

**St. John Lutheran Church ELCA
Waseca, MN**



Sunday, February 28, 2021

2nd Sunday of Lent

BOLD WOMEN'S DAY



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DAY 2021**

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Bold Women's Day—observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether you live out your bold story of faith in the work place, family or community, your faith compels you to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out your baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.. We Lutherans have a theology that gives us great freedom to be risk takers. Our ability to act boldly is rooted in our baptism and continually enabled, empowered and supported by God's grace.

St. John Women's Ministry is very active in many ways. In a normal year Service Groups serve funerals and special occasions at St. John and Bible Study occurs every month with WELCA programs scheduled throughout the year. Due to the pandemic these are on hold. Women are encouraged to access the monthly Bible Study option on the GATHER internet site during the COVID shut down. Mission projects such as Quilting and Lutheran World Relief, Haiti and Prayer Shawl ministry and Thrivent Action Teams have continued, with the COVID precautions in place. Women are involved in the education programs for the youth, the organization of the church through the Commissions and Church Council, Prayer Ministry, the music programs and assisting the church secretary with various projects. St John women of all ages are invited to be bold and participate in these many opportunities.

Be bold, take risks on account of the gospel, but believe more boldly still in Christ Jesus; that's what Luther tells us. And that's what Women of the ELCA celebrate through Bold Women's Day: women who are bold, women who take risks on account of the gospel, women who believe more boldly still in Jesus Christ.

We ask that you celebrate Bold Women's Day with us in your thoughts and prayers.

For more information about St John Women of the ELCA

contact President, Shirley Raetz, at 507-835-3912

or the church office at 507-833-1703.

Introduction

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on this Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

March Neighborhood Food shelf

Michael Behsmann

Gathering Hymn (purple) #22 *Bring forth the kingdom*

1. *You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the kingdom of God! Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the kingdom of God!*

~Refrain~

Bring for the kingdom of mercy, bring forth the kingdom of peace; bring forth the kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!

2. *You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the city of God!! Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the kingdom of God!*

~Refrain~

3. *You are seed of the word, O people: bring forth the kingdom of God! Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the kingdom of God!*

~Refrain~

4. *We are a blest and a pilgrim people: bound for the kingdom of God! Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the kingdom of God!*

~Refrain~

(Please be seated)

Litany of Thanksgiving for Bold Woman's Sunday

L: O Creative God, you made us in your image.

C: You call us into discipleship in Jesus Christ.

L: You empower us through the Holy Spirit.

C: Let your loving kindness be upon us as you accept our prayers.

L: O God of our ancestors, we remember the bold witness of our fore mothers who paved the way for all women, lay and ordained.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

L: O Holy One, who breathes life into us all, we raise before you the bold women among us to day.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For those who pray, for those who parent, for those who study, for those who advocate,

C: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For those who laugh, for those who share, for those who extend hospitality, for those who smile,

C: We give you thanks, O God.

L: O Gracious One, forgive us when we are too timid to live up to the boldness you have placed within us.

C: We pray to you. O God.

L: O Gracious One, enable us to recognize, honor and support the boldness you have placed within others.

C: We pray to you, O God.

L: O God of infinite possibility, grant to us all the opportunity to act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: O God of abundant life, grant to us all emotional, physical, and spiritual wholeness so that we might best serve others in your name.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: O God of strength, give us courage, hope and open hearts, that we might experience expanding possibilities and grow through change.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Nurturing God, you have inspired and empowered women throughout the ages.

C: Give us the courage and wisdom to act boldly on our faith in you, O creating, redeeming, and sustaining One. Amen

Hymn of Praise (purple) #70 I will call upon the Lord (2 times)

I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised. So shall I be saved from my enemies. I will call upon the Lord. The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock, and let the God of my salvation be exalted. The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock, and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

P: Please join your hearts with me in prayer:

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God will make with them an everlasting covenant. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness. God's word is sure and can be trusted.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the
thing for which I sent it.

R The Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Special Virtual Music “Be Thou My Vision

Glory Singers

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art.

Thou my best thought, by day or by night. Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Gospel Acclamation (purple) #7 Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.*

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still, I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Hymn

#15 Be bold, be strong (2 times)

Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you. Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you. Do not be afraid, do not be dismayed. Walk in faith and victory, walk in faith and victory, walk in faith and victory for the Lord your God is with you.

Children's Message—see our St. John Facebook page

Message

Another chance

Pastor John Omans

Message Song (purple)

#93 Lord, My strength

1. Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark; Lord, my strength, Lord my rock, heal this wand'ring heart. Be my eyes, be my ears, be the only voice I hear; guide my soul, give me sight, help me walk within your light.
2. Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you alone: Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safely home. Ev'ry step that I make, be the road I will take; be the thoughts that I keep and in ev'ry word I speak.
3. Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark; Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wand'ring heart. Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you alone: Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safely home.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us and makes us new.

C Amen.

P In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new life,

C We have wandered far from your home; again, and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before

and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

P Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care.

Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy.

Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of +Christ, leading you from death into life.

C Amen.

Stewardship minute

I give thanks for our Prayer Team Ministry. This team receives an updated prayer list each Thursday. God has given us the privilege of prayer. As a member of the Prayer Team, you can uphold our church, pastor, staff, those in need and those with burdens that they bear. Please let us know if you desire to be a part of this prayer ministry by contacting the church office, Jean Miller, Marie Tesch, or pastor John. Blessing to all who accept this Christian responsibility.

SENDING

Offering

(Offering may be placed in offering plates near exits)

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray.

P: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today 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

*P God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
+bless you and bring you to life everlasting.*

C Amen.

Sending Song (purple) # 123 Shine, Jesus, shine

~Refrain~

***Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with
grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!***

1. *Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me:*

~Refrain~

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

2. *As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me:*

~Refrain~

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Remember the poor

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

+++++

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Al Tonn

Guitarist: Mike Harvey

Readers: Nadine Omans

Ushers: Shirley Raetz, Myra Battenfeld

Acolyte: Kaden Elias

Council Person: Sue Michaels

Videographer: Gyles Randall

Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.

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