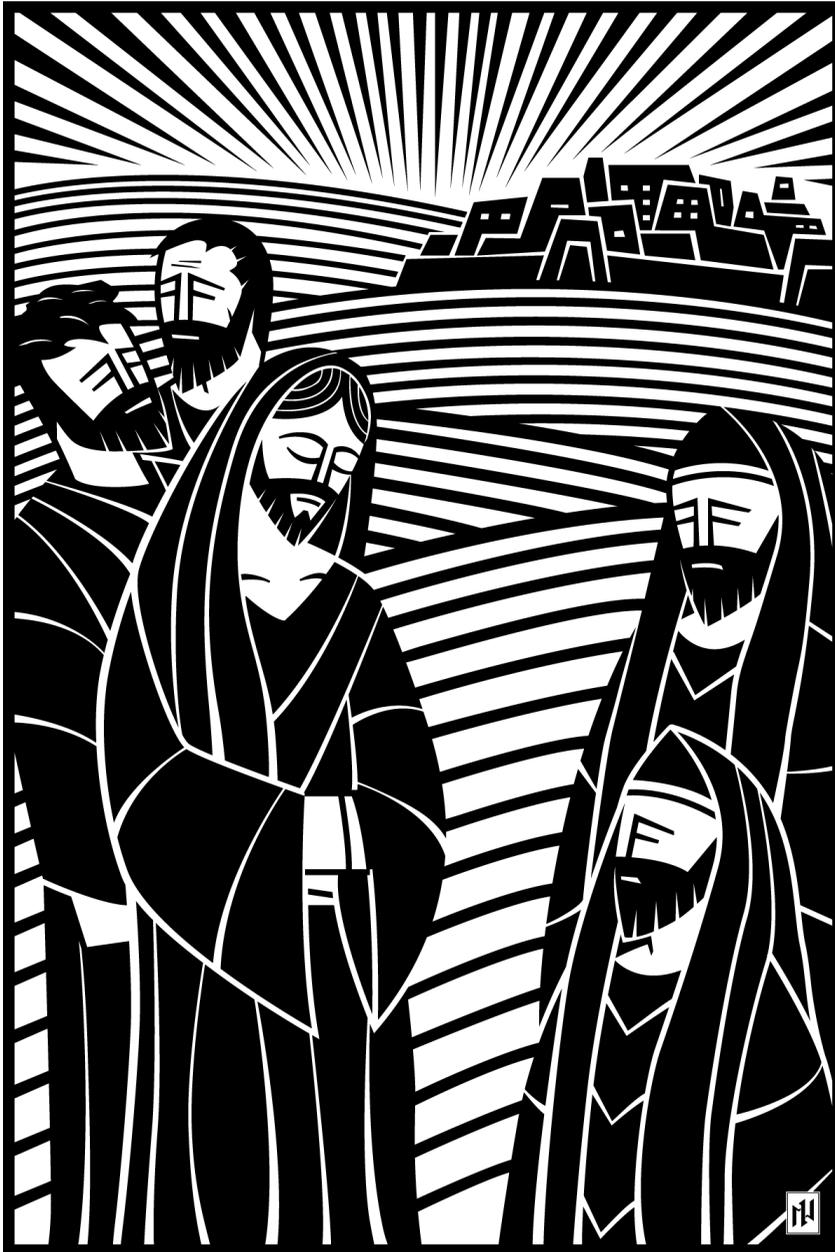


# UNCOMFORTABLE



The Second Sunday In Lent  
Living Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1301 S. 5th St. Laramie, WY  
February 21, 2016



# WELCOME TO LIVING SHEPHERD!

## A FEW NOTES BEFORE WORSHIP

- *We're so glad you joined us for worship today!*
- *Our restrooms are located in the basement through the door nearest the piano.*
- *We love having children in our worship service! However, if your child becomes restless, for your convenience we have a children's play area downstairs along with an audio and video feed of the service.*
- *You are our guest! If there is something else we can help you with, please let any of us know!*
- *Finally, with the exception of a few hymns and the Psalm, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this service folder. Lord's blessings on your worship!*

## TODAY'S SERVICE

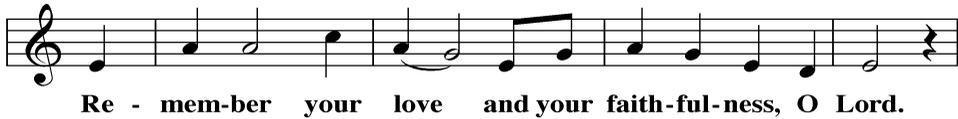
*The more Old Testament prophets pointed out sin in the lives of God's people, the more those prophets were killed. And that's just one of the sad themes we see running throughout the Old Testament. But shame on us if we single out Old Testament folks as the only ones who didn't like hearing about their sin. God's law reveals sin in our lives too and no one enjoys that. Pointing out sin is uncomfortable for the messenger and the hearer. This morning we'll assess why sin makes everyone uncomfortable and how that lack of comfort impacts us.*

## A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Heavenly Father, You are rich and glorious but I am poor and sinful. Forgive me for the times I have forgotten this. Thank You for sending Jesus to give up His riches and become poor like me. Remind me every day that his death on the cross is payment for all my sins! In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# WE GATHER BEFORE THE LORD

*Please Stand*



Pastor: (sung) If you dwelt, O Lord, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand? But with you there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand.

