

WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE
March 30, 2022

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL † SEEK THE THIRSTY † TEACH THE WORD

Barabbas was a heartless, brutal criminal with anger in his heart and blood on his hands. Custom dictated that Pontius Pilate should release one prisoner at the feast of Passover. Pilate knows Jesus is innocent and tries to get the crowd to ask for Jesus' release, but the crowd calls instead for Barabbas. The crowd condemns the innocent Jesus and demands that the guilty Barabbas receive a pardon. We are Barabbas. We are guilty and sinful and deserving of death. But we are also Barabbas in that Jesus takes our place, takes our punishment, and sets us free.

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

WELCOME

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

LSB, p. 229

P O Lord, open my lips,
C **And my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

PSALM *(read responsively by whole verse)*

Psalm 57

For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
Your faithfulness to the clouds.

**Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.**

I cry out to God Most High,
to God who fulfills His purpose for me.

**He will send from heaven and save me; He will put to shame him who tramples on me.
God will send out His steadfast love and His faithfulness!**

My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts—
the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let Your glory be over all the earth!**

They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down.
They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves.

**My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!
I will sing and make melody! Awake, my glory!**

Awake, O harp and lyre!

I will awake the dawn!

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to You among the nations.

For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens,

Your faithfulness to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!

Let Your glory be over all the earth!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

(Silence for reflection)

PSALM PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Merciful Lord, You are our refuge in time of trouble and our hope in distress. Keep us in Your care that we may be raised from the death of sin to life in Christ and give faithful witness to Your mercy by proclaiming Your name and Your salvation to the nations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748. Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872. Text and tune: Public domain.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zechariah 9:11-12

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 3:15-18

¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise)

GOSPEL READING

John 18:33-40

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" ³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷Then Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." ³⁸Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY

LSB, p. 231

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

OFFICE HYMN

Not All the Blood of Beasts

LSB 431



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew-ish al-tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n-ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a-way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur-den Thou didst bear;
5 Be-liev-ing, we re-joice To see the curse re-move;



Could give the guilt-y con-science peace Or wash a-way the stain.
A sac-ri-fice of no-bler name And rich-er blood than they.
While as a pen-i-tent I stand, And there con-fess my sin.
When hang-ing on the curs-ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer-ful voice And sing His bleed-ing love.

SERMON

Witness to Christ: Barabbas

CANTICLE

LSB, p. 231

P Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C **And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

MAGNIFICAT *(I: Left side of congregation – II: Right side of congregation)*

LSB, p. 231

C **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**

I for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

II For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;

II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

II He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

I He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

LSB 434, v. 1

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
Ev - er pa-tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941. Text and tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546. Text and tune: Public domain.

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

P Lord, have mercy;
C **Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB, p. 233

C 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.

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P O Lord, when the guilty was chosen instead of Your Son and He went to the cross, we saw both the depth of our sin and the greatness of Your mercy. Deliver us from every pride and arrogance that in humility of faith and repentance we may abide in Christ and He in us all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P God, the strength of the weak and the consolation of all who put their trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers on behalf of Your servants, [*especially* _____], that by Your power their sickness may be turned to health according to Your good and gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

P The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

LSB 437



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
 2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
 5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The



did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that
 groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
 shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y
 His dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in
 debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
 grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
 mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.
 thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
 self a - way: 'Tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824. Text and tune: Public domain.

