



*Living Praise
Celebration*

Online

Sunday, March 22, 2020

stlukeaa.org

OPENING SONGS

“Fairest Lord Jesus (My Soul’s Glory)”

“Before the Throne of God Above”

WELCOME / NEXT STEPS / FOCUS

CALL TO WORSHIP / INVOCATION from Psalm 42

Pastor: These things I remember as I pour out my soul:

**All: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the
Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.**

Pastor: Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your
hope in God,

All: for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION

Pastor: Lord, we have never done it this way before.

All: We want to be together, in worship. In the midst of all this uncertainty, we miss the comfort and the strength we find together in your sanctuary.

Pastor: Lord, we have never done it this way before.

All: Life is changing too rapidly. Nothing is routine. Our future plans have been cancelled. Every day our needs become more critical.

Pastor: Lord, we have never done it this way before.

All: We confess that we have forgotten to put our hope in you. Our souls are downcast because we fail to lift them before you in prayer. We are disturbed because we have forgotten your promises to always be with us. Lord, forgive us.

-We pause to remember and repent of our sin-

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Rejoice where you are right now, even though we aren't physically together in worship. Receive hope – not the guarantee of life returning to normal – but by the promise of the holy One, the One who performed miracles in a way that the people had never, never seen before, and died for us in a way that had never been done, the guilt of our sin and the sin of the world placed firmly on his shoulders.

Because of his death, his resurrection, and his reign over us in love, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

How can we respond to his forgiveness?

All: We walk together into the future with hope! Amen.

First Reading: Psalm 77:1-14

I cried out to God for help;

I cried out to God to hear me.

When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;

at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.

I remembered you, God, and I groaned;

I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.

You kept my eyes from closing;
I was too troubled to speak.
I thought about the former days,
the years of long ago;
I remembered my songs in the night.
My heart meditated and my spirit asked:
“Will the Lord reject forever?
Will he never show his favor again?
Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
Has his promise failed for all time?
Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has he in anger withheld his compassion?”
Then I thought, “To this I will appeal:
the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.
I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”
Your ways, God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?
You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

APOSTLES' CREED

All: 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. He will come again 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.

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All: Lord God, help me to be ready for people who will enter my life, needing a miracle. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, that as I listen, care, and pray with others, these acts of love seem miraculous to them, and they turn thankful hearts to you. I praise you, for without your forgiveness, I would have nothing of eternal value to offer anyone. Inspire me to do acts of love in a way that I've never done before, because you are transforming me with your presence. With a grateful heart I pray it, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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

CONTINUATION OF OUR SUNG WORSHIP *(optional)*
see links in the description of this week's YouTube video.

“Wonderful Merciful Savior”

“I Will Rise”

“Jesus Messiah”