

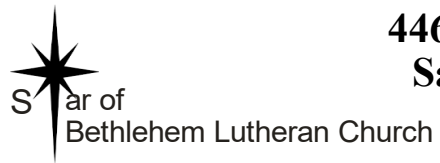
LENT

**Midweek
6**



GOD ON TRIAL





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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent Midweek 6

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.



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 138

M: I will thank you with all my heart.

C: Before the gods I will make music for you.

M: I will bow down toward your holy temple.

C: I will give thanks to your name

M: because of your mercy and because of your truth.

C: Yes, you made your word even greater than your name.

M: By day I called, and you answered me.

C: You have made my soul strong.

M: All the kings of the earth will thank you, LORD,

C: when they have heard the message from your mouth.

M: Then they will sing about the ways of the LORD,

C: because the glory of the LORD is great.

M: Indeed the LORD is exalted, but he sees the lowly,

C: and he recognizes the proud from a distance.

M: If I walk surrounded by danger, you keep me alive

C: in spite of the anger of my enemies.

M: You stretch out your hand.

C: You save me with your right hand.

M: The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me.

LORD, your mercy endures forever.

C: Do not let go of the works of your hands.

M: Lord, we bow down to you in thankful praise. You have made your ways known to both lowly and great on the earth. You have not abandoned the work of your hands, but instead you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: # 425:1-3 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

**♪ Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
your Redeemer’s conflict see,
watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

Follow to the judgment hall;
view the Lord of life arraigned.
Oh, the wormwood and the gall
oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, pain, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Luke 23:26-34

²⁶As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A large crowd of people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. ²⁸Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹Be 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.' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?"

³²Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed.

³³When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

HYMN: # 690 "Blest Are They"

♪ Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God!

**Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.**

Refrain

**Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart they shall see God!**

Refrain

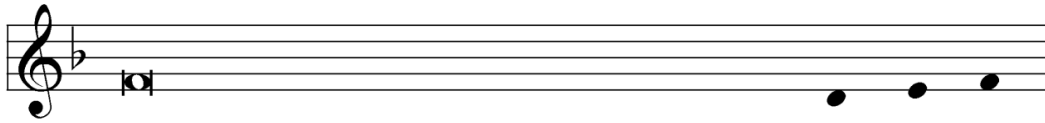
**Blest are they who seek peace, they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.**

Refrain

**Blest are you who suffer hate all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.**

Refrain

OFFERING



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: # 788 “All Praise to Thee, My God”

♪ **All praise to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings.**

**Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son
the ill that I this day have done,
that with the world, myself, and thee
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

**Teach me to live that I may dread
the grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die that so I may
rise glorious at the awe-full day.**

**Oh, may my soul on thee repose
and may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
sleep that shall me more vig'rous make
to serve my God when I awake.**

**When in the night I sleepless lie,
my soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
no pow'rs of darkness me distress.**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

