come into the relationship with the Father that Jesus had. Here we see the result: unity. We can make ourselves "one" with those we meet during the day, in our church, in our small group, and with our friends. Making ourselves one so that whomever we love in this way understands love and desires to love in return. Of course, this results in mutual love, the characteristic of Christians, an example of the love of Jesus, and the life of the Trinity brought to the world.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran Pastor and theologian during World War II. He understood the nature of Christian community as an expression of the very nature of God who is Trinity. After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, Bonhoeffer continued his instruction to Christians throughout the world through his writings and personal faith in God during a very difficult time. In his book, *Life Together*, Bonhoeffer offers some insights into Christian community:

Christian community is like the Christian's sanctification. It is a gift of God, which we cannot claim. Only God knows the real state of our fellowship, our sanctification. What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and glorious to God. Just as the Christian should not be constantly feeling his spiritual pulse, so, too, the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be constantly taking its temperature. The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases. Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.

Going Deeper: Hebrews 10:24-25.

Going Forward: Christian community is God's gift to me. When I empty myself and accept others as they are, I love like Jesus.

Prayer: *Jesus, you are love. You love me so that I can love others. I cannot love like this without the power of your Spirit. Love through me today. Thank you for your community Father. Where two or three are gathered, you are there! You have given us one another. Help me to honor the gift of another in my life. Amen.*

☐ **Day #6--Saturday, March 27th Read:** 1 John 4:7-12.

“There is no such thing as a private life.—“a world within the world”—for man or woman who is brought into fellowship with Jesus Christ’s sufferings. God breaks up the private life of His saints, and makes it a thoroughfare for the world on the one hand and for Himself on the other...The first thing God does with us is to get us based on rugged reality until we do not care what becomes of us individually as long as He gets His way for the purpose of redemption.” (Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*) When we enter into a relationship with Jesus, we also enter into a relationship with His children, your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. This mutual relating: Jesus and you, you and others, others with you and with Jesus, all reveal that relationships are what God has created us for and through which, God changes us. Again Oswald Chambers:

Rehabilitation means the putting back of the whole human race into the relationship God designed it to be in, and this is what Jesus Christ did in Redemption...The rehabilitation of the human race on Jesus Christ’s plan means the realization of Jesus Christ in corporate life as well as individual life...We are not here to develop a spiritual life of our own, or to enjoy spiritual retirement; we are here so that the Body of Christ may be built up. Am I building up the Body of Christ, or am I looking for my own personal development only? (*My Utmost For His Highest*)

Tomorrow is Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. During Holy Week, Jesus resolutely walked toward the cross for one reason: You! Jesus came and was obedient to the Father and the Father’s desire that you come home to Him. God does not want you to wander through life aimlessly, from crisis to crisis and doubt that you are loved and valued by God. The death and resurrection of Jesus reveal the heart of God. A father’s heart that longs for His children to be healed, fulfilled, forgiven, and filled with hope. For the past 40 days we have been looking at what a life looks like when it is lived for the glory of God in response to the love of God. The five foundational discipleship practices that are used by the Holy Spirit to transform you into the likeness of Jesus are:

WORSHIP-PRAYER-SCRIPTURE-CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY-SERVANTHOOD

Going Forward: Read Ephesians 4. In what ways do I participate with Jesus in building up my faith?

Prayer: *Come Holy Spirit and remind me that to love the Father is to love His children. Jesus, empower me to grow in faith, love, and obedience to you. I love you; thank you for loving me! Amen.*

