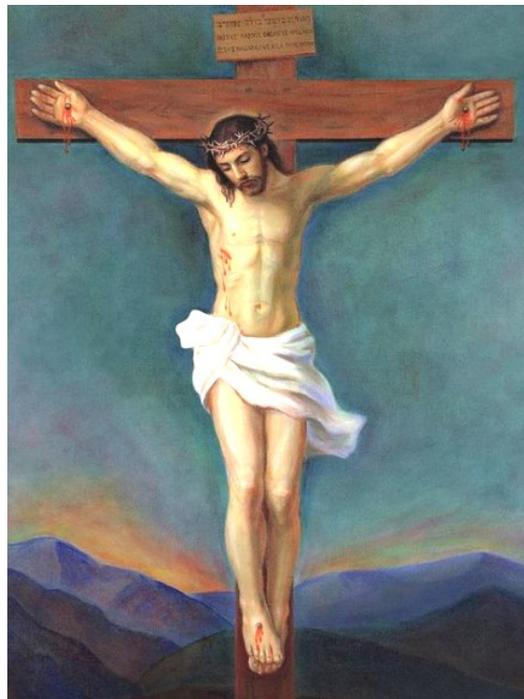
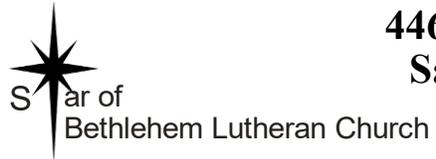


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“There was one named **Barabbas**, who was imprisoned with the rebels and had committed murder in the rebellion...”



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:00 p.m.*

**LENTEN Vespers      Lent Midweek 5**

## Evening Prayer

### Vespers

**OPENING HYMN: # 451 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

♪ Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call;  
Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

*Please stand for last verse:*

When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near  
And the day is almost gone,  
At the river I stand;  
Guide my feet, hold my hand,  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.



**M:** O Lord, o - pen my lips.



**C:** And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



**M:** Has - ten to save me, O God.



**C:** O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



**M:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**M:** Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



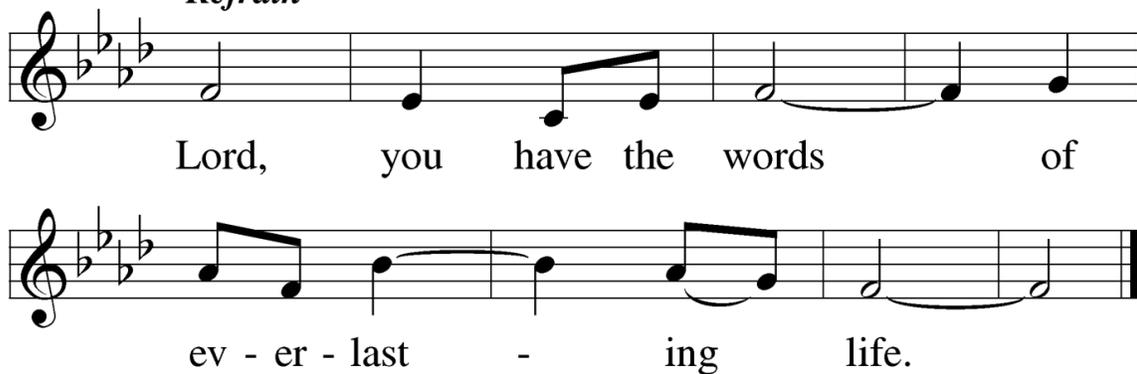
C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing  
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

### PSALM 119b

#### *Refrain*



Lord, you have the words of  
ev - er - last - ing life.

#### *Psalm tone*



\*

Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees,\*  
then I will keep them to the end.

Give me understanding, and I will keep your law\*  
and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands,\*  
for there I find delight.

*Refrain*

Turn my eyes away from worthless things;\*  
preserve my life according to your Word.

Fulfill your promise to your servant,\*  
so that you may be feared.

How I long for your precepts!\*  
Preserve my life in your righteousness.

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.

*Refrain*

M: Lord God, through your Son you made the heavens and the earth;  
through him you continue to rule over all things. Make us, your  
chosen people, witnesses of your power and heralds of your glory  
to the praise of your unfailing love; through your Son, Jesus Christ  
our Lord.           **C: Amen.**

**THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
**LESSON FOUR**

Minister: As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people  
met together, both chief priests and experts in the law.

**CONGREGATION: They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and  
said, “If you are the Christ, tell us.”**

**MEN:** But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

**CONGREGATION:** They all said, “Are you then the Son of God?”

Minister: He said to them, “I am what you are saying.”

