


# LENT

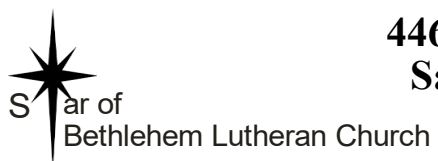
## Midweek 4



### The Semblance of Legality



 Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church



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Pastor Michael Foley

## **Worship Service**

*Wednesday, March 23, 2022 7:00 p.m.*

**LENTEN Vespers      Lent Midweek 4**

## **Evening Prayer Vespers**

**OPENING HYMN: # 100, 1-3 “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining”**

♪ A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, Our guilt and evil bearing  
And, laden with the sins of earth, None else the burden sharing.  
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,  
To slaughter led without complaint,  
That spotless life to offer,  
Bears shame and stripes and wounds and death,  
Anguish and mockery and says, “Willing all this I suffer.”

This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend,  
The Lamb of God, our Savior;  
Him God the Father chose to send To gain for us his favor.  
“Go forth, my Son,” the Father said,  
“And free my children from their dread  
Of guilt and condemnation.  
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,  
But by your passion they will share The fruit of your salvation.”

“Yes, Father, yes, most willingly I’ll bear what you command me.  
My will conforms to your decree;  
I’ll do what you have asked me.”  
O wondrous Love, what have you done!  
The Father offers up his Son,  
Desiring our salvation. O Love, how strong you are to save!  
You make his bed within the grave  
Who built the earth’s foundation.



**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.



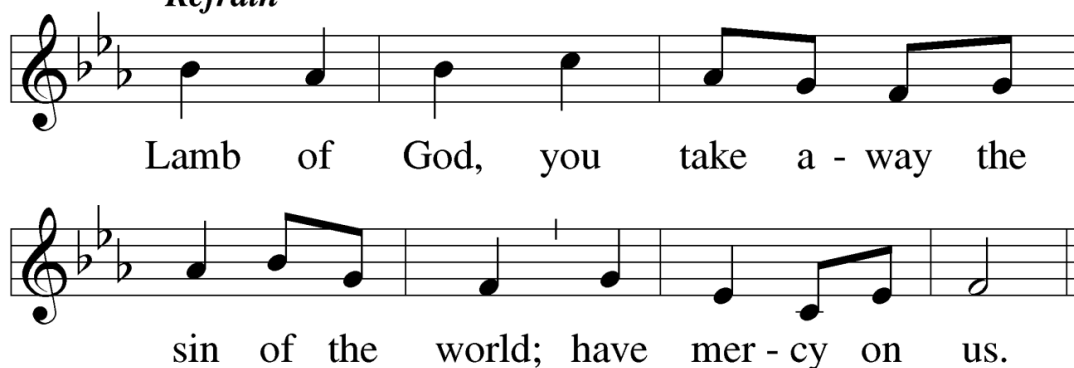
C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift-ing  
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac -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

### *Refrain*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

### *Psalm tone*



\*

**Why do the nations conspire\*  
and the peoples plot in vain?**

**The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers  
gather together against the LORD\*  
and against his Anointed One.**

*Refrain*

**The One enthroned in heaven laughs;\*  
the Lord scoffs at them.**

**Then he rebukes them in his anger  
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,\*  
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”**

**I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:\*  
He said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.”**

**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, keep us safe in the refuge of your anointed Son, so that when the nations rage against him, we are not terrified. You have begotten him from eternity and have seated him on your throne in heaven. Let us see him as he truly is, the One who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## **THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST LESSON THREE**

**While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with lanterns, torches, swords, and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas was leading them.**

**Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who are you looking for?”**

**“Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied.**

**“I am he,” Jesus told them.**

**Judas, the betrayer, was standing with them. When Jesus told them, “I am he,” they backed away and fell to the ground.**

**Then Jesus asked them again, “Who are you looking for?”**

**“Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.**

**“I told you that I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken: “I did not lose any of those you have given me.”**

**Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.**

**Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”**

**Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with a sword?” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.**

**But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this! Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.**

**At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.**

**The company of soldiers, their commander, and the Jewish**

guards arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, because he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, "It is better that one man die for the people."

Simon Peter and another disciple kept following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, so he went into the high priest's courtyard with Jesus. But Peter stood outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and talked to the girl watching the door and brought Peter in.

The servants and guards were standing around a fire of coals that they had made because it was cold. While they warmed themselves, Peter was standing with them, warming himself too.

One of the servant girls of the high priest came there. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean."

But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you are talking about. Woman, I do not know him."

When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This is one of them. This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, "I do not know the man."

After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them, because even your accent gives you away. You are a Galilean!"

Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about! I do not know the man!"

At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's word, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times." He went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in a synagogue or at the temple, where all the Jews gather. I said nothing in secret. Why are you questioning me? Ask those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said."

**When he said this, one of the guards standing there hit Jesus in the face. “Is that how you answer the high priest?” he demanded.**

**“If I said something wrong,” Jesus answered, “testify about what was wrong. But if I was right, why did you hit me?”**

**The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’” Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.**

**The high priest stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?” But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!”**

**Jesus said to him, “It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”**

**Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”**

**They answered, “He is deserving of death!” Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?” The guards also took him and beat him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.**

#### **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: Luke 22:66**

**As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met  
together, both the chief priests and experts in the law.  
They brought him into their Sanhedrin...**

**HYMN: # 359 “Jesus, My Great High Priest”**

**♪ Jesus, my great High Priest, Offered his blood and died;  
My guilty conscience seeks No sacrifice beside.  
His pow'rful blood did once atone,  
And now it pleads before the throne.**

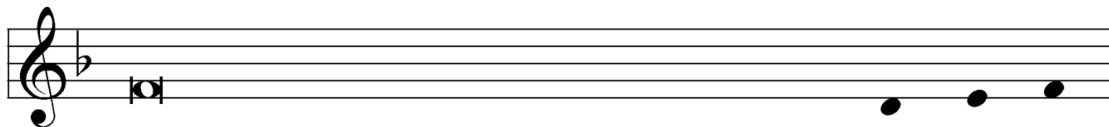
**To Christ, my substitute, Will I commit my cause;  
He answers and fulfills His Father's broken laws.  
Behold my soul at freedom set—  
My Jesus paid the dreadful debt!**

**My advocate appears For my defense on high;  
A gracious Father hears And lays his thunder by.  
Not all that hell or sin can say  
Shall turn his heart, his love, away.**

**Should all the hosts of death And pow'rs of hell unknown  
Put their most dreadful forms Of rage and mischief on,  
I shall be safe, for Christ displays  
Superior pow'r and guardian grace.**

**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.

**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.**



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: # 588 (vv. 2,5,6,7) “Abide with Me”**

♪ **Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me!**

**I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!**

**I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if thou abide with me.**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**

