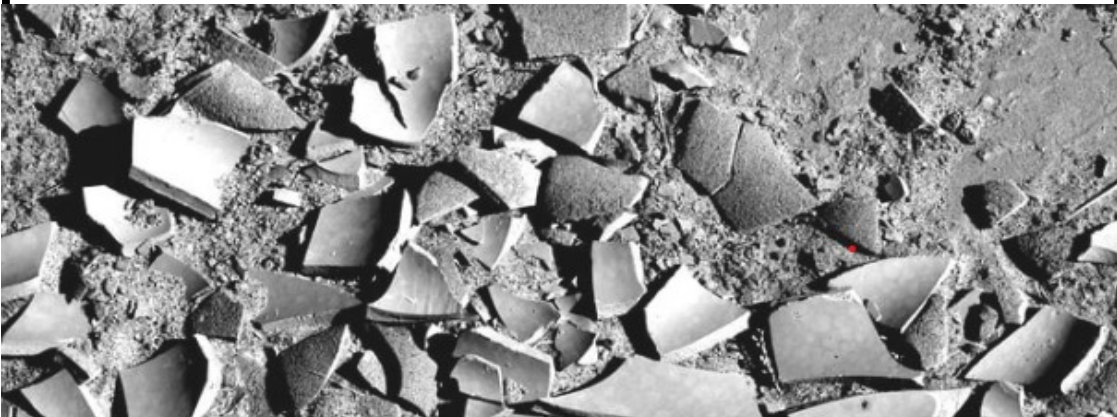


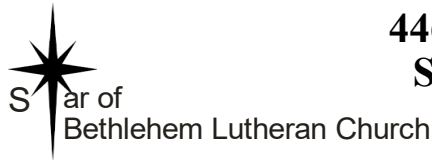
**LENT**

**Midweek  
6**

**HIS  
FINAL  
STEPS**

**... led to his enemies ...**





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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Wednesday, March 29, 2023 7:00 p.m.*

**LENTEN Vespers      Lent Midweek 6**

## Evening Prayer Vespers

**OPENING HYMN: # 397:1,2,7 “My Song Is Love Unknown”**

♪ **My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me,  
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

**He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow,  
but such disdain! So few the longed-for Christ would know!  
But oh, my friend, my friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend!**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Here might I stay and sing; no story so divine,  
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!**



**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 118

*Refrain*



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

*Psalm tone*



\*

**The LORD is my strength and my song;\***  
**he has become my salvation.**

**The LORD'S right hand is lifted high;\***  
**the LORD'S right hand has done mighty things!**

**I will not die but live,\***  
**and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

*Refrain*

**I will give you thanks, for you answered me;\***  
**you have become my salvation.**

**The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;\*  
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**This is the day the LORD has made;\*  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**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 Jesus, you are the stone the builders rejected that has become the cornerstone. We praise you for facing the fury of your enemies undaunted. Because you overcame death itself, we will not die but live, and we will always proclaim your marvelous deeds; for you live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever .

C: **Amen.**

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

**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.”**

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

**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.**

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." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

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

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?"

They all said to him, "Crucify him!"

But the governor said, "Why? What has he done wrong?"

But they kept shouting even louder: "Crucify him!"

Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. But they kept shouting, "Crucify! Crucify him!"

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

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

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.

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

When the chief priests and guards saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him."

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."

When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

**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?”**

**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.”**

**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!”**

**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!”**

**They shouted, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!”**

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

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

**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. 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.”**

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

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

**So then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.**

**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.**

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

**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: # 408 “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 20:9-19**

**<sup>9</sup>He began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, leased it to some tenant farmers, and went away on a journey for a long time. <sup>10</sup>When it was the right time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenant farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup>The man went ahead and sent yet another servant, but they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup>He then sent yet a third. They also wounded him and threw him out. <sup>13</sup>The owner of the vineyard said, ‘What should I do? I will send my son, whom I love. Perhaps they will respect him.’**

**<sup>14</sup>“But when the tenant farmers saw him, they talked it over with one another. They said, ‘This is the heir. Let’s kill him, so that the inheritance will be ours.’ <sup>15</sup>They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. So what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup>He will come and destroy those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others.”**

**When they heard this, they said, “May it never be!”**



<sup>17</sup>But he looked at them and said, “Then what about this that is written: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone? <sup>18</sup>“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush the one on whom it falls.”

<sup>19</sup>That very hour the chief priests and the experts in the law began looking for a way to lay hands on him, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

**HYMN: # 430 “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.

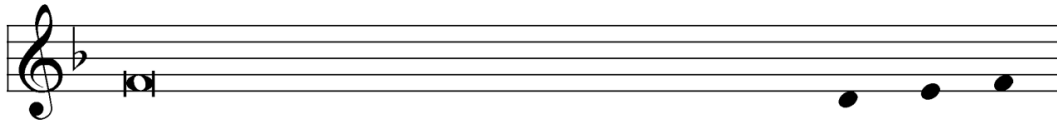
Tell me, as you hear him groaning,  
was there ever grief like his,  
friends through fear his cause disowning,  
foes insulting his distress?  
Many hands were raised to wound him,  
none would intervene to save;  
but the deepest stroke that pierced him  
was the stroke that Justice gave.

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 the rock of our salvation,  
is 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.

**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

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 Jesus Christ and the love of  
 God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN: # 787 “God, Who Made the Earth & Heaven”**

**God, who made the earth and heaven, darkness and light;  
 you the day for work have given, for rest the night.  
 May your angel guards defend us, slumber sweet your mercy send us,  
 holy dreams and hopes attend us all through the night.**

**And when morn again shall call us To run life’s way,  
 May we still, whate’er befall us, Your will obey.  
 From the pow’r of evil hide us, in the narrow pathway guide us,  
 never be your smile denied us, all through the day.**

**Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, and, when we die,  
 may we in your mighty keeping all peaceful lie.  
 When the last dread call shall wake us, then, O Lord, do not forsake us,  
 but to reign in glory take us with you on high.**

**Holy Father, throned in heaven, all-holy Son,  
 Holy Spirit, freely given, blest Three in One:  
 grant us grace, we now implore you, till we lay our crowns before you  
 and in worthier strains adore you while ages run.**