

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
330 GRISWOLD STREET, ELGIN, IL 60123

March 22, 2020

“Love is the Center”

“Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing”

PRELUDE

GARY HILLQUIST

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P One of the things that connects us to one another is our shared need for grace. We are all fragile creatures who are now less than God promises we will be. And so we bring our sin, not out of shame but out of the promise of life that comes through healing and forgiveness. Let us take a moment of silence to reflect and prepare as we confess our sins together.

(moment of silence)

P God of grace,

C We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed - by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and has made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved, In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. All loving God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen

OPENING HYMN: 720 “We Are Called”

“Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

***We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!***

We are called to act with justice.

We are called to love tenderly.

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

***God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters
and brothers united in love!”***

We are called to act with justice.

We are called to love tenderly.

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

KYRIE

L In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

L For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

L For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

L Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

C Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. God of healing and hope, we gather at a distance and are thankful that in a time like this we gather in a time when technology allows us to be physically apart and yet still stay connected. Bless us this day with your love. Pour your Holy Spirit on us so we can love others as ourselves. Fill us during this time of worship so that we can lovingly serve as the feet, hands and voice of Jesus in a world who needs his love. It is in Christ's name that we pray.

C Amen

WORD

(We turn our attention to hearing God's Word)

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

DEACON MARLENE

VERSE OF THE MONTH

L Let us remember together the witness of scripture.

**C There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.
(Ephesians 4:4-6)**

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 89:1-4 (read responsively)

L I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**C I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

L You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

**C I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations."**

GOSPEL VERSE: "Thy Word"

"Thy Word

Is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid

Think I've lost my way

Still You're there

Right beside me

Nothing will I fear

As long as You are near

Please be near me to the end

Thy Word

Is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path"

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 12:28-44

SERMON

SERMON HYMN: 656 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship our spirit finds
Is like to that above.
We share our mutual woes;
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.
From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and oneness reign
Through all eternity."*

APOSTLE'S CREED

L Faith is the assurance of things hoped for – strength for times like these. Together, let us confess our faith:

C 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,
and 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.
He will come 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

OFFERING

*We join Christians all over the world in worshipping God through our giving of financial resources.
During this unusual time, you may give by going to www.ZionElginIL.org/give and following the directions there. Options include our online giving portal, PayPal, GivePlus phone app, and mailing in a check to the church. Thanks for your faithful partnership during this unusual time.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father...

BLESSING:

P The blessings of our loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us, now and forever.

C Amen

DISMISSAL HYMN: "I've Got Peace Like a River"

*"I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul,*

*I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul,*

*I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul,*

*I've got love like the ocean, I've got love like the ocean,
I've got love like the ocean in my soul*

*I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul"*

POSTLUDE

GARY HILLQUIST