

“When Sorrows Like Sea Billows Roll”

Candlelight Prayer Vigil for the Gulf Coast

Bauer Reserve, Anderson Township

July 11, 2010

8:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Monona, Wisconsin.

www.StStephensMonona.com

WELCOME AND OPENING REFLECTION:

Pastor Henry Zorn,
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Thank you for joining in prayer during this time of environmental catastrophe. Prayers of confession, lament and hope will be offered to Almighty God. Our prayers will be sung, spoken and silent, including the lighting of candles. Our worship service will be followed by time for conversation and refreshment for those who wish to stay. The mural of the Gulf will be available for use in congregations that would like to borrow it.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P] We gather in this time of grief and sorrow to call upon God who is present in our suffering and desires to heal us.

C] Amen.

P] Let us confess the sin that this oil spill has created upon people, industry, animal life and the environment.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P] O Lord, hear our confession.

C] We confess to you that we are complicit. This disaster is also our disaster. Our lives are captive to fossil fuels and we cannot free ourselves. We have not served and stewarded your world as you have entrusted it to us.

Forgive us for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. Call us to repentance, to turn our lives and our lifestyles around so that the Creation might be renewed. Create in us clean hearts, O God. Amen.

P] The Lord hears our prayers, calling us to turn again to walk in newness of life. In the holy water of baptism you have been cleansed and forgiven to live again with God's love for this world.

C] Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

When Peace, like a River

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #785

LITANY AT THE TIME OF ECOLOGICAL DISASTER:

P] In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth

C] And it was good.

P] God created day and night, land and sea, plants and animals.

C] And it was good.

P] God created humankind in the image of God.

C] And it was good.

P] Yet we stray from your goodness and our careless ways cause destruction,

C] Renew the face of the earth.

P] Our ways of consumption lead to devastation,

C] Renew the face of the earth.

P] Creation groans and creatures cry out,

C] Renew the face of the earth.

P] In accordance with your promise of life, we live in hope for a new heaven and a new earth, where creation is healed and righteousness abounds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C] Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 4:23-26

REFLECTION: Dr. Walter Brueggemann,
member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

HYMN:

For the Beauty of the Earth

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #879

CANDLELIGHTING AND TAIZE COMMUNITY PRAYER:

Worshippers are invited to place a lit candle in the prayer box and write words of reflection on the map of the Gulf region. During the candlelighting, prayers will be spoken. Each prayer petition will be followed by the singing of a verse of the Taize community prayer.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #751

GOD'S CREATED GOODNESS: Genesis 1:28-31

P] God, creator of all,

C] you call forth life in the waters, in which you take delight.

You gave them your first blessing, and called it good.

Restore this living abundance to the hurting and dying waters of the Gulf. Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (v. 1)

OUR ROLE: Psalm 8:3-9

P] Sovereign and majestic Lord,

C] you give us a special role in this world, as those with power to care for all other creatures, but also with power to harm them. In your care for us, give us strength to care for all the earth so that we may glorify your name. Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (v. 2)

CREATION'S SUFFERING: Romans 8:18-23

P] God of justice and mercy,

C] it is easy to see greed, to point out mistakes, to cast blame. Give us grace not to wash our hands of the matter or to cast stones only against the government or BP. Instead, hear us as we mourn and cry out for something better. Let us join in weeping that at last together we may rejoice. Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (v. 1)

SUFFICIENCY FOR ALL: II Corinthians 8:8-15

P] God our provider,

C] we have fouled the waters, trampling and taking too much. Save us from what we ravage and call us back so that, no longer pushing aside the weak, we may see that the abundant gifts you share with us are for the benefit of all creation. Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (v. 2)

KNOWLEDGE AND AUTHORITY: Job 38:1-2, 8-11, 16-18

P] O Wisdom most high,

C] we have gotten into a mess and are captivated by it. We lack sufficient knowledge of the deeps and we don't know how to solve our problem. We pray for a solution to stop the spread of oil that is gushing into the Gulf. Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (v. 1)

WORKERS ON THE WATER: Psalm 104:23-28

P] Nourishing God,

C] you sustain us in our work and in our sport, on land and on the sea. We pray for those who are laboring to contain the oil spill. We pray for those who lost lives and those who are losing livelihood. Our only hope is to look to you in all of this need. Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (v. 2)

LAMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY: Psalm 130

P] Lord Jesus, great healer,

C] this catastrophe seems so surreal. We feel helpless. We struggle to put our feelings into words. In the midst of our lamentation we pray for your healing presence in our world, and in the lives of those most affected by this disaster. Give us faith and give us peace. Hear our prayers and keep all this world in your tender care. In this time of suffering let us look to you, who took a bowl to wash feet in love, so that we, too, may serve the needs of your world. Amen.

O Lord Hear My Prayer (vs. 1 and 2)

Silence for personal reflection.

SENDING SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:1-2, 5

SENDING HYMN:

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #836

BENEDICTION AND SENDING:

P] The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another and with the Creation.

c] Amen.

P] The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope.

c] Amen.

P] The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

c] Amen.

P] Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Steward the Creation that God has placed in your care.

c] Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER: Pastor Henry Zorn,
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

SPEAKER: Dr. Walter Brueggemann,
Member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

ARTIST AND INSPIRATION OF THE VIGIL: Martha Newfield,
Chair of the Earth Ministry Team,
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

GUITARS: Michael Goldberg and John Snowden,
Members of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

LECTORS: Rev. Roger Green,
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Martha Newfield,
Member of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Pastor Larry Donner,
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Rev. Alice Connor,
UC Lutheran Campus Ministry

BULLETIN: Brenda Webb, Secretary
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

GULF PRAYER MAP Cindy Zorn
Member of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

VIDEOGRAPHER: Ben Brown

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