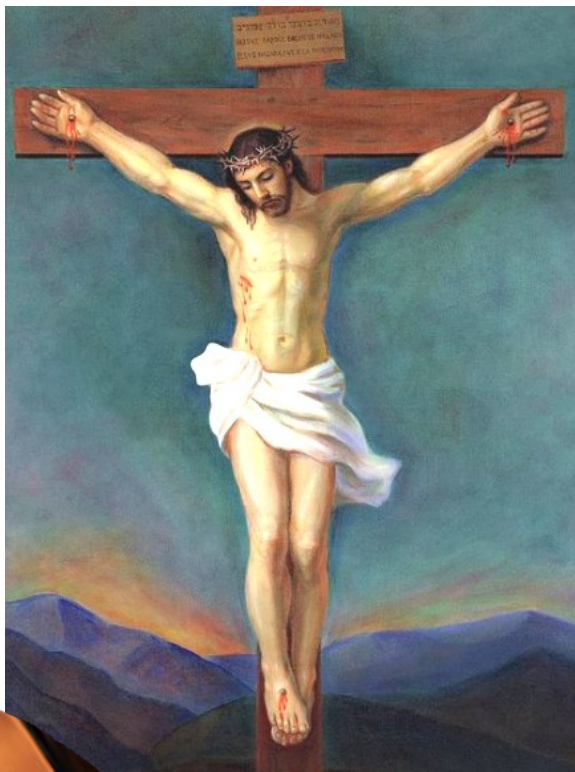


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Midweek
6



“Truly this man was the Son of God!”



Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent Midweek 6

Evening Prayer Vespers

OPENING HYMN: # 127 “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

♪ Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, as you hear him groaning,
Was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning,
Foes insulting his distress,
Many hands were raised to wound him,
None would intervene to save,
But the deepest stroke that pierced him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

If you think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; See who bears the awful load—
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt—
None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.



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.**

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 2

- ¹Why do the nations rage?
Why do the peoples grumble in vain?
- ²The kings of the earth take a stand,
and the rulers join together
against the LORD
and against his Anointed One.
- ³“Let us tear off their chains
and throw off their ropes from us.”
- ⁴The one who is seated in heaven laughs.
The Lord scoffs at them.
- ⁵Then he speaks to them in his anger,
and in his wrath he terrifies them.

⁶“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy mountain.”

⁷I will proclaim the decree of the LORD.

He said to me:

“You are my Son.

Today I have begotten you.

⁸Ask me,

and I will give you the nations as your inheritance

and the ends of the earth as your possession.

⁹You will smash them with an iron rod.

You will break them to pieces like pottery.”

¹⁰So now, you kings, do what is wise.

Accept discipline, you judges of the earth.

¹¹Serve the LORD with fear,

and rejoice with trembling.

¹²Kiss the Son,

or he will be angry,

and you will be destroyed in your way,

for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

How blessed are all who take refuge in him.

M: Lord God, you anointed your Son to be King for the sake of your church. Help us, as members of his kingdom, to serve him faithfully and to come to the full knowledge of his grace and glory, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

LESSON FIVE

Minister: Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him in your presence. I have found in this man no basis for the charges you are bringing against him. Herod did not either, for he sent him back to us. See, he has done nothing worthy of death. So I will have him flogged and release him.”

MEN: At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted.

CONGREGATION: At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder. The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

Minister: So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, “Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you? Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?” For Pilate in fact knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

WOMEN: While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate’s wife sent him a message. “Have nothing to do with that righteous man,” she said, “since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.”

MEN: But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death.

Minister: The governor asked them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

CONGREGATION: They all shouted together with one voice: “Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!”

Minister: Pilate said to them, “Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews? What should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?”

CONGREGATION: They all said to him, “Crucify him!”

Minister: But the governor said, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

CONGREGATION: But they kept shouting even louder: “Crucify him!”

MEN: Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. But they kept shouting, “Crucify! Crucify him!”

Minister: He said to them the third time, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him.”

WOMEN: But they kept pressuring him with loud voices, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming.

CONGREGATION: Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

Minister: The governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt

in front of him, and mocked him by saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head. They also kept hitting him in the face.

MEN: Pilate went outside again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”

Minister: So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!”

CONGREGATION: When the chief priests and guards saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

MEN: Pilate told them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him.”

WOMEN: The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

Minister: When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?”

WOMEN: But Jesus gave him no answer.

MEN: So Pilate asked him, “Are you not talking to me? Don’t you know that I have the authority to release you or to crucify you?”

Minister: Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over me at all if it had not been given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

CONGREGATION: From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus. But the Jews shouted, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar! Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar!”

Minister: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge’s seat at a place called the Stone Pavement, or Gabbatha in Aramaic. It was about the sixth hour on the Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jews, “Here is your king!”

CONGREGATION: They shouted, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!”

Minister: Pilate said to them, “Should I crucify your king?”

MEN: “We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests answered.

CONGREGATION: When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he decided that what they demanded would be done.

MEN: He took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood. It is your responsibility.”

CONGREGATION: And all the people answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”

Minister: Since he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them.

WOMEN: So then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Minister: After they had mocked him, the soldiers took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. Jesus was carrying his own cross.

MEN: As they were going out of the city, a certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

WOMEN: A large crowd of the people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him.

Minister: Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?”

HYMN: # 117 (vv. 1-4) “O Dearest Jesus”

♪ O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession—
What dark transgression?

They crown your head with thorns,
they smite, they scourge you;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;
They give you gall to drink, they still decry you;
They crucify you.

**Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit, This I do merit.**

**What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that love to wander;
The Master pays the debt his servants owe him,
Who would not know him.**

MESSAGE: Mark 15:37-39

³⁷ Jesus cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last. ³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he cried out and breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

HYMN # 103 “Glory Be to Jesus”

**♪ Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins.**

**Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, Infinitely kind.**

**Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem.**

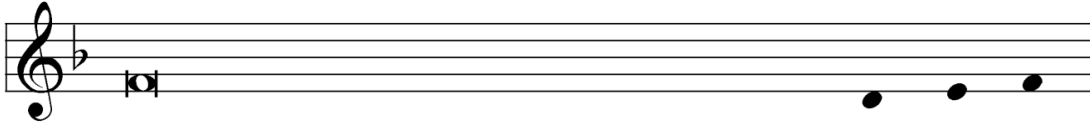
**Abel’s blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies,
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.**

**Oft as earth exulting Lifts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.**

**Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!**

(OFFERING)

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



M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of
 God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



CLOSING HYMN: # 327 “God Be with You till We Meet Again”

God be with you till we meet again,
 By his counsels guide, uphold you,
 With his sheep securely fold you—
 God be with you till we meet again.
 Till we meet, Till we meet,
 Till we meet at Jesus’ feet.
 Till we meet, Till we meet—
 God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again,
 ’Neath his wings protecting hide you,
 Daily manna still provide you—
 God be with you till we meet again.
 Till we meet, Till we meet,
 Till we meet at Jesus’ feet.
 Till we meet, Till we meet—
 God be with you till we meet again.