" Lies versus Truth"

. . . a message series . . .

Message 5

"Religious Leaders Are Always Right"

versus

"God Is the Only Perfect Leader"

***Welcome to Our Worship***

***of the One True God***

We are pleased that God has moved you to worship today.

Our prayer is that you would be encouraged spiritually.

March 29, 2020

**8:30 and 11:15 am Worship**

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Charlotte, Michigan

**WELCOME TO THIS CELEBRATION**

May your soul be renewed through God's Word and Spirit in our worship.

***Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!***

***Give thanks to Him; bless His name!***

Psalm 100:4 (ESV)

**A WORD FROM THE LORD FOR OUR REFLECTION**

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ...

Our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, . . . gave himself for us

to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself

a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good . . .

(Titus 2:11, 13-14 NIV)

THE CELEBRATION

**WE ENTER TO WORSHIP**

AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO WORSHIP – Psalm 117 (adapted)

Pastor: Praise Yahweh (the Lord), all you nations;
     extol Him, all you peoples.
For great is His love toward us,
     and the faithfulness of Yahweh (the Lord) endures forever.

Praise the Lord.

A PRAYER OF PRAISE AND PETITION FOR GOD AND HIS WORD

OUR OPENING PSALMS – Psalm 95:6-7; 108:1, 3-6, 12-13; 22:4-5 (adapted)

 Pastor: Come, let us bow down in worship,

 let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

 for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture,

 the flock under His care. (Psalm 95:6-7)

 **All: May the words of my mouth**

 **and the meditation of my heart**

 **be pleasing in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

 Pastor: My heart is steadfast, O God.

 **All: I will sing and make music with all my soul.**

 Pastor: I will praise You, O LORD, among the nations.

 **All: I will sing of You among the peoples.**

 Pastor: For great is Your love, higher than the heavens.

 **All: Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.**

 Pastor: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens . . .

 **All: and let Your glory be over all the earth.**

 Pastor: Save us and help us with Your right hand,

 **All: that those You love may be delivered.**

 Pastor: Give us aid against the enemy (the father of lies),

 for the help of man is worthless.

 **All: In You our fathers put their trust.**

**They trusted and You delivered them.**

Pastor: They cried to You and were saved;

in You they trusted and were not disappointed.

 **All: With You, O Lord our God, we will gain the victory,**

**for You will trample down our enemies.** **Amen**

OUR SONG OF WORSHIP - **LSB 507** - "Holy, Holy, Holy” - stanzas 1-3

**GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD**

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR MESSAGE SERIES AND THE READINGS FOR TODAY

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING - Isaiah 43:1-3a, 10-13

This is what the Lord says – he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name;

you are mine. **2**When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. **3**For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. … **10**You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. **11**I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is

no savior.**12**I have revealed and saved and proclaimed – I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “that I am God. **13**Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act,

who can reverse it?”

 Reader: This is the word of God.

 **All: Thank You, Lord**.

THE EPISTLE READING - 2 Peter 2:1-10

 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves. **2**Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. **3**In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruc-tion has not been sleeping. **4**For if God did not spare angels when they sinned,

but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment, **5**if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; **6**if

he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes,

and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly, **7**and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless **8**(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) – **9**if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. **10**This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.

Reader: This is the word of God.

 **All: Thank You, Lord**.

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE GOSPEL READING - Luke 20:45-47 and John 8:31-32

While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, **46**“Beware of

the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. **47**They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.” … 3**1**To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. **32**Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set

you free.”

 Pastor: These are clear words of instruction from Jesus.

**All: O Lord, help us listen carefully.**

 **Help us evaluate what is spoken as expositions on Your word.**

 **Help us always trust You and Your word. Amen**

OUR HYMN OF PRAISE - **LSB 658** - "Preserve Your Word, O Savior" - stanzas 1, 4

THE MESSAGE "Lies versus Truth"

. . a series . . .

MESSAGE 5

***"Religious Leaders Are Always Right" versus "God Is the Only Perfect Leader"***

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD AND WORK**

A PRAYER FOR OUR ABILITY TO DISCERN LIES FROM GOD'S TRUTH

A HYMN FOR FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S WORD - **LSB 655** - “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast”

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH IN THE TRIUNE GOD USING THE 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 on 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**

AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO CONFESS OUR SIN AND OUR FAITH

OUR CONFESSION OF SINS AND OF FAITH

 **Merciful God, we confess**

 **that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We are sinners.**

 **We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed —**

 **by what we have done . . . and by what we have left undone.**

 **We have not loved You with our whole heart.**

 **We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

 **We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**

 **But Jesus is our rescuer.**

 **He took our punishment in our place . . .**

 **to open the door to eternal life in Your presence.**

 **Renew us and lead us, so that we would delight in Your will . . .**

 **and walk in Your way . . . to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

OUR SONG OF ADORATION - **LSB 809** - “Great Is Thy Faithfulness" – stanza 1

**GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS AND BLESSES US**

A TIME OF PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, AND PETITION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

 **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**

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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OUR CLOSING WORDS OF PRAISE - **LSB 803** - "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

THE BLESSING

*Private Silent Prayer*

*----------------------------------------*

*Thanks to all of you who served the Lord and His people today.*

*May serving the Lord and His people give you great satisfaction.*

*You will be blessed as you laud our God in His glory and pursue glory through Jesus.*

Credits

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Keyboardist today – Patty Greene

 **PLEASE PRAY**

**THAT GOD'S PLAN FOR US WILL BE REALITY**

**IN US AND AMONG US AND THROUGH US**

Please pray . . .

* that all of the people of First would be revived in soul – that we would be people who are truly contrite for our sinfulness and sin, that we would rejoice always in God's gracious salvation, and that we would zealously turn away from sin to follow Him.
* that all of our congregation members will worship the true God all day, every day, AND that they will weekly gather for corporate worship.
* that our love for others would grow, that we would learn God's way of loving, sacrificing self for the good of others and being genuinely interested in the well-being of others . . . as a church family and as we touch others in the community.
* that we would experience a new resurgence of spiritual involvement among the parents of children and teens in our congregation, that they would walk in the way of the Lord, that they would take a strong, leading role in the spiritual development of their children . . . and that we as a congregation would eagerly

help the parents.

* that all God's people around the world would trust the God revealed in the Bible as their God and their constant source of help and deliverance

**OUR FOUNDATION STATEMENT**

*First Lutheran Church, Charlotte, Michigan*

. . . a statement of who we are and how we function together . . .

We are people of God, graciously saved by God through

 the sacrificial death of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

In relationship with God as His family,

recognizing His love for us,

 in faith we seek Him whole-heartedly,

 worship and commune faithfully,

 absorb God's word, pray to Him, and obey Him.

In relationship to others both inside and outside our family of God,

 as people enlightened by the Holy Spirit to the atoning work of God’s Son,

Jesus Christ, we encourage, serve, and care for others.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we evangelize, witness, and share

with a desire to make all people disciples of Jesus.

**A DAILY PRAYER**

**O Lord God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,**

 **give me an undivided heart . . .**

 **that is centered on You**

 **and is totally attached to You.**

 **Help me trust You and Your word fully.**

 **Help me love You above all people and things.**

 **Help me revere You as the true God –**

 **my creator, provider, and protector,**

 **my savior-rescuer and model,**

 **and my sanctifier and enabler.**

 **Help me make You my Number 1 Priority.**

 **Protect me from evil and the evil one**

 **because I am Yours, O Lord. Amen**