

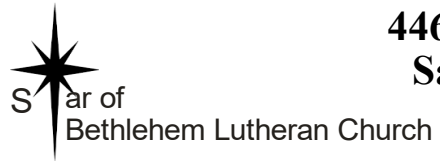
LENT

Midweek 2



REFLECTIONS
on
REPENTANCE

Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church



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

Worship Service

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent Midweek 2

Evening Prayer Vespers

OPENING HYMN: # 420, 1-3,5 “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

♪ **Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;
with your Spirit me endow for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
of your suff’ring, pain, and death that I may not perish.**

**Make me see your great distress, anguish, and affliction,
bonds and stripes and wretchedness and your crucifixion;
make me see how scourge and rod,
spear and nails did wound you,
how for them you died, O God,
who with thorns had crowned you.**

**Yet, O Lord, not thus alone make me see your passion,
but its cause to me make known and its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin wrought your deep affliction;
this indeed the cause has been of your crucifixion.**

Please stand for last verse:

**If my sins give me alarm and my conscience grieve me,
let your cross my fear disarm, peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won by your holy passion.
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!**



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.

Please be seated.

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 8

M: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C: **Set this glory of yours above the heavens.**

M: From the lips of little children and nursing babies you have established strength because of your foes,

C: **to put a stop to the enemy and the avenger.**

M: Whenever I look up at your heavens, the works of your fingers,

C: **the moon and the stars, which you have set in place—**

M: what is man that you remember him,

C: **the son of man that you pay attention to him!**

M: Nevertheless, you make him suffer need, apart from God for a while,

C: **but you crown him with glory and honor.**

M: You make him the ruler over the works of your hands.

C: You put everything under his feet:

M: O LORD, our Lord,

C: how majestic is your name in all the earth!

M: God our Father, we praise your name for the marvelous universe you have created, and we pray for humility to understand our role in it. Show us that your Son is the only man who can rule this world with true wisdom and power. Give us full confidence that all things are under the control of Christ, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit as one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

LESSON ONE

The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples, “You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted together how to arrest Jesus in some deceitful way and kill him. But they said, “Not during the Festival, or else there might be a riot among the people.”

Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. He went away and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. He promised to do it and was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them away from the crowd.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

A dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest. But he told them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. But it is not to be that way with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn’t it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have remained with me in my trials. I am going to grant a kingdom to you, just as my Father granted to me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end.

By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God. He got up from the supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus answered him, “You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand.”

Peter told him, “You will never, ever, wash my feet!”

Jesus replied, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with me.”

“Lord, not just my feet,” Simon Peter replied, “but also my hands and my head!”

Jesus told him, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all of you.” Indeed, he knew who was going to betray him. That is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again. “Do you understand what I have done for

you?” he asked them. “You call me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I have done for you. Amen, Amen, I tell you: A servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

HYMN: # 401:1-4 “There Is a Fountain”

♪ **There is a fountain filled with blood
drawn from Immanuel’s veins,
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains: lose all their guilty stains,
lose all their guilty stains,
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains.**

**The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away:
washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away
and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away.**

**Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood shall never lose its pow’r
till all the ransomed Church of God be saved, to sin no more:
be saved to sin, no more, be saved to sin, no more,
till all the ransomed Church of God be saved, to sin no more.**

**E’er since by faith I saw the stream your flowing wounds supply,
redeeming love has been my theme and shall be till I die:
and shall be till I die, and shall be till I die,
redeeming love has been my theme and shall be till I die.**

MESSAGE: Numbers 19:1-6,9-20

The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron: ²These are requirements of the law which the LORD has commanded.

Tell the Israelites to bring you a red heifer without blemish, one that has no defect and that has never been under a yoke.

³You are to give it to Eleazar the priest. He is to have it taken outside of the camp and slaughtered in his presence. ⁴With his finger Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting. ⁵The heifer is to be burned in his sight. Its hide, flesh, and blood are to be burned along with its manure. ⁶The priest will take cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet yarn and throw them onto the burning heifer.