**MEN:** Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!”

**WOMEN:** Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision.

**MEN:** They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

Minister: Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

**CONGREGATION:** But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.”

**WOMEN:** He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself.

Minister: The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money.”

**MEN:** They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners.

**WOMEN:** So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

**MEN:** They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter’s field, just as the Lord commanded me.

Minister: Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially unclean. (They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal.) So Pilate went out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?”

**WOMEN:** They answered him, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”

Minister: Pilate told them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.”

**CONGREGATION:** The Jews said, “It’s not legal for us to put anyone to death.” This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

**MEN:** They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

**WOMEN:** Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Minister: “It is as you say,” Jesus replied.

**CONGREGATION:** The chief priests accused him of many things. When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

**MEN:** Pilate questioned him again, “Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!”

**WOMEN:** But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

**CONGREGATION:** Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Minister: Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

**CONGREGATION:** Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Minister: Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.”

**MEN:** “You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

Minister: Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

**MEN:** “What is truth?” Pilate said to him.

**CONGREGATION:** After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”

**WOMEN:** But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.”

Minister: When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

**WOMEN:** When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him.

**MEN:** He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer.

**CONGREGATION:** The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him.

**WOMEN:** Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.

Minister: Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

#### **HYMN # 115 “He Stood before the Court”**

♪ He stood before the court On trial instead of us;  
He met its pow’r to hurt, Condemned to face the cross—  
Our King, accused of treachery;  
Our God, abused for blasphemy!

These are the crimes that tell The tale of human guilt;  
Our sins, our death, our hell—On these the case is built.  
To this world’s pow’rs the Lord stays dumb.  
The guilt is ours; no answers come.

The sentence must be passed, The unknown pris’ner killed;  
The price is paid at last, The law of God fulfilled.  
He takes our blame, and from that day  
Th’ accuser’s claim is wiped away.

Shall we be judged and tried? In Christ our trial is done;  
We live, for he has died, Our condemnation gone.  
In Christ are we both dead and raised,  
Alive and free—his name be praised!

**MESSAGE: Mark 15:6-15**

<sup>6</sup>At each Festival, Pilate used to release to the people one prisoner whom they requested. <sup>7</sup>There was one named Barabbas, who was imprisoned with the rebels and had committed murder in the rebellion. <sup>8</sup>The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

<sup>9</sup>Pilate replied, “Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?” <sup>10</sup>In fact, he knew that it was because of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead.

<sup>12</sup>Again, Pilate replied to them, “Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

<sup>13</sup>“Crucify him!” they shouted back.

<sup>14</sup>But Pilate said to them, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

But they shouted even louder, “Crucify him!” <sup>15</sup>Since he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. After he had Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified.

**HYMN: # 129 “Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed”**

♪ Alas! and did my Savior bleed,  
And did my Sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head  
For sinners such as I?

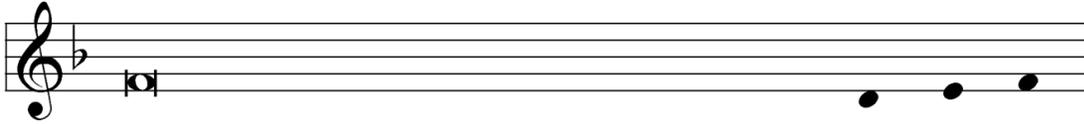
Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut its glories in  
When God, the mighty Maker, died  
For his own creatures' sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face  
While his dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt my eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away—  
'Tis all that I can do.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



**M:** In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Christ, have mer - cy.

**M:** For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**M:** For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



C: **Thanks be to God.**

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



C: **A - men.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: **Amen.**



C: **In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part**



**ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen**



your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry



peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles



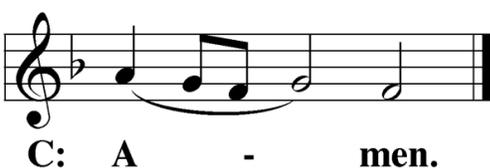
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN: # 593 “Now the Light Has Gone Away”**

♪ Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking you to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.

Jesus, Savior, wash away All that I've done wrong today.  
Make me ever more like you, Good and gentle, kind and true.

Let my near and dear ones be Safe with you eternally.  
Oh, bring me and all I love To your happy home above.

Now my evening praise I give; You once died that I might live.  
All your precious gifts are free—Oh, how good you are to me!

Ah, my best and kindest Friend, You will love me to the end.  
Let me love you more and more, Always better than before.