

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



LENT

March 30, 2011

LENT Midweek Service

March 30, 2011

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

Welcome to worship!

Our midweek series on prayers in the Bible continues! This week, we are going to take a look at the prayer of Elijah on Mt. Carmel, as he faced-off with the prophets of Baal. We'll see how his prayer compared with the rambling incantations of the false prophets. His was short, to the point, and was answered.

We can have the same kind of confidence Elijah had in his prayers. Because of our calling in Christ, we can approach God in prayer knowing that we will be heard, our petitions considered... and even answered!

The world looks down at people who pray, claiming it's the most you can do without doing anything. But we know that prayer gets God involved. And when God is involved, inaction is impossible.

We also know that we aren't the answers to peoples' problems or their prayers; God is. And we've been called to bring Him to people. One way we can do that is prayer.

God bless your time in worship this evening.

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor
Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967
Website: www.zlcb.org

Darren Elikor, Pastoral Assistant
Office Phone: 412-221-4776
Fax: 412-220-9741

Service of the Word

The Prelude

Introduction to Worship

Hymn-sing

Before the service begins, offer your hymn requests to the pianist. We'll spend some time singing your favorites! Out of respect for our Lenten traditions, please do not choose hymns that contain "alleluias".

Announcements

(please stand)

Opening Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus 770

The Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, but 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. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in**

Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

The Apostles' Creed

LSB 192

(Please be seated)

The Offering

The Scripture Lessons

1 Kings 18:20-40

So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.

Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire on it. And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken."

Then Elijah said to the prophets to Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it."

And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened."

And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, "Israel shall be your name," and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God." And Elijah said to them, "Seize the

prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.” And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

John 17:1-9

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

I have manifested your name to the people whom you have given me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them.”

Sermon

The Final Prayer

Benediction

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

People: **Amen!**

The Recessional: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 802

The Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

The Officiant:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Pastoral Assistant:	Darren Eliker
The Organist:	Paula Gardner
The Elders:	Jim Neill and David Hutula
The Acolytes:	Sydney Harris
The Ushers:	Bill Becker, Brent Miller, Wayne Oechslein, & Larry Zreliak and Richard Quinlan, Robert Oelschlager, & Ross Chilcott
Altar Guild:	Janet and Marian Oelschlager