

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbour. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is near', and therefore view your needy neighbour with hostility and give nothing; your neighbour might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.'

Mark 6:1-5

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.



Lenten Worship – Week 2 **Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

First Lutheran Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Colborne
St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Welland

Open My Life, Lord

Week of Lent 2: Open My Hands, Lord

We use our hands to pick up a child, to serve a meal, to play an instrument, to wipe away a tear. Jesus used his hands for healing and for deeds of great power, and the psalmist reminds us that we are always held fast in God's hand. In Deuteronomy, Moses encourages us to open our hands in service to others.



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

57 Griffith Street • Welland, Ontario • L3B 4G6

905-734-4746 • email: stmatts@cogeco.net

website: stmatthewswelland.com



LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE – MARCH 20, 2019

Opening Dialogue

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves:
**our minds to know you, our hearts to love you,
our wills to serve you, for we are yours.**

Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves:
**receive us and draw us after you,
that we may follow your steps.**

Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves:
**take us and fashion us after your image;
let your comfort strengthen us and your fire cleanse us.**

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves:
gather us in your light eternal.

(Based on the commitment prayer, ELW, p. 86)

Gathering Song #790 Day by Day

Greeting

Prayer *ELW, Page 76*

ReadingDeuteronomy 15:7-11

Psalms 139:1-10Read in unison

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

ReadingMark 6:1-5

Reflection

Hymn of the Day #685 Take My Life, That I May Be

Prayers

Lord of all life,
when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,
open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.

When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,
open our hands to do your work in the world.

When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,
open our ears, that all will know your love.

When we are hardened against our neighbor,
open our hearts and heal our resentment.

When we are closed to the grace you long to give us,
open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.

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

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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

Blessing

Sending Song #767 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

Dismissal