

Darkness and Light

The scriptures are filled with images that contrast darkness and light. In simple terms the darkness represents the darkness of sin and death and the way of evil, while light represents God and His goodness, reconciliation and newness of life. Such contrasts have been a fundamental portion of understanding the faith since the Apostolic age. This imagery denotes one or the other, a choice that stands before all who come face to face with Christ.

I tend to believe that most of us, the largest percentage of the time stand in the threshold between both worlds. We do want to shun the darkness and the evil that dwells there, but stepping fully into the light comes with some reservations. Crossing that threshold completely is throwing ourselves into the arms of God without reservation or consideration when it comes to what He will do with the offering of our lives. Giving our all is a death, and our fears of what stands on the other side stagnate our choice.

Yet, such a choice must be made if we are to find the true depths of God and live into His life. One cannot stand in the threshold forever because it is not of the darkness while it is also not of the light. Jesus whispers to us to come, to abandon ourselves into Him, we must loose our lives if we want to find what our lives were created to become.

For me it is a longing I could not refuse any longer. My hunger for the life of God could not be fulfilled until I committed myself to passing through that threshold once and for all. I could not allow the old Adam within my to worry about what would happen, where I would end up, or perhaps even what demands God might make on my life. I had to jump from that place that was neither darkness or light.

Lent, in this time of being confined to our homes, can be seen as an opportunity to delve into our spiritual life. I continue to pray that all in our parish will find the power that dwells in the silence of this present time. That prayer asks Jesus to continue to call and encourage you to let go of the threshold, abandon your fears, and plunge fully into the light of God that brings life.

This will take time, as it has with me, as I ask God each day to take all of me, leave nothing behind, and use me to save souls for His kingdom. It falls from my lips throughout the day that God use me according to His will, that I dwell only in His love and seek only ways to deliver those from their present darkness into life. How this is occurring I cannot see, and that is likely for the best. What I know so far is that my soul has been set free in God, and I have lost myself in His love.

Forth Sunday of Lent



“Darkness and Light”

Church of the Apostles, Lutheran

March 22, 2020

Church of the Apostles, Lutheran

Pastor ~ 207-3679 Parish Office ~ 957-3377

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Pastor / Celebrant	Rev. Troy A. Mulvaine
Pastor in Residence	Rev. Allan Griep
Assisting Minister	Deacon Gail Notaro
Pastoral Musician	Shelly Mulvaine

LBW – *Green Hymnal* **WOV** – *Blue Hymnal*

MC - *Mass of Creation*

Please respect the nature of the church as a holy place of prayer and worship, by turning your cell phones to mute.

PSALM 23

Joseph Gelineau



My shep-herd is the Lord, noth-ing in-deed shall I want.

¹The LORD is my shepherd;*

I shall not be in want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures*

and leads me beside still waters.

³He revives my soul*

and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil;*

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

⁵You spread a table before me

in the presence of those who trouble me;*

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life;*

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. **R**

NEXT WEEKS READINGS:

Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11 , John 11:1-45

Lentēn Worship and Devotion

Compline

A Prayer office to close the day.

Wednesdays at 7PM on Website

“The Lords Prayer”

Church of the Apostles, Lutheran

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Please enter and be in silence

Confession

(Note that there is no absolution during Lent)

Introductory Rites

Entrance Hymn.....vs. 1-2.....LBW 400

Apostolic Greeting

Kyrie.....p.57 LBW

Prayer of the Day.....p.62 LBW

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading.....I Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm.....back of bulletin.....Psalm 23

Second Reading.....Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel Acclamation.....p.63 LBW

Gospel.....John 9:1-41

Homily

Hymn of the Day.....LBW 448

Nicene Creed.....p.64 LBW

Prayers of the Faithful

Sign of Peace

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Response.....p.67 LBW

Offertory Prayer.....p.67 LBW

Great Thanksgiving.....p.68 LBW

Sanctus.....p.69 LBW

Lord's Prayer.....p.71 LBW

All Baptized Christians who believe that in the Eucharist the true Body and Blood of Christ are physically present are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Agnus Dei.....p.72 LBW

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Cantic.....p.73 LBW

Prayer

Concluding Rite

Blessing

Recessional Hymn.....*vs.3-4*.....LBW 400

☐ *Reconciled to God through Christ and made a new creation go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

☑ **Thanks be to God!**

“O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.”