

### Isaiah 50:4-5

The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he awakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backwards.

### Matthew 13:10-17

Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' He answered, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that "seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand." With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: "You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them."  
But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.



## Lenten Worship – Week 3 Wednesday, March 27, 2019

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

### Open My Life, Lord

### Week of Lent 3: Open My Ears, Lord

Ancient Greek philosophy notes that we have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak. Jesus reminds us that we sometimes hear but don't listen, listen but don't understand. Opening our ears isn't as easy as it sounds.



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# LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE – MARCH 27, 2019

## Opening Dialogue

As children, we hear:

**Don't touch! Slow down!**

As teenagers, we hear:

**Your curfew begins in an hour.**

As adults, we hear:

**Cash or credit?**

In the water and the word, we hear:

**You are loved, my precious child.**

**Gathering Song ..... #520 Dearest Jesus, at Your Word**

## Greeting

Prayer ..... ELW Page 76 *Those Seeking Deeper Knowledge of God*

Reading ..... Isaiah 50:4-5

Psalms 40:1-8 ..... Read in unison

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who make the Lord their trust,  
who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

<sup>5</sup> You have multiplied, O Lord my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;  
none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear.  
Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

<sup>8</sup> I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.'

Reading ..... Matthew 13:10-17

## Reflection

**Hymn of the Day ..... #513 Listen, God is Calling**

## 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 ..... #815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

## Dismissal