**C: Refrain**

P: (sung) O Lord, hear the sound of my call — and answer me. My heart cries out for Your presence; it is You I seek.

**C: Refrain**

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

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

**C: And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear our voices, let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy. If you kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? (continues on next page)**

**C:** We confess that we have wandered far from you and have squandered the wealth of your blessings in our lives. When we come to our senses we must return to you and cry: Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are no longer worthy to be called your children. Have mercy on us!



## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS\***

**P:** Wait for the Lord and place your hope in his Word.

**C:** **We wait for the Lord, our souls wait, and in his Word we put our hope.**

**P:** Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption. God your heavenly Father says to you, "You are mine. Everything I have is yours. You were dead, but you are alive again. You were lost, but now you are found." He himself has redeemed you from all of your sins, through the innocent suffering and death of his Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, as his called servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen**

**C:** ***(Refrain is sung)***

*\* Today's confession and announcement of forgiveness is built off of words from Psalm 130, a penitential Psalm, and Luke 15:11-32, the Parable of the Lost Son.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## GOD'S WORD

### JEREMIAH 26:8-15

*But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die!"<sup>9</sup> Why do you prophesy in the LORD's name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?" And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.*

*<sup>10</sup> When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the LORD and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house. <sup>11</sup> Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, "This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!"*

*<sup>12</sup> Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. <sup>13</sup> Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup> As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. <sup>15</sup> Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."*

PSALMS 42-43 (printed on page 82 in the front part of your red hymnal)

## PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1

Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.*

### *HYMN 466 — THOUGH THOUGHTLESS THOUSANDS CHOOSE*

*(The children may come forward during verse 3 for the children's devotion)*



# GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

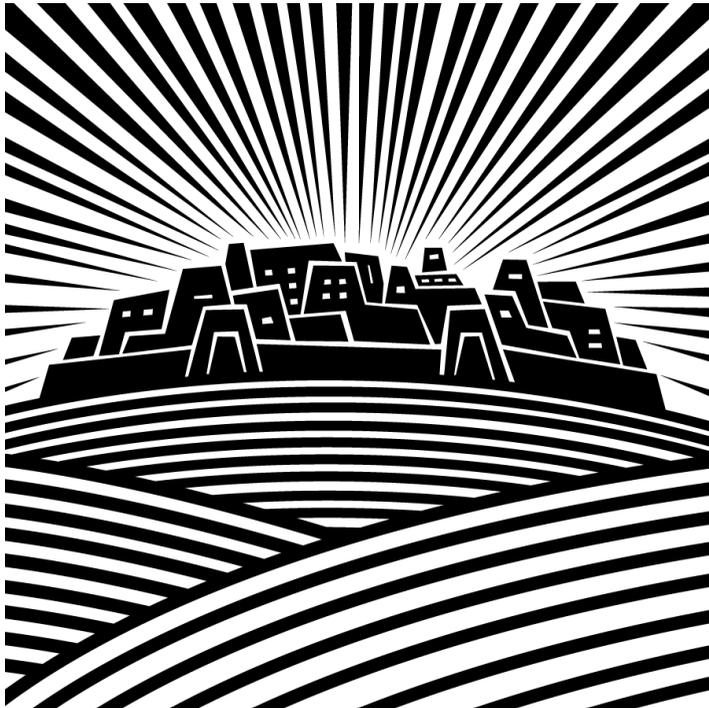
LUKE 13:31-35

UNCOMFORTABLE

*At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."*

*<sup>32</sup> He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' <sup>33</sup> In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!"*

*<sup>34</sup> "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"*



# CONFESSION OF FAITH

- P: Living in a world where people believe that the universe was formed through chance and accident, what do you believe?
- C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
- P: Living in a world where people are confronted with the guilt and punishment of sin, what do you believe Jesus did for you?
- C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
- P: Living in a world where people are without hope and certainty, what do you believe?
- C: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, the people of Living Shepherd  
offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks  
to him. To those visiting, you are our guests.  
While your gifts are welcome, please  
do not feel obligated to give.*

## WORSHIP REGISTERS

*Thanks for visiting us today! We'd love to have a record of your visit!  
Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!*

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*We pray on behalf of this church as well as on behalf of  
God's people throughout our nation and the world.*

P: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

**C: We confess that without your love we are lost.**

P: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

**C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

P: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

**C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

P: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

**C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

P: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

**C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Father, we bring these prayers before you, confident that you will hear and answer them. For it was your only Son who taught us to pray:

**C:** **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.**

## **BLESSING**

*The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.*

*The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them],  
and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].*

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C:** **Amen**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*HYMN 417 — I'M BUT A STRANGER HERE*

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## WELCOME!

We welcome everyone here today and thank you for joining us for our worship service! We hope that you will join us again soon.

## MAILBOXES

Please check your mailbox for any information that was recently distributed! Meditations and Forward in Christ magazines are also available in the mailboxes on the right.

## MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP THIS WEDNESDAY!

Join us for worship this Wednesday at 6:30 PM! Pastor Matt Holtz from Greeley, CO will be here to share God's Word with us.



Pastor Pete Zaferos

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*Call or Text Anytime!!*

