

# Our Saviour's & Balsamlund Lutheran Church; ELCA E-News

For February 28, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 2/28/21—3/6/21

SUNDAY- Ephesians 6:1-24

MONDAY- Psalm 79

TUESDAY- Psalm 80

WEDNESDAY- Psalm 81

THURSDAY- Psalm 84

FRIDAY- Psalm 85

SATURDAY- Psalm 86



# LENT

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2/28/21

NO OSLC Sunday School

9am OSLC Worship

10:15am Balsamlund Worship / Annual Mtg.

3/1/21

7pm Be the Bridge Zoom Mtg

3/3/21

7pm Holden Evening Prayer on Facebook Live

3/7/21

8:30am Balsamlund Worship / First Communion

9:30am OSLC Sunday School

10am OSLC Worship

\*As a way to stay connected through these winter months, we're continuing our Zoom Book study going through Be the Bridge by Latasha Morrison. We meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm over Zoom. Our next meeting will be March 1st. If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Eric.

### Balsamlund Announcements

#### Make-up dates for Balsamlund Milestone Celebrations

March 7- First Communion, for those who wish to celebrate First Communion. If you weren't able to be at the service where the class was taught, there is a link on the Balsamlund Facebook page.

Balsamlund Confirmation Class dates- March 14, March 28, April 18, May 2, & May 16.

#### OSLC Announcements

\*If you are unable or don't feel comfortable joining us inside for worship, we are now using our FM Transmitter to broadcast Sunday morning worship to the parking lot. Please park upfront facing the front doors to get the best signal from the transmitter.

\* Easter flower order forms are due to the office by March 21. Extra forms are available on the table in the fellowship hall. Please write checks out to OSLC Youth.

**\*Anyone interested in attending Camp Emmaus this summer, early bird registration is due by March 21st. You can register online, and please contact Roxie with names and dates your child will be attending.**

I remember last March when COVID really started accelerating through the United States and it hit New York City particularly hard. There was a news story that surfaced about Hart Island just off the coast of New York where there was footage of city workers burying wooden coffins all in a row as the pandemic increased. The headlines were about the mass graves that COVID was causing.

But then I remember a follow-up that told the story of Hart Island. It's an island that has been used for over 150 years in New York City to bury the city's unidentified or unclaimed dead -- mostly people experiencing homeless, who died during incarceration, or who died in the HIV/AIDS pandemic of the 1980s.

I still remember the shock of that hard truth because I still feel it every time I think about it.

Hard truths are hard because they often trouble the waters of our perceptions of reality. They burst the bubbles we have in our head of how the world is or how the world could be. In our reading for this week, there's a shock of hard truth that Jesus has to give Peter as well.

Peter correctly proclaims that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Then Jesus tells them what this means: that he'll be crucified.

Peter steps up to rebuke him, no doubt with a puffed-up confidence having nailed the previous question.

Jesus sees that Peter is having a hard time with this hard truth, and he confronts Peter with a scathing remark. He says, "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts, but human thoughts."

Ouch.

Peter has to accept a hard truth about this world and about Jesus, whom he loves. He has to accept a hard truth about the powers that be who would rather crucify the living God than give up their power and worship him. And he has to accept a hard truth about himself as well, as he denies Jesus three times on his way to the foot of the cross.

Our Lenten journey calls us to examine hard truths about ourselves, our sin, and our world.

When was a time you were confronted with a hard truth?

When was the last time you experienced something that burst the bubble of how you saw the world?

We all experience this.

And when we do, Jesus calls us to listen -- as he'd do to Peter just a few verses later at the Transfiguration. He calls us to listen even when the things we hear are difficult or unsettling. One of the things we hear often in Lent is a call to repent -- to turn and go in a new direction.

In this season of hard truths, may the Holy Spirit be like a heavenly GPS guiding us on a new path toward God, despite the bumps along the way.

Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Eric