



St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church-Blue Point Lenten Service Thursday, April 2, 2020

Welcome to St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church!!

Prayer before the Service-Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Order of Service-Vespers.....pg 229

Psalm 118:19-29

Open to me the gates of righteousness;

I will go through them, And I will praise the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD,

Through which the righteous shall enter.

I will praise You, For You have answered me,

And have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected

Has become the chief cornerstone.

This was the LORD'S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day the LORD has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
Save now, I pray, O LORD;
O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.
God is the LORD, And He has given us light;
Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will praise You;
You are my God, I will exalt You.
Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen**

Gospel Lesson-John 12:20-43

Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”

Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.”

Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

The people answered Him, “We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”

Then Jesus said to them, “A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?”

Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again

“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,

Lest they should see with their eyes,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,

So that I should heal them.”

These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Sermon

Text: Psalm 118; John 12

Theme: Open to me the gates of righteousness

I. We cannot see, find, or even believe in the gates of righteousness

II. Rather, we pray with the Psalmist that the Lord would open our eyes, hearts, minds to see

III. So that we be saved!

Prayers

Benediction

The following are the themes of the services that comprise Lenten Midweek and Holy Week Services, however, at the present time our ability to gather is on hold, given the pandemic and state mandates. The elders met Sunday, and we are not having services this week, March 29-April 4th. Confirmation and examination, will be private. We will again reevaluate the schedule for Holy Week, next Sunday, but for right now, if the state limits on gatherings remain at 10, we will be offering Holy Communion to groups of 10 or less throughout the day on Maundy Thursday, April 9th and Good Friday, April 10th by appointment. Please call the church office. Watch the facebook page, the bulletin and website www.stpaulbluepoint.org for further

news. (Presently, the website host is down, so this information is being linked to facebook. We will also be putting up sermons and links to bulletins on Youtube, link coming). More information will be coming in a pastoral letter the week of March 29th. If you would like a physical copy of the bulletin, please call the pastor and he will put it in your mailbox. If you have prayer requests please call the pastor and he will put it in the bulletin for services. There will also be **daily sermons** posted with brief bulletins each day on the internet. So the Lenten series will be completed and preached, as will other sermons and lessons during this time.

Lenten Midweek Services —The theme will be **Walking with Paul to the Cross and Beyond**. The lessons will be the Epistle lessons from the previous Sunday;

Lenten Midweek 5, April 1st-Roman 8:1-11, Theme-The Lord provides pilgrims on their way to the Cross with the Spirit

Palm Sunday, April 4th-Philippians 2:5-11, Theme-The mind of Christ enables us to follow Christ to the Cross humility and faith

Maundy Thursday-1 Corinthians 11:23ff, The Lord richly feeds His children, as they make their way to the Cross

Good Friday-Isaiah 53; John 19, Theme-We have arrived at the Cross and ponder what this means for us!

Easter Sunrise-1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Theme-The Lord is Risen!

ALIS Auction will have been postponed until May 8th.

Ladies Aid has placed **flower order** forms in your mailbox. They have to be returned to the Ladies Aid mailbox, with a check made out to the Ladies Aid, by March 22.

Central Illinois District 75th Annual LWML Convention will be held on April 30th – May 2nd at Bethel Lutheran Church, 325 E. Queenwood Rd., Morton, IL 61550. **This event has been cancelled for now**. If there are any questions you can contact Annie Guerrettaz, Jo Ellyn Tappendorf or Elaine Stuckemeyer.

The Ladies of St. John's, Effingham Lydia Guild is hosting the Joint Spring JOY Shop for all ladies has been cancelled.

Arrangements for the funeral of Gene Moeller-The family of Gene Moeller will be having a funeral/memorial service sometime in the future, when conditions allow.

Prayers-For the family of Gene Moeller who died this past week; For the family of Donald Burks, the father of Charles Burks, who died; for the family of W. Wayne Arnold, the grandfather of Spencer Hammer; For Jim Huelskoetter, who had surgery yesterday; for those afflicted with the viruses this year, and those working in health care. For the school closings.

Those participating-

Pastor-Rev. David Speers

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