

# Personal Practices of Following

Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 9:30 am Sanctuary



ST. LUKE'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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# ***Fourth Sunday in Lent***

**March 11, 2018**

Connecting to Christ - Starting Over Series - Part 3— New Actions

## **Connected to Christ**

Our Board of Directors has adopted a vision statement to propel St. Luke's into the future: Connected to Christ to Connect to Community. Starting in January we're focusing our attention on the first part - Connected to Christ - by studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. With this sermon Jesus launched his followers into the world. Over the next few months we'll look at what Jesus said about a New Approach, a New Attitude, New Action, and a New Start.

Jesus' New Approach is a movement of God's people into the world as Salt and Light. But that will require a whole New Attitude. Our natural way of thinking is an "if...then" attitude. If I do good and work hard then God will bless me and I'll have a good life. Jesus calls us to a "because...therefore" attitude. Because God has blessed me completely, forgiving all my sins and giving me the ultimate, eternal good life, therefore I now seek to serve and obey Him.

## **As We Gather:**

In our series Connected to Christ we've discovered a new approach to life—following Jesus. It is a life filled with incredible and surprising blessings (5:1-12). This new approach to life requires continuous abandonment of our natural way of thinking—be nice and work hard and God will reward you now and forever. Instead Jesus calls for complete reliance on his perfect life, death, and resurrection to transform us into people who live to love God and to love others. But how in the world do you maintain that attitude in the midst of the madness of the 21st Century America?! In the next section of Jesus' sermon on the Mount, Jesus turns our attention to our outward actions that support and demonstrate the new life of following that is growing in us. Giving and fasting are two such disciplines. But Jesus warns us to be careful by "continuously checking our motivation."

## **Pre Service Music**

## **Welcome**

## **Ringling of the Bell**

## Opening Hymn: “My Lighthouse”

1. In my wrestling and in my doubts  
In my failures You won't walk out  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea (oh-oh)  
You are the peace in my troubled sea
2. In the silence, You won't let go  
In my questions, Your truth will hold  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea (oh-oh)  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

### *Chorus:*

My Lighthouse, my lighthouse  
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You  
My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse  
I will trust the promise,  
You will carry me safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore

3. I won't fear what tomorrow brings  
With each morning I'll rise and sing  
My God's love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea (oh-oh)  
You are the peace in my troubled sea *Chorus* (2x's):

# ***God Grants Us The Gift Of Forgiveness***

## **Invocation:**

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** (Matthew 28:19b; 18:20)

## **Sacrament of Holy Baptism:**

(Please follow the Baptism Service found on page 268 in the Lutheran Service Book.)

Samuel David Weissfisch, son of John Weissfisch & Katarina Schickedanz, receives Holy Baptism.

## **Confession:**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

## **Absolution**

## Hymn of Meditation: “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” LSB 440:1, 5



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;  
With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.  
Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish  
Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.

5 If my sins give me alarm  
And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm;  
Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won  
By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son,  
God must have compassion!

## Prayer of the Day:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

# ***God Speaks To Us From His Word***

## **First Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have

been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **Anthem**

St. Luke's Lutheran School Wildcat Band

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-4, 16-18 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

<sup>1</sup> “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. <sup>2</sup> “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may

be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup> “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

## Hymn of the Day: “The Power of the Cross”

1. Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day  
Christ on the road to Calvary  
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then  
Nailed to a cross of wood

### *Chorus 1*

This the pow'r of the cross  
Christ became sin for us  
Took the blame bore the wrath  
We stand forgiven at the cross

2. Oh to see the pain written on Your face  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin  
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow Chorus 1:

3. Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head  
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life  
Finished the vict'ry cry Chorus 1:

4. Oh to see my name written in the wounds  
For through Your suff'ring I am free  
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live  
Won through Your selfless love

### *Chorus 2*

This the pow'r of the cross  
Son of God slain for us  
What a love what a cost  
We stand forgiven at the cross

## Sermon



## Offertory: "Create In Me"



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## ***God Receives Our Offerings And Prayers***

Gathering of the Offerings

Musical Offering

St. Luke's Lutheran School Wildcat Orchestra



*give.slcs.org*

Prayer of the Church

## ***God Blesses Us And Sends Us Out***

### **Benediction:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

**C: Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: “When I Behold Jesus Christ” LSB 542



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,  
2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;  
3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;  
4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.



I won - der much at His love As He hung on the tree.  
I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.  
On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.  
My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

### **YOUR PRAYER PARTNERS**

Prayer Partners are available near the front sides of the sanctuary. If you have an expression of joy, a concern or other prayer need, they would welcome the opportunity to pray with you.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

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