

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been several weeks since we last gathered and I want you to know that I think of you all the time in my prayers. We can certainly identify with our Bible ancestors who pleaded with God in the midst of trials. God indeed hears our prayers. As we seek His will in our lives each day, God is holding us tightly.

Pastor David and I are working hard on the worship services for Holy Week. Beginning on Palm Sunday, we will be leading worship in the sanctuary at St. John's Lutheran Church at Shell Creek. To keep everyone safe, there will be no music but we will still give you a meaningful worship experience. The services will be held at 10:00 on Sunday, and at 6:30 on Thursday and Friday. For those who have access to Facebook, go to the page for St. John's Lutheran Church, Shell Creek or Calvary Lutheran Church Swede Home. We will be using our iphones for each congregation. Later David can also send the video as an email attachment to members who do not have Facebook. I have sent a copy of the order of service that Pastor David wrote to the secretaries with a list of the scripture lessons and a children's activity.

The bulletins will be sent out as before for those who would rather follow the service that we usually have. A summary of Pastor David's sermon will also be sent.

The most important message the health care people are telling us is to stay home. That is the best way to stop the spread of this virus. The worship arrangements that I have made are the best that I can do given that we cannot gather together in public. I wish it could be different. Once this is over, we will have an Easter service like no other. No one knows for sure how long this will last. The one thing we do have control over is that we can stay home. We have a great task to spend time in

prayer for our first responders and health care workers. Use the time you have been given wisely and spend time with God. Be in touch with your neighbors in creative ways and make some new friends. Remember Jesus is walking this road with us.

I am available if you need someone to talk with or a prayer. My number is 308-249-3810.

God bless you, Sr. Anne Hall

The lessons below are for the month of April

April 5 Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

April 9 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
I Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 10 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13- 53:12
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

April 12 Easter

Jeremiah 31:1-6
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 28:1-10

April 19, 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
I Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 26 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
I Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

A Call to Worship (based on Psalm 118)

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God because the Lord is good.

All: God's mercy goes on forever and ever.

L: In times of distress we call out to the Lord.

All: God answers and frees us from that which imprisons our hearts and minds.

L: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: We will rejoice and be glad. Amen!

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Let us pray together:

All: God, we confess our shortcomings and our brokenness. We do things that we shouldn't do and the things we should do, we often don't. We are captive to our sinful nature and cannot free ourselves. We are controlled by our self-centered priorities. Forgive us, O Lord.

L: Our Gracious God, who did not withhold His only Son, will not withhold his forgiveness, but gives it freely. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Amen

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

All: Amen.

Children's Message

First Lesson

Gospel: The Gospel according to the _____ chapter.

L: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

The Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the

Father,

and 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

L: Lord in your mercy **All: Hear our prayer.**

Thoughts on the theme

Announcements

Blessing

L: As Aaron was told to say to the people of God ...

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Dismissal

L: Be at peace and remember Christ is with you wherever you go and whatever comes your way.

All: Thanks be to the Lord.

Holy Week Challenge for Children

This is kind of a scavenger hunt: read the verses for each day of Holy Week, then find one thing or more than one thing in your house that illustrates or reminds you of the action in those verses.

April 5 Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-9

April 6 Monday

Mark 11:15-18

April 7 Tuesday

Matthew 26:45-54

April 8 Wednesday

Luke 22:31-34,54-62

April 9 Maundy Thursday

Luke 22:7-20

April 10 Good Friday

John 19:16b-18, 25b-30

April 11 Holy Saturday

John 19:38-41

April 12 Easter Sunday

Matthew 28:1-8

Order of Worship

