

LENT

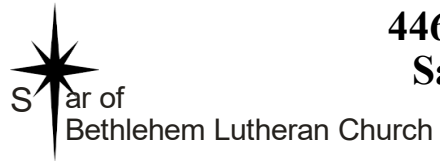
**Midweek
5**



**GOD
ON
TRIAL**

TRUTH





4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent Midweek 5

OPENING HYMN: # 784 “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.
O 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!**

Please stand for last verse:

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

Confession of Sins

Minister: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and
from whom no secrets are hidden.

Congregation: **Amen.**

**C: I confess that I am by nature sinful.
I am guilty of many sins.
I am distressed by the sins that trouble me.
For all this I am sorry. I pray for forgiveness.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.**

M: Jesus says to his people, “If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven.” His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: **Yes, I believe.**

M: By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM 1

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



**Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
or stand in the way of sinners.**

**But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates day and night.**

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season*
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.**

Refrain

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,*
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**

**For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**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, let your Word so saturate our souls that we grow into lush trees bearing fruit for you. When the voices of the wicked tempt us to stray down other paths, keep us on the way that leads to our heavenly home. We ask this, confident that you watch over the way of the righteous; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST LESSON FOUR

As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law. They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, “If you are the Christ, tell us.”

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.”

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

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

Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!” Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

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

He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. 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.” They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

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.

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?”

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

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

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.

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.”

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

“It is as you say,” Jesus replied.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.”

“You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

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.”

“What is truth?” Pilate said to him.

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

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

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.

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. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

HYMN: # 432:1,3,4,6,7

“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken”

♪ 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?

**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 loved to wander;
the Master pays the debt his servants owe him,
who would not know him.**

**I'll think upon your mercy without ceasing,
that earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
to do your will shall be my sole endeavor
henceforth forever.**

**And when, dear Lord, before your throne in heaven
to me the crown of joy at last is given,
where sweetest hymns your saints forever raise you,
I too shall praise you.**

John 18:33-40

³³Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

³⁴Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

³⁶Jesus 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."

³⁷"You are a king then?" Pilate asked.

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."

³⁸"What is truth?" Pilate said to him.

After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, "I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So do you want me to release the King of the Jews for you?"

⁴⁰Then they shouted back, "Not this man, but Barabbas!"
(Now Barabbas was a rebel.)

HYMN: # 543 “O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”

**♪ O Jesus, King most wonderful,
O Majesty renowned,
O Conqueror invincible,
in whom all joys are found,**

**When once you visit darkened hearts,
then truth begins to shine,
then earthly vanity departs,
then kindles love divine.**

**O Jesus, light of all below,
O Fount of life and fire,
surpassing all the joys we know,
all that we can desire,**

**May ev’ry heart confess your name,
forever you adore,
enkindled with the Spirit’s flame
to love you more and more.**

**Oh, may our tongues forever bless
and honor you alone,
and may we in our lives express
the image of your own!**

OFFERING

PRAYER:

M and C:

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

**I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your
dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me
all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I
commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel
be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me.**

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: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C: Amen.

M: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: to sing praise to your name, O Most High,

M: to herald your love in the morning,

C: your truth at the close of day.

M: Keep me as the apple of your eye;

C: hide me in the shadow of your wings.

M: In righteousness I shall see you;

C: when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

M: Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: # 787

“God, Who Made the Earth and 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.**



