

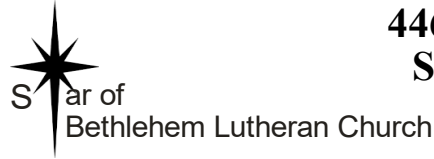
# LENT

## Midweek 5



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, April 2, 2025 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent Midweek 5

## Evening Prayer Vespers

OPENING HYMN: # 402 “Glory Be to Jesus”

♪ Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains  
poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;  
blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream  
which from endless torment did the world redeem.

Abel’s blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies,  
but the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting lifts its praise on high,  
angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.

*Please stand for last verse:*

Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood;  
louder still and louder praise the precious blood!



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 69

M: Save me, O God,

C: **for the waters have come up to my neck.**

M: Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs on my head.

C: **Those who want to destroy me, my lying enemies, are strong.**

M: May those who place their confidence in you

C: **not be put to shame because of me, O Lord, the LORD of Armies.**

M: May those who seek you not be disgraced because of me,

C: **O God of Israel.**

M: Zeal for your house consumes me.

C: **The scorn of those who scorn you falls on me.**

M: God, in the greatness of your mercy,

C: **answer me with the certainty of salvation from you.**

M: They put bitter poison in my food.

C: **For my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.**

M: The LORD listens to the needy,

C: **and he does not despise the captives who belong to him.**

M: Let heaven and earth praise him,

C: **the seas and all that move in them,**

M: for God will save Zion,

C: **and he will build the cities of Judah.**

M: I will praise God's name in song.

**C: I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.**

M: Lord God, through your Son you made the heavens and the earth; through him you continue to rule over all things. Make us, your chosen people, witnesses of your power and heralds of your glory to the praise of your unfailing love; through your Son, 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 Pass-over 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: # 538 “Jesus, My Great High Priest”** *(alternate melody)*

♪ **Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood and died;  
my guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside.  
His pow’rful blood did once atone,  
and now it pleads before the throne.**

**To Christ, my substitute, will I commit my cause;  
he answers and fulfills his Father’s broken laws.  
Behold my soul at freedom set—  
my Jesus paid the dreadful debt!**

**My advocate appears for my defense on high;  
a gracious Father hears and lays his thunder by.  
Not all that hell or sin can say  
shall turn his heart, his love, away.**

**Should all the hosts of death and pow’rs of hell unknown  
put their most dreadful forms of rage and mischief on,  
I shall be safe, for Christ displays  
superior pow’r and guardian grace.**

**MESSAGE: Exodus 28:1,2,15-17,21,29-31,33,35-38**

**Bring Aaron your brother near to you from among the people of Israel, and his sons with him, so that he may minister to me in the priest’s office. Bring Aaron and Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar, Aaron’s sons. <sup>2</sup>You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother to give him honor and splendor.**

**<sup>15</sup>You shall make a chest pouch to be used for making decisions, the work of a skillful craftsman.**

**You shall make it with the same workmanship as the vest. Make it from gold and from blue, purple, and scarlet material and from fine woven linen. <sup>16</sup>It is to be square when it is folded, nine inches by nine inches. <sup>17</sup>You shall arrange settings for precious stones on it, four rows of stones.**

**<sup>21</sup>There are to be twelve stones corresponding to the names of the sons of Israel. Each one shall be like an engraved seal, each with the name of one of the twelve tribes.**

**<sup>29</sup>Whenever he goes into the Holy Place, Aaron shall wear the pouch for making decisions, which bears the names of the sons of Israel, over his heart as a constant memorial before the LORD.**

**<sup>30</sup>You shall put the Urim and the Thummim into the pouch for making decisions, and they shall be over Aaron's heart whenever he goes before the LORD. Aaron shall bear the means of making decisions for the people of Israel on his heart before the LORD continually. <sup>31</sup>You shall make the robe that is to be worn under the vest. It is to be all blue.**

**<sup>33</sup>To be placed around its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet material. Alternate them with gold bells.**

**<sup>35</sup>The robe shall be on Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the Holy Place before the LORD and when he comes out, so that he will not die.**

**<sup>36</sup>You shall make a medallion of pure gold and engrave on it (like the engravings on a seal): HOLY TO THE LORD. <sup>37</sup>You shall attach it to a blue cord to fasten it to the turban. It is to be placed on the front of the turban. <sup>38</sup>It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron will bear any guilt in regard to the holy things, which the people of Israel consecrate as their holy gifts. The medallion shall always be on his forehead, so that the offerings may be accepted in the presence of the LORD.**

**HYMN: # 573:1-4 "Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"**

**♪ Jesus, your blood and righteousness  
my beauty are, my glorious dress;  
mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,  
with joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great day;  
who can a word against me say?  
Fully absolved through these I am  
from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

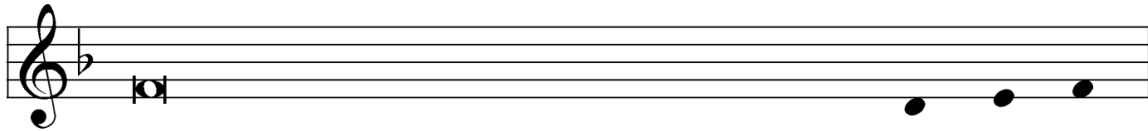


**Lord, I believe your precious blood,  
which at the very throne of God  
pleads for the captives' liberty,  
was also shed in love for me.**

**Lord, I believe were sinners more  
than sands upon the ocean shore,  
you have for all a ransom paid,  
for all a full atonement made.**

## **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.

**SONG OF SIMEON**  
*Nunc Dimittis*



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.

**BLESSING**



**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: # 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!

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