⁹A man who is ceremonially clean is to gather up the heifer's ashes and place them outside of the camp in a clean place. They will be kept for the Israelite congregation to use to make the water for removing impurity. It is a sin offering. ¹⁰The one who gathers the heifer's ashes is to wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. This will be a permanent regulation for the Israelites and the aliens residing among them.

¹¹Whoever touches the body of a dead person will be unclean for seven days. ¹²He is to purify himself with the water on the third day, and he will become clean on the seventh day. But if he does not purify himself on the third day, then he will not become clean on the seventh day. ¹³Anyone who touches a dead human body but does not purify himself defiles the LORD's Dwelling. That person must be cut off from Israel. He is unclean, because he has not sprinkled himself with the water for removing impurity. His uncleanness is still on him.

¹⁴This is the law when someone dies in a tent: Everyone who comes into the tent and everyone who is in the tent will be unclean for seven days. ¹⁵Every open container without a lid on it is unclean.

¹⁶Anyone in the open countryside who touches someone killed by a sword or someone who has died, or anyone who touches a human bone or a grave, will be unclean for seven days.

¹⁷For the unclean person, take some of the ashes from the burnt sin offering, put them into a vessel, and add water from a flowing source to the ashes. ¹⁸A ceremonially clean person is to take hyssop, dip it in the water, and sprinkle the water on the tent, on all the items, and on the people who were there. He is also to sprinkle it on anyone who has touched someone who was killed or someone who has died and on anyone who has touched a grave or a human bone. ¹⁹The ceremonially clean person will sprinkle the unclean person on the third day and on the seventh day. On the seventh day, after the ceremonially clean person has purified the unclean person, that person will wash his clothes and bathe himself in water, and he will be clean at evening. ²⁰But anyone who is unclean and refuses to purify himself will be cut off from the midst of the assembly, because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD. The water for removing impurity was not sprinkled on him, so he remains unclean.

HYMN: # 409 “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

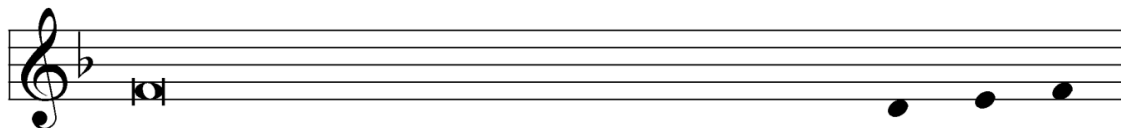
♪ **Jesus, refuge of the weary,
blest Redeemer, whom we love,
fountain in life’s desert dreary,
Savior from the world above,
often have your eyes, offended,
gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
yet, upon the cross extended,
you endured the pain of all.**

**Dare we pass that cross unheeding,
breathing no repentant vow,
as we see you wounded, bleeding,
see your thorn-encircled brow?
Since your sinless death has brought us
life eternal, peace, and rest,
only what your grace has taught us
calms the sinner’s deep distress.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning
with more fervent love for you!
May our eyes be ever turning
to behold your cross anew,
till in glory, parted never
from the blessed Savior’s side,
graven in our hearts forever
dwell the cross, the Crucified!**

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.

HYMN: # 794:1-3 “Now Rest beneath Night’s Shadow”

**♪ Now rest beneath night’s shadow
the woodland, field, and meadow;
the world in slumber lies.
But you, my heart, awaken,
with prayer and song be taken;
let praise to your Creator rise.**

**The rule of day is over
and shining jewels cover
the heaven’s boundless blue.
Thus I shall shine in heaven,
where crowns of gold are given
to all who faithful prove and true.**

**Lord Jesus, since you love me,
O spread your wings above me
and shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would assail me,
your mercy will not fail me;
I rest in your protecting arm.**