

WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE
April 6, 2022

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL † SEEK THE THIRSTY † TEACH THE WORD

Pontius Pilate, a witness to Christ, consented to order Jesus' execution. Pilate may wash his hands and proclaim his own innocence in the death of Jesus, but Pilate is guilty. Pilate is caught between a rock and a hard place. Instead of doing what is right, Pilate has Jesus' flesh ripped, shredded, dressed in purple, and crowned with thorns. His hard heart is complicit in the death of Christ. While it may be an uncomfortable thought, Pilate's failures make us examine our own complicity in the evil of others. How have we deceived ourselves in proclaiming innocence? How have we been pressured into allowing evil to occur? Thanks be to God that our journey to the cross shows us Jesus' forgiveness.

† 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)*

Psalms 109:1-7, 20-31

Help me, O LORD my God!

Save me according to Your steadfast love!

Be not silent, O God of my praise!

**For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me,
speaking against me with lying tongues.**

They encircle me with words of hate,
and attack me without cause.

**In return for my love they accuse me,
but I give myself to prayer.**

So they reward me evil for good,
and hatred for my love.

**Appoint a wicked man against him;
let an accuser stand at his right hand.**

When he is tried, let him come forth guilty;
let his prayer be counted as sin!

**May this be the reward of my accusers from the LORD,
of those who speak evil against my life!**

But You, O GOD my Lord, deal on my behalf for Your name's sake;
because Your steadfast love is good, deliver me!

**For I am poor and needy,
and my heart is stricken within me.**

I am gone like a shadow at evening;
I am shaken off like a locust.

**My knees are weak through fasting;
my body has become gaunt, with no fat.**

I am an object of scorn to my accusers;
when they see me, they wag their heads.

**Help me, O LORD my God!
Save me according to Your steadfast love!**

Let them know that this is Your hand;
You, O LORD, have done it!

**Let them curse, but You will bless!
They arise and are put to shame, but Your servant will be glad!**

May my accusers be clothed with dishonor;
may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a cloak!

**With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD;
I will praise Him in the midst of the throng.**

For He stands at the right hand of the needy,
to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.

**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 O God of steadfast love and mercy, on the cross Your Son forgave His enemies. Turn our hearts from hatred and evil that we may forgive the offenses of those who seek our harm and forgive as we have been forgiven. Rescue us in our time of peril and deliver us from bitterness and resentment; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 (v. 1-4)



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,
4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.

Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
 Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
 Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;
 How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure

Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
 How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
 This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.
 Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615. Text and tune: Public domain.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 11:17-21

¹⁷Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' ¹⁸And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. ¹⁹And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰that they may walk in My statutes and keep My rules and obey them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God. ²¹But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

GOSPEL READING

John 19:1-16

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. ³They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to Him, "You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

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

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

LSB 439 (v. 1-5)



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!
 5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
 With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
 It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;
 The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
 They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
 Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -
 The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants
 Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
 cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.
 her - it, This I do mer - it.
 owe Him, Who would not know Him.
 quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662. Text and tune: Public domain.

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 O Lord God, by the example of Your blessed Son, grant us grace to accept patiently the suffering of this present time. Until we receive the full revelation of Your glory and full relief from all our afflictions, sustain us by Your healing grace through every trial. Hear us [*especially for* _____ *and*] for all in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Lord Jesus, though ruthless Pontius Pilate declared Your innocence before the crowds, You who knew no sin became sin for us. Grant that the shame You bore for us on the cross give us the greatest honor so that we might always see that only in suffering can we behold who You truly are, our glorious King and Savior; for You live and reign with the Father 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

Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
 at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
 breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
 Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. "It is fin - ished!"
 Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
 hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901. Text and tune: Public domain.

