



# Heaven & Hell: The Historical and Cultural Origins of Eternal Life.

LENT 2019

Dearest Friends in Christ,

*<sup>2</sup>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2)*

Visions of the afterlife are well ingrained in popular culture – you can find imagery and ideas of such things in all sorts of works of art, song lyrics, films, television shows, videogames, and books. Especially here in our western society, these visions are often informed by the teachings and witness of the Judeo-Christian tradition – in particular the concepts of Heaven and Hell as presented in the Bible.

Such as it is then, when people think of images of Heaven, they often picture things such as clouds, angels, God’s holy throne room, a city full of golden streets or alabaster colored mansions, and joyous people reunited with loved ones from long ago.

With Hell comes imagery of fire and smoke and the stink of sulfur; there are demons torturing people in horrifying and cruel ways and all the while the Devil continues to tempt and mock those who are cast down into the darkness.

However while the Bible has had a strong influence on our modern day views of Heaven and Hell, it may be a surprise for you to know that these Biblical concepts were themselves heavily influenced and inspired by various cultures and religious traditions outside of Judaism and Christianity. With that in mind, for Lent this year we are going to go on an exploratory journey to discover some of the roots of Judeo-Christian thinking with regards to the afterlife – Heaven and Hell in particular, and see not only how the concepts of Heaven and Hell developed, but also to discover what meaning and helpful inspiration they can provide for us in our Christian life and faith practices today.

It is my sincere hope that you will join with me this Lenten season for this exciting, thought-provoking, and educational journey.

May God bless you in this season of Lent!

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Michael

## Midweek Lenten and Easter Schedule 2019



March 6– 3:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion; Optional imposition of ashes



March 13, 20, 27, April 3, & 10:

6:00 p.m. – Lenten Supper

7:00 p.m. – Lenten Service in the Sanctuary focusing on “Heaven and Hell”



April 14 7:45 & 10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion

April 17 – NO SUPPER, NO WEDNESDAY SERVICE



April 18 **at 6:00 p.m. in Hoeffler Hall.** Since **Maundy Thursday** is the day of the Last Supper, we will be having a meal together that evening as part of our Maundy Thursday Service. We will gather in Hoeffler Hall no later than 6 p.m. so we can begin our prayers and meal together. Everyone is asked to please bring a

pot luck dish (meats, sides, casseroles, sandwiches, salads, desserts—whatever you choose to share with those attending.) The service will continue with Holy Communion.



GOOD FRIDAY, April 19 - 3:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service

7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service



April 21 – **Easter**

7:45 a. m. – Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. – Easter Breakfast

10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DURING LENT (2019)

Christian Education at Robeson continues to go forward for our children, youth and adults. For children we offer Children's Church during the worship services (7:45 and 10:15) for ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. During this time the children hear a Bible story, do a craft or play a game and watch a video. The advantage of this format is that the parents are able to worship while the children are gaining biblical background on their level. On communion Sundays the children come back to the worship service in time to participate in the communion service. A children's message is offered on non-communion Sunday's before the sermon. Children are then dismissed to attend Children's Church until the worship service ends. **Youth 7 -12<sup>th</sup> grade** meet from 9:00- 10:00 a.m. with Pastor Michael in the youth room, which is in Hoeffler Hall (gym). This group studies a combination of catechetical material, current concerns and other topics that interest the youth.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Beginning March 10 and continuing through Lent the class will be using the material "Entering The Passion Of Jesus." This study looks at last days of Jesus' life and analyzes the risks and motives of the story's characters. EVERYONE is welcome to join the class which meets from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the last room on the right in the education building.



**FLOWERS FOR EASTER:** Each year on Easter, we adorn our chancel with lilies and other spring plants. Please use the enclosed form and indicate which plant you prefer to order (orders will be filled as indicated based on seasonal availability). All plants are \$9.00 each except for the hyacinths which are \$7.50 this year due to their smaller size.

**ANNUAL EGG HUNT** for the children of the church and community will be held on **Saturday, April 20 at 2:00 p.m.** Please use the form below if you are able to make a donation for this event.



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### EGG HUNT DONATION FORM

April 20 – 2:00 p.m.

(Please return form by March 31)

I will donate:

\_\_\_\_\_ bags of candy

\_\_\_\_\_ money to be used for candy  
and prizes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### EASTER FLOWER RESERVATION

Deadline April 7 – Cost \$9.00 each; \*Hyacinth \$7.50

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) for me.

LILY    DAFFODIL    TULIP    \*HYACINTH  
(please circle choice of plant(s))

IN MEMORY OF    or    BY    or    IN HONOR OF  
(please circle one)

BY \_\_\_\_\_

( ) give to shut-in    ( ) will pick up

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring my own plant(s) \_\_\_\_\_.



### **WEDNESDAY LENTEN SUPPERS – 6:00 P.M.**

Come before worship and share in a simple Lenten supper in Hoeffler Hall. Everyone is invited.

**LENTEN MEAL SCHEDULE:** Soup and sandwiches, pizza and salads or other light meals provided by members of our committees and staff; congregation is please asked to bring desserts.

March 13 – Outreach and Staff

March 20 –Praise Team and Worship and Music

March 27 –Social

Ministry, Altar Care and Youth

April 3 – Finance/Gifts and Bequests and Property

April 10 – Christian Ed. and SCS Teachers

**LENTEN SERVICES at 7:00 p.m.** focusing on “Heaven and Hell”. This year’s services will be held in the sanctuary following the meal in Hoeffler Hall.

**VARIOUS LENTEN DEVOTIONALS** are available at the church; help yourself.

**A LENTEN ENVELOPE** is included in this mailing. Please return it to the church anytime during the Lenten/Easter season as part of your Lenten gifts.

**THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES** are always in need of food; some of the items most needed are:

Canned meats such as tuna, chicken, meatballs	Peanut butter and Jelly
Beef Stew and chunky soups	Rice and Pasta
Boxed Cereals – low sugar please	Spaghetti Sauce
Macaroni and cheese	Apple Juice
Canned fruits	Coffee, Tea bags
Crackers	

Please bring your donations to the church and place in the shopping cart in the new foyer. Cash donations are equally acceptable. Please be sure to mark your donation “Food Pantry” and make your check payable to Robeson Lutheran Church. The donations will be divided among the local pantries which serve our community. Thank you for helping us to help others in need.