

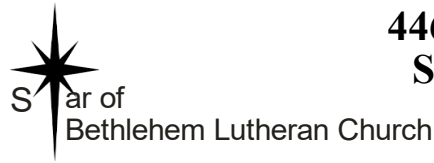
LENT

Midweek 4



REFLECTIONS
on
REPENTANCE

Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church



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Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent Midweek 4

Evening Prayer Vespers

OPENING HYMN: # 422, 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 saith, “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.”**

Please stand for last verse:

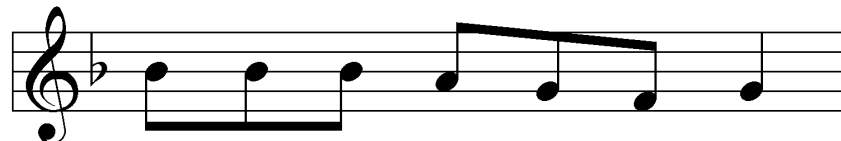
**“Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
I’ll bear what you command me.
My will conforms to your decree;
I’ll do what you have asked me.”
O wondrous Love, what have you done!
The Father offers up his Son, desiring our salvation.
O Love, how strong you are to save!
You make his bed within the grave
who built 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 132

M: Let us go to his dwelling place.

C: **Let us bow down at his footstool.**

M: Arise, O LORD, come to your resting place,

C: **you and the ark of your strength.**

M: May your priests be clothed with righteousness.

C: **May your favored ones shout for joy.**

M: For the LORD has chosen Zion.

C: **He has desired it for his dwelling.**

M: "This is my resting place forever.

C: **Here I will live, for I have desired it.**

M: I will bless her greatly with food.

C: I will satisfy Zion's poor with bread.

M: I will clothe her priests with salvation,

C: and her favored ones will shout for joy.

M: There I will make a horn shoot up for David.

C: I will set up a lamp for my Anointed One.

M: I will clothe his enemies with shame,

C: but on him his crown will be beautiful.”

M: Eternal God, you fulfilled your promise to give us a Messiah from David's household. In Jesus Christ you have clothed us with life and fed us with the living bread that came down from heaven.

Crowned with the victory of his resurrection, we shout for joy.

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: # 703 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

♪ I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light.
Look unto me; your morn shall rise
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till trav’ling days are done.

MESSAGE: Leviticus 23:33-36,39-43

³³The LORD told Moses ³⁴to tell the people of Israel this:

Beginning on the fifteenth day of this seventh month, celebrate the Festival of Shelters for seven days for the LORD. ³⁵On the first day proclaim a holy convocation. You shall not do any work for your regular occupation. ³⁶For seven days you shall bring an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day proclaim a holy convocation for yourselves, and you shall present an offering made by fire to the LORD. This is a closing ceremony. You shall not do any work for your regular occupation.

³⁹Beginning exactly on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, when you go to celebrate the festival of the LORD for seven days as a pilgrim, there shall be a complete sabbath rest on the first day and a complete sabbath rest on the eighth day. ⁴⁰On the first day you shall select for yourselves fruit from splendid trees, branches of palm trees,

boughs from leafy trees, and willows from by the stream—and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. ⁴¹Celebrate the festival for the LORD as a pilgrim for seven days each year. This is a permanent regulation throughout your generations. In the seventh month you shall celebrate the festival as a pilgrim. ⁴²You shall live in temporary shelters for seven days—every native-born person in Israel shall live in shelters—⁴³so that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel live in shelters when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

HYMN: # 638:1-5 “The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace”

♪ The gospel shows the Father’s grace,
who sent his Son to save our race,
proclaims how Jesus lived and died
that we might thus be justified.

It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
who made th’atoning sacrifice
and calls the souls with guilt oppressed
to come and find eternal rest.

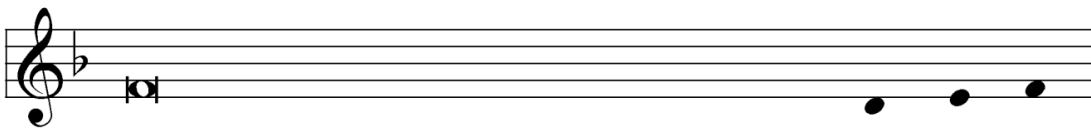
It brings the Savior’s righteousness
to robe our souls in royal dress;
from all our guilt it brings release
and gives the troubled conscience peace.

It is the pow’r of God to save
from sin and Satan and the grave;
it works the faith which firmly clings
to all the treasures which it brings.

It bears to all the tidings glad
and bids their hearts no more be sad;
the weary, burdened souls it cheers
and banishes their guilty fears.

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.



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: # 783:2,5,7 "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, O, 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!