

## **Augustana**

*where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together*

**March 22, 2020** – Lent 4a

*This is the morning service on our website.*

*You can go do the service without the website if you wish.*

*If your household has more than one person you can take turns reading aloud.*

*I will participate in this service at 10:30 Sunday mornin*

*g, you can do that from home as well.*

*Please don't feel you are limited to that time only. Pastor Marilyn*

### **MORNING PRAYER**

O Lord, open my lips: **and my mouth shall proclaim your praise**

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God: **that we may rejoice and be glad all our days**

Praise to the blest and Holy Trinity, one God: **who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection**

Give glory to God, our light and our life: **Oh, come, let us worship and praise**

**Morning song** “Lord Jesus, You shall be my song” # 808 ELW

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;  
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go:  
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.  
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey,  
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.  
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,  
To carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.  
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.  
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;  
But courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.  
And with all of the family you saved by your love,  
We'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

### **A reading from 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said,

‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God: **Word of life**

### **Meditation**

May Jesus open our eyes and ears so that we might see and hear God’s voice.  
AMEN.

When Christians face challenging situations we look to the scriptures for support and comfort. We look to our sacred story for a way through difficulty and we look for **hope**.

Our Bible story today speaks to all of that. It tells us of troubling times. We hear in that time long ago that God’s people were anxious and afraid. They were grieving for the good times that were past. And this sounds very similar to our own time.

Fear and anxiety are a very normal response to life changes like the ones we are facing. My hope is that we will not be immobilized by fear and anxiety, but that these feelings will motivate us to find ways to care more deeply for neighbor, friend, and family.

To care in both practical and safe ways.

Our Bible story today has much to offer our current challenges.

Samuel was encouraged to let go of his grieving for the past and deal with life as it is. That’s good advice for us. For the time being: this is our new reality. What do we do with it?

Do you feel like you are a small cog in a much larger wheel? That you have little to offer? I’m not a doctor or a medical researcher, nor am I a front line worker at the grocery store.

David was the least of Jesse’s sons and yet he was called in from the pasture to answer God’s call to serve. No one expected him to be the one ... that’s why he

wasn't there. But God views things differently. God looks beyond outward appearances – though David was good looking – he was not anyone's first choice. **But small cogs in the big wheel are recognized and called by God. Small cogs are blessed by God.**

We small cogs are called on to look creatively for what we can do – safely do – to care for others.

Our Bible story also speaks of patience. David was young, it would be years before he would be able to fully take on his calling. Patience. May God give us patience ... and calm. And in the calm let us hear God's still small voice guiding us.

These are the things from our Bible story today that speak to our times:

- Fear and anxiety are normal – grieving for time past is normal. But if these feelings are overwhelming you, reach out to talk to someone about them.
- Small cogs are important and blessed by God
- Patience – this too will pass.

And know that God walks with us through these times. May God guide us all in the time ahead. AMEN.

**Gospel Canticle** – “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” # 414 ELW

Holy God, we praise your name;  
Lord of all, we bow before you;  
all on earth your scepter claim,  
all in heav'n above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,  
everlasting is your reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn  
angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:  
"Holy, holy, holy Lord."

Lo! the apostolic train  
join your sacred name to hallow;  
prophets swell the glad refrain,  
and the white robed martyrs follow;  
and from morn to set of sun,  
through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, Three we name you;  
while in essence only One,  
undivided God we claim you,  
and adoring bend the knee,  
while we sing this mystery.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. Especially we thank you --

- For the sustaining goodness of your creation ...
- For the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness, especially we thank you for those who use their gifts to help us through the covid 19 pandemic ....
- For the gifts of relationship with others. Although we are called to maintain our physical distance from one another, we give thanks for the relationships that bring support and warmth to our lives ....
- For the communion of faith in our church community at home and worldwide ....

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray –

- For those who govern nations of the world during challenging times ....
- For all people in countries ravaged by strife, warfare or illness ...
- For all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction ...
- For the church of Jesus Christ in every land ...

- For all who are most vulnerable during this pandemic: refugees, the Iqbal and Alhamad/Wahid families; people living in poverty or crowded conditions, those who live in isolation ...
- For those in need of care and healing especially: Logan, William Waldner, Marcus, Brody, Adrienne, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Earl, Janet, Carissa, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Jennie, Inger, Ron, Deanna, Carol, Muriel, Marie, Mary, and all who are in need.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray in this way:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. AMEN.

### **Blessing**

May God, who is both mighty and merciful, bless us, and direct all our days and our deeds in peace. AMEN.

Sending Hymn “Send Me, Lord” # 809 ELW

*(send me ...)* Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me Jesus, send me Lord  
*(lead me ....)*

Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me Lord *(fill me ....)*

Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me Jesus, fill me Lord.

**GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD!**

**Thanks be to God**

*This service is adapted from “Morning Prayer” (page 298) in the ELW*

