

## **Lord of Life Lutheran Church**

*Reaching out with love  
to create new and abundant lives in Christ  
One Ministry with Many Ministries*

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**The Book of Job: Blessed Be the Name of the Lord!**  
**Lent Midweek 4**  
March 25, 2020

### **Theme of the Day**

There's a plan where all things work for our good and the Father's glory. The secret is understanding how it all works together. Job puts it this way, "When he has tested me, I will come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

### **Welcome**

**LSB 430 sts. 1-4**

**My Song Is Love Unknown**

**My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I  
That for my sake  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh and die?**

**He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend,  
My friend indeed,  
Who at my need  
His life did spend!**

**Sometimes they strew His way  
And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!"  
Is all their breath,  
And for His death  
They thirst and cry.**

**Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries!  
Yet they at these  
Themselves displease  
And 'gainst Him rise.**

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*Please stand*

### **Confession and Absolution**

Loving and merciful Father, when overcome by grief, like Job we wonder what happened to your love and your wonderful plan for our lives.

**It feels as though our prayers fall on deaf ears.**

Like Job, we begin looking for you to the east, to the west, to the north, and the south—the four points of the horizon and the compass—but you are nowhere to be found.

**The darkness threatens to swallow us whole and we feel as though we are drowning in an ocean of divine silence.**

Lord, then we are tempted to do something cheap or dirty,

**Or something that will bring great shame upon us and those we love. Have mercy on us, O God.**

Hear the word of the Lord from Job 42:12, “The Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the first.” Our God turns crucifixions into resurrections. What was dead is now alive and what was once defeat is now an everlasting triumph. Christ is alive. He forgives you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen! I know that my Redeemer lives!**

**LSB 430 st. 7**

**My Song Is Love Unknown**

**Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend!**

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## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you,  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Merciful Father, empower us to believe that when you have tested us, we will come forth as gold, for you work all things together for our good and your everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**Scripture Readings – *The theme is understanding God's plan in our suffering.***

### **Job 23:1–17**

Then Job answered and said:  
“Today also my complaint is bitter;  
my hand is heavy on account of my groaning.  
Oh, that I knew where I might find him,  
that I might come even to his seat!  
I would lay my case before him  
and fill my mouth with arguments.  
I would know what he would answer me  
and understand what he would say to me.  
Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?  
No; he would pay attention to me.  
There an upright man could argue with him,  
and I would be acquitted forever by my judge.  
“Behold, I go forward, but he is not there,  
and backward, but I do not perceive him;  
on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him;  
he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him.  
But he knows the way that I take;  
when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.  
My foot has held fast to his steps;  
I have kept his way and have not turned aside.  
I have not departed from the commandment of his lips;  
I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.  
But he is unchangeable, and who can turn him back?  
What he desires, that he does.  
For he will complete what he appoints for me,  
and many such things are in his mind.  
Therefore I am terrified at his presence;  
when I consider, I am in dread of him.  
God has made my heart faint;  
the Almighty has terrified me;

yet I am not silenced because of the darkness,  
nor because thick darkness covers my face.

## **2 Corinthians 5:14–21**

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*Please stand*

## **Luke 14:25–32**

Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

## **Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**“Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!**

**“When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.**

**“Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove  
My sov’rein, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”**

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*Please stand*

## **Prayers**

Dear Father, you have reconciled us to yourself through the bitter suffering and death of Jesus.

**You have taught us our need for Jesus who is our Mediator and Messiah,**

Our Redeemer and Friend.

**Let him rule as our King.**

Guide us as our Prophet.

**And take away our sin as our High Priest.**

Come what may we will live in him and cleave to him in faith forever.

**For we believe that,**

When you have tested us, we will come forth as gold.

+ *Additional Prayers* +

God of tender compassion, we believe that there's a plan,  
**A divine plan,**

A plan where all things are working for our good  
**And your glory.**

And so we pray confidently in the name of Jesus Christ,  
**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **Silent Prayer**

With Job we say to you dear Savior, "When you have tested me, I will come forth as gold." Amen.