

Old Orchard Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2013 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Special welcome to the Rev. Dale Kuhn and his wider family this morning. Dale, the father of Mike Kuhn and an ordained Lutheran minister, will be officiating today in the baptism of Mike's and Annie's son, Asher Kuhn. Dale is the Executive Director of Care and Counseling, a 45-year old counseling ministry with various locations in the metro St. Louis area.



See printed copy for art work

Ephesians 4:1-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train
and gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**None of the rulers of this age
understood [the secret and hidden
wisdom of God], for if they had
they would not have crucified
the Lord of glory.**

I Corinthians 2:8

Celebrating Jesus, Divine Son of Man: Misunderstood and Misused

And the Baptism of Norah Nichole Robertson and Asher Michael Kuhn

Never was anyone more misunderstood
than when Jesus,
the Lord of Glory and the Prince of Life,
was dragged into court and put to death
as a common criminal.

The One who set the planets in orbit
was ridiculed as an imposter;
He who knows every secret of the universe,
in mockery was taunted to see
through his blindfold.



Ah sweet Lord, come to me
when I am misunderstood;
Calm me when I am misused,
and heal the rage of my indignation.
Work in me daily
the will to entrust
my vindication to God,
even as you did, for my sake.

Receive my thanks and my worship,
O faithful Savior!

Today's Scripture

Old Testament Lesson: II Chronicles 36:11-16; Isaiah 6:8-10

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 23:29-39

Christianity in Ephesus, Christianity in St. Louis Series

“What Is the Church, and What Does It Matter?” (Part II)

Ephesians 4:1-16

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

On Being Misused and Misunderstood

The misuse and misunderstanding of black people as intrinsically inferior, sustained and defended because of the economic advantages of race-based slavery, is one of the shameful legacies of our nation. Of course, many African-American slaves came to Christ and were able, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to feel his sympathy for them: he was an outcast, like they were; like them, he suffered insults and abuse. But they understood that through his suffering Christ won for them an everlasting life and freedom. How glad many of them were to trust Him, in part, because they knew so much pain at the hands of other people.

Here is a wonderful prayer of confidence in Christ, written by Richard Allen (1760-1831), pastor, freed slave, and founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Use it this week, especially if you're tempted to believe that you can't survive unless people start treating you better. *--Ron Lutjens*

O, My God! In all my dangers, temporal and spiritual, I will hope in thee who art Almighty power, and therefore able to relieve me; who art infinite goodness, and therefore ready and willing to assist me.

O, precious blood of my dear Redeemer! O, gaping wounds of my crucified Savior! Who can contemplate the sufferings of God incarnate, and not raise his hope and not put his trust in Him? What, though my body be crumbled into dust, and that dust blown over the face of the earth, yet I undoubtedly know my Redeemer lives, and shall raise me up at the last day; whether I am comforted or left desolate; whether I enjoy peace or am afflicted with temptations; whether I am healthful or sickly, succored or abandoned by the good things of this life, I will always hope in thee, O, my chiefest, infinite good.

Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; although the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields yield no meat; although the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation [Habakkuk 3:17].

What, though I mourn and am afflicted here, and sigh under the miseries of this world for a time, I am sure that my tears shall one day be turned into joy, and that joy none shall take from me. Whoever hopes for the great things in this world, takes pains to attain them; how can my hopes of everlasting life be well grounded, if I do not strive and labor for that eternal inheritance? I will never refuse the lowest labors, while I look to receive such glorious wages; I will never repine at any temporal loss, while I expect to gain such eternal rewards. Blessed hope! Be thou my chief delight in life, and then I shall be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; be thou my comfort and support at the hour of death, and then I shall contentedly leave this world, as a captive that is released from his imprisonment. Amen.

—Richard Allen (1760-1831)