“Did My Sov’reign Die... For such a worm as I?”

TLH 154

As a child I thought Lent was the worst part of the church year. Growing up in Wisconsin, Ash Wednesday always seemed to hit in the doldrums of winter, when snow turned grey and mid-week Lenten services started after dark. After a long day at school, we’d ride the bus home, eat a quick dinner, and immediately return to our school campus to attend a church service filled with music in minor keys and messages of our sinfulness and our brokenness. Trying to keep my eyes open was hard enough, but the tone, the mood, and the timing of the service made it nearly impossible to stay awake.

Lent’s place in the church calendar gives us the opportunity to remember our sinfulness and brokenness, and to understand the hopelessness we would have if we were left to save ourselves. This is a painful enough truth on its own, but, this year, because of the events of the months leading up to Lent coupled with the lack of community, the cancellation of services and the isolation of online viewing, I have once again bought into the lie that I can get myself out of my sinful situation alone.

When we look deep into our own lives and we see the depths of our sin, we also see how amazing the grace of God is. The reality is that we are rescued and ransomed by a loving God, who gathers His people in the church to be a community, and to know that we do not face these realities alone. I pray that your brothers and sisters in faith are able to comfort you during this season, that they would point you to Good Friday and to the Easter season and to the goodness and grace of God.
Prayers

Our mission prayer newsletter rotates through prayers for each of our CNH overseas missionaries, as well as a prayer for staff CNH leaders in the first section. We share five to seven prayer requests from the CNH mission field in each newsletter. (Archives on website)

1. The family of Reverend Karl Wyneken, pastor emeritus, who was called to glory on Monday, February 8. Reverend Wyneken served for many years as the CNH District’s archivist.

2. For Reverend Herb and Markie Burch, as they rejoice at the completion of their team in Belize. We rejoice that they will be able to extend their reach into the country of Belize as they prepare to welcome two new missionary families!

Regional Mission Prayers

3. For all of our church workers who are dealing with the effects of the ever-changing world of COVID-19, that they may find hope and strength in the brotherhood and sisterhood of the family of God.

4. For teachers and students from around the district, both in our Lutheran schools and in public education. Prayers for safety and wisdom as more schools begin to open up for in-person education.

5. Prayer of thanksgiving for Reverend Berhanu Didanu, who was able to purchase a shower trailer for the homeless population in Sacramento. Pray that his mobile shower unit leads many to know our merciful Lord Jesus.

6. Prayers for Reverend Doua Xiong at St. Paul in Merced and Redeemer in Fresno as he continues to celebrate baptisms of Hmong families in the Central Valley of California. Pray that God would open doors for him to be used for Kingdom expansion.

7. Prayers for the teachers and staff of Sierra Lutheran High School in Carson City, NV, that their annual fundraising dinner would be successful and move them closer to expansion, so that they may increase the number of students and families they serve.

8. Prayers that the preschool building at Messiah Lutheran in Ewa Beach, HI may receive the final approval from the state, so it may begin providing Christian Education to a neighborhood that desperately needs the hope of Christ.