

Mid-week Lenten Services 2021 (3/10/2021)

Welcome to our midweek virtual Lenten devotional for 2021. The theme this year is, “What is Faith”?, a series focusing on the biblical figures of Noah, Abraham, Moses, the Israelites and finally Jesus as the “Perfecter and Pioneer” of our faith. Our primary scripture text is Hebrews 11-12.

A reminder that our congregation is meeting for in-person Sunday worship only, Sunday mornings at 8 and 10:30 am. Sunday Church School for all ages begins at 9:15 am. Although we have returned to in-person Sunday worship, a video recording of our Sunday service is still available from our website and Facebook page.

All mid-week Lenten Services are virtual.

Let us begin.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,+ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dialogue

P Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, by the prophets,
C **but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**
P The Son is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being
C **the Son sustains all things by the Word.**
P Since we have confidence by the new and living way opened for us by Jesus,
C **let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith.**

Opening Prayer

P Let us pray. O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

A Reading from Exodus.....Exodus 2:23-25; 3:7-10

23After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. 24God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 25God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

7Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their

sufferings, 8and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

A Reading from Hebrews.....Hebrews 11:1, 23-28

11:1Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 23By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. 24By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. 27By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king’s anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. 28By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Reflection

The Prayers

P Faithful God, shower the world with your lovingkindness,

C that all may know your peace.

P Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors,

C that all may know your love.

P Comfort the sick and dying,

C that all may know your mercy.

P Guide our leaders in the way of truth,

C that all may know your justice.

P Focus our hearts on the way of the cross,

C that all may have faith in you.

P Let us pray in the words of Martin Luther:

C Behold Lord, and empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love, warm me and make me fervent, that

my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and I am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.

Amen

P Finally, let us pray with the words our Savior gave us:

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 Blessing

P The God of peace,

who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,

the great shepherd of the sheep,

make you complete in everything good

so that you may do God's will,

through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

