

Devotions – October 4-10, 2015
By Members of Trinity Lutheran Church
Ishpeming, MI

Sunday, October 4, 2015

The Kings of Truth – Brian Anderson

Text: John 18:37

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

This passage represents the time of judgment of Jesus by Pilate. The word “king” is relative to who says the term. Jesus came to us as our eternal king – and to tell the world the truth. He spent his life testifying the truth to the world. He did not have fancy parties, host heads-of-state, or watch over royal parades as “kings” do today – he had simple disciples. It was not a glamorous life that modern day royalty lives. His purpose on earth was to speak of God and all of the wonders that he does for us. He says that those who believe him are on the side of what is right. Jesus has been our King for over 2000 years and will be eternally with a lot of people following the truth.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, thank you for coming to us and being our one true king eternally. We can only hope to listen to you and to understand your words so we can better understand the truth. Please watch over us, your students, to help guide us to the eternal life with you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen*



Monday, October 5, 2015

Betrayal and Forgiveness – Jeanne Keller

Text: Mark 14:18, 19

And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?”

Before the Passover meal Judas had already decided to betray Jesus. Did Jesus know Judas was his betrayer? Did Jesus forgive Judas? I think he did. But Judas could not forgive himself. Haven’t we all done and said things (though not as egregious as Judas) that we regret? But let us turn to Jesus in repentance, knowing we will be forgiven.

Let us pray: *Let me not a betrayer be. Help me to create harmony. And when I've been betrayed, Help me not to be afraid. Show me how to be forgiving, So my soul can go on living, Guide me, push me, pull me hard So I live righteously within your world. Amen*



Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Welcome to Paradise - Bruce Tippett

Text: Luke 23:29-43

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him, "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But his man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

As we go through life we have many doubts about God and Jesus. We are taught that he is the Almighty. Due to the fact that our church education is secondary to our "normal" education, we have to make it a point of extra study to learn about Jesus.

Because we are shy or not comfortable to talk about our church lives, we keep our true feelings to ourselves about Jesus. Until something happens to us or to someone close to us, not until then do we truly believe. Many people have a close relationship with God all through their lives while others do not. At the end of our lives we often will or do call on God to save us. He most graciously obliges us and leads us into the kingdom of heaven to be with him.

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father, be with us as we travel through our life. Guide us and show us the right path to take. Be with us at the end of our travels so we may enter the kingdom and be with you in paradise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*



Wednesday, October 7, 2015

I Cried - Daniel Doney

Text: John 19:41-42

At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden was a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was a Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

On December 14, 2012, a gunman entered a school in Newton, Connecticut. He killed 20 children and six teachers. I was unable to understand; all I could do was cry. This act is evil at its worst. Death is final – there is no turning back.

Jesus died a horrible death on the cross. He paid our debt of sin, suffering the ultimate punishment on our behalf. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this he breathed his last (Luke 23:46). Jesus was obedient until death. He fulfilled the scriptures; his task on earth was accomplished. Jesus had redeemed our souls even though man was at his worst.

Mankind was at its worst the day the students and teachers died at the hand of the gunman on Dec. 14, 2012. We might never understand why, but we know that Jesus Christ suffered the ultimate for us and through his death on the cross has given us eternal life.



Thursday, October 7, 2015

God Built This Bridge! – Bishop Thomas Skrenes

Text: Hebrews 7:26-27

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself.

There is something about a bridge. Bridges are built of stone, wood, or concrete, spanning a mighty river or a small creek. Bridges function to bring people to their destinations and to connect communities and nations. Many bridges are beautiful; all have the important function of connection. Bridges come in all different kinds of shapes and sizes. Some bridges are only wide enough to walk across; others are six and eight lanes wide and are huge traffic arteries.

In this passage, the writer of Hebrews reminds us that we have a great high priest. In fact the word priest means “bridge.” Jesus is our priest, our bridge, our connection. And because of this bridge, this priest Jesus, we are connected to each other, to the world and to God. The good news is that God has built a bridge to each and every one of us. We did not build a bridge to God. We cannot do that. God is the bridge builder.

We are reminded by God’s Word that the great bridge has been built. Jesus creates the path and we walk this bridge knowing that we will reach the other side safely with him.

Let us pray: *Dearest Jesus, you have given us the gift of life forever. Keep us in the path of hope. Thank you for being our bridge to God. Amen.*



Friday, October 9, 2015

Healed By His Wounds - Brian Price

Text: Isaiah 53:5

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5 is a reminder of God's sacrifice to all the world. Written in the Old Testament, it speaks initially to the indiscretion of humankind; we are tempted, we have sinned. The verse foreshadows God's greatest sacrifice, when He gave His only Son to die for us, to save humankind. He laid all of our transgressions on Jesus and through him, through His suffering, we all are saved.

To me, Isaiah 53:3 reminds me that though I may wander astray and become lost, I know that my shepherd is there to lead me home. Through His pain, I am healed. We are to look to God to find help, discipline and peace. We can make mistakes, we can live an imperfect life, and we can do so because through His wounds, we are healed. Yet we can find true healing through repentance and asking for forgiveness from our LORD and Savior. When we do this, we know that we are forgiven and that we have been brought home by our shepherd.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, we thank you for your sacrifices, your patience and your forgiveness. We know we are blessed to have you to lead us and save us from ungodly lives. Our shepherd's wounds brought us peace and he brings us home to dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen*



Saturday, October 10, 2015

Victory Over Death - Pastor Kenneth Lahners

Text: I Corinthians 15:54-57

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It looked as though death had won. It looked as though the devil had finally overcome Jesus and that sin would reign unhindered on the earth. For Jesus had been killed on a cruel cross. It looked as though his heavenly Father had turned away from him as a cursed sinner. So it seemed: that Jesus, God incarnate, had been defeated, and God's plan of redemption thwarted.

But it is now the third day and Jesus is no longer dead, but alive! Put to death with our sins, he has overcome death and in doing so puts our sins and death itself to death. Through weakness he has defeated our strongest enemies. And he gives that same victory to us. And so because of Jesus' resurrection, we too can taunt death, knowing that it has no lasting claim over us, but that through faith we share in Jesus' eternal life.

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father, with joy we celebrate your resurrection, rejoicing that the victory your Son won over death is our victory as well. Amen*

