**SALT Parish**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

**St. John’s Lutheran Church, Saginaw**

***“Open My Heart, Lord”***

**Opening Dialog**

P: Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

***C: Teach us to walk in your commandments.***

P: Grant us grace to know and understand your will,

***C: for all that we are in body and soul is a gift from you.***

P: Lord, you are the everlasting Truth,

***C: the one who speaks the words of eternal life.***

P: Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

***C: Teach us to walk in your commandments.***

**Gathering Song *“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”*** Hymn #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold,

Warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

**Greeting**

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

***C: And also with you.***

**Prayer**

P: Open our hearts, Lord, and fill us with your love. Grant us strength and courage, remove our hard-heartedness, and turn us always to you. In Jesus' name we pray.

***C: Amen.***

**Lesson: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13**

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For he says, ‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’  
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. 11 We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. 12There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. 13In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

**Psalm 28**

1 To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me, for if you are silent to me,  I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.  
**2 Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help, as I lift up my hands  
towards your most holy sanctuary.**

3 Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who are workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbours, while mischief is in their hearts.  
**4 Repay them according to their work, and according to the evil of their deeds;  
repay them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward.**5 Because they do not regard the works of the Lord, or the work of his hands, he will break them down and build them up no more.

**6 Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.**7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

**8 The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.**9 O save your people, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them for ever.

**Lesson: Acts 16:11-15**

11We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, 12and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. 13On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. 14A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. 15When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.’ And she prevailed upon us.

**Message**

**Hymn of the Day *“Change My Heart, O God”*** Hymn #801

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

**Prayers**

P: Lord of all life, when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,

***C: open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.***

P: When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,

***C: open our hands to do your work in the world.***

P: When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,

***C: open our ears, that all will know your love.***

P: When we are hardened against our neighbor,

***C: open our hearts and heal our resentment.***

P: When we are closed to the grace you long to give us,

***C: open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.***

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

***C: Amen.***

**Lord’s Prayer** ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Peace** Page 143

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** *Hymn #686*

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Blessing**

P: Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross. The God who opened for us the way of everlasting life + bless you now and forever. ***C: Amen.***

**Sending Hymn *“Now the Day is Over”***  vs. 1-4 ELW #570

Vs.1 Now the day is over; night is drawing nigh;  
 shadows of the evening steal across the sky.

Vs. 2 Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose;  
 with your tend'rest blessing may our eyelids close.

Vs. 3 Comfort ev'ry suff'rer watching late in pain;  
 those who plan some evil, from their sin restrain.

Vs. 4 Through the long night-watches may your angels spread  
 their bright wings above me, watching round my bed.

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

***C: Thanks be to God.***