



The Sign Of
JONAH

LENT

Trinity Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Lent 5

March 20, 2024

The Sign of Jonah: About Face

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Visit us on the web: www.trinityindio.org

Special Services of Lent

3:00pm & 7:00pm

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran. We are delighted you have chosen to join us this day. Our Lord always blesses those who come to His house to hear His word and receive His sacraments. We pray you will experience God's love and care for you.

For our guests:

- ❖ Quiet bags are provided for your children during the service. They are located as you enter the church. The children's bulletin and color booklet is for you to keep. Please return the bags as you exit. **"Busy Bibles" for the smaller children during the worship service are available! Please return to the rack when exiting.**
- ❖ For your convenience we have a Cry Room. You will find it as you enter the church doors. From that room you can hear and observe the service.
- ❖ **Here at Trinity we believe, as Scripture teaches, that in the Lord's Supper, we receive not only bread and wine, but also the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins, and the strengthening of our faith and our fellowship with one another. If you would like to participate in this Sacrament, but have further questions, we encourage you to speak with the pastor or elders. We also invite and encourage you to fill out the white card indicating your desire and intention to commune.**
- ❖ Pastor Smith is available for visiting and consultations. Please contact the church office or Pastor's cell phone 760 485-5171 for an appointment.

*****Please silence cell phones...Thank you*****

God Bless Your Worship!!!

The Sign of Jonah

--Lent 5--

"About Face"

- P** *Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.*
- C** **Let the wicked forsake their ways; and the unrighteous their thoughts.**
- P** *Let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them.*
- C** **And to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.** (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Opening Hymn

Tune #423

**Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, you have borne the pain of all.**

**Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see you wounded, bleeding, see your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.**

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning to behold your cross anew;
Till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, dwells the cross, the Crucified.**

Confession and Absolution

(W=Women, M=Men)

- P** *Lord, we are now nearing the time when your Son faces death on the cross. As we see him humbly preparing to die for us, teach us the folly of pride; teach us to bear our limitations gracefully; teach us to be honest about ourselves and about our neighbors; teach us to be your humble servants through serving others.*

A Moment of Silent Reflection

- P** *Do you acknowledge that you have sinned against God and deserve his wrath and judgment?*
- C** **Yes, I am a sinner in need of God's grace and forgiveness. I repent of my sins, those known and unknown to me. Turn me, O Holy Spirit, from my sinful ways and set me on the path of righteousness and blessedness.**

W *We know we're supposed to examine our lives and confess our sins; we may even want to give something up as we follow Christ to the cross.*

M "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

W *"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near."* (Isaiah 55:6)

M "Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassion never fails. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

W *"Let the wicked forsake their ways; and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them."* (Isaiah 55:7)

M "The LORD says, 'I am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.'" (Isaiah 43:25)

C **"Our God will abundantly pardon."** (Isaiah 55:7)

P *Receive the forgiveness of our patient and compassionate God. On Calvary's cross, Jesus bore the punishment and wrath of the Father that we deserve. He gives us abundant pardon and strength to walk in his ways. Having heard your confession and by his command, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 3: 5-10

⁵*And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.*

⁶*The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink*

water, ⁸but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

¹⁰*When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.*

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with

the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn

Tune #611

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love! Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, lasting as eternity.
Love that found me—wondrous thought—found me when I sought him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God in the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is All-in-All to me;
All my wants to him are known, all my sorrows are his own.
He sustains the hidden life safe with him from earthly strife.**

**O my Savior, help afford by your Spirit and your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.**

Sermon

“About Face”

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.

Offering/Offertory

Tune #781

**We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

**May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!**

Prayers/ The Lord's Prayer

P Father, as miserable sinners deserving punishment, we come before you, O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

P Let the wicked forsake their ways; and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them.

C And to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

P Give us repentant hearts, O LORD, ready to receive your love.

C Almighty God, you sent Jonah to the wicked city of Nineveh to show your grace and compassion. We give you thanks for sending your Son, who endured intense opposition from sinners to return us to God.

P *We thank you for showing us compassion by sending Jesus to give us eternal life. We say “thanks be to God” because salvation is from the LORD!*

C **Give us the opportunity to invite others to share in our Easter joy. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

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.

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.*

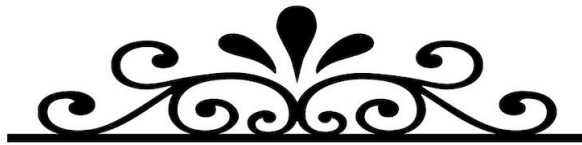
C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Tune #878

**I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**



Holy Week

Read Jonah 4:1-11

1. Why is Jonah upset?
2. How often has the prosperity of another gotten under your skin?
3. Have you found yourself feeling like Jonah, who is “exceedingly displeased” and angry that God relents from bringing disaster upon the Ninevites?
4. How does God’s grace being given to another person assure you of his grace toward you?

Read Matthew 12:38-42

1. The one sign which Jesus says will be provided is the sign of Jonah (a three-day-and-three-night confinement). To what two great events does Jesus’ three-day-and-three-night confinement refer?
2. How is Jesus similar to, and yet greater than, Jonah?