

### Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

### Galatians 2:15-21

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.



## Lenten Worship – Week 5

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

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

**Open My Life, Lord**

**Week of Lent 5: Open My Life, Lord**

Moses presents us with a choice: death and adversity, or a life cracked open to the love of God. Writing to the Galatians, Paul tells us that we have died to the law so that we might live to God. It is no longer we who live, but Christ who live in us.



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# LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE – APRIL 10, 2019

## Opening Dialogue

When our lives are joyous and laughter abounds,

**Christ is dwelling there.**

When the news is grim and we have nowhere to turn,

**Christ is dwelling there.**

In the water and word, the bread and wine,

**Christ is dwelling there.**

## Gathering Song .....#324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

### Greeting

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

Reading ..... Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 16 ..... Read in unison

<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup> I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.'

<sup>3</sup> As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,  
in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup> Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;  
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
I have a goodly heritage.

<sup>7</sup> I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup> I keep the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

<sup>10</sup> For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

<sup>11</sup> You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Reading ..... Galatians 2:15-21

### Reflection

Hymn of the Day .....#335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

## 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 .....#329 As the Sun with Longer Journey

## Dismissal