

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



LENT

April 6, 2011

LENT Midweek Service

April 6, 2011

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

Welcome to worship!

Our midweek series on prayers in the Bible continues with the prayer of Hezekiah. The wicked Assyrians had besieged Jerusalem and were preparing to invade and obliterate the city. No enemy of the Assyrians had successfully defended themselves against this brutal people. And it looked like Jerusalem would be just another city that would fall. Compared to the Assyrian army, Jerusalem's defense was an obstacle, not a formidable foe.

A godly king, Hezekiah knew what his fate and the fate of his people would be. And so, instead of ordering an evacuation (which wouldn't work) or trying to mount a military defense (also futile), this leader of God's people spends what appears to be his last day as a free man in prayer. When he needed results, he did not turn to men, but to God; he did not use the power of his position as king, he used prayer.

God delivered Hezekiah from the Assyrians. And God answers prayer today. Oh, sure, we are told many things about prayer: it is more for us than it is for God; because God knows how everything will go, prayer is meaningless; we aren't good enough for God to hear, let alone answer our prayers. But none of those are ideas found in Scripture. Instead, Scripture contains prayers, like this one, that are answered.

-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: Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus 531

The Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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

2 Kings 19:14-19

Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord.

And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said, "O Lord, the God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed.

So now, O Lord our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone.”

Matthew 26:36-44

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”

And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

Sermon

The Final Prayer

Benediction

Leader: 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: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 425

The Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

The Officiant:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Pastoral Assistant:	Darren Elikar
The Organist:	Paula Gardner
The Elders:	Tom Erbrecht & Paul Klemash
The Acolytes:	Jennifer Fitzgerald
The Ushers:	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, & Ron Meier and Joe Gielarowski, Rachel Klemash, & Andy Weldon
Altar Guild:	Debra LaJeunesse, Carrie Lemonovich, & Carolyn Wible