


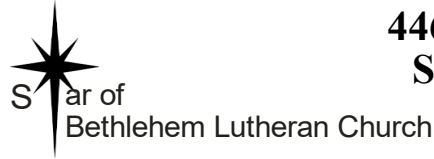
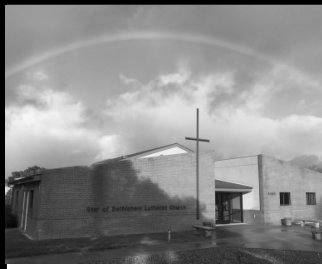
LENT

Midweek 6



 REFLECTIONS
on
REPENTANCE

 Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church



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Santa Maria, CA 93455
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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent Midweek 6

OPENING HYMN: # 394 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

♪ **Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
here a pure and healing fountain flows to you, to me, to all,
in a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within;
from infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,
wash your robes and make them white;
you shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition,
wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
here the guilty, free remission,
here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
they that drink shall thirst no more.**

Please stand for last verse:

**They that drink shall live forever; ’tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
signed when our Redeemer died,
sealed when he was glorified.**



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 40

M: I waited and waited for the LORD.

C: Then he turned to me and heard my cry.

M: LORD, you do not hold back your compassion from me.

C: Let your mercy and your truth always protect me,

M: although troubles without number surround me.

C: Punishments for my guilt have smothered me, so I cannot see.

M: They are more than the hairs of my head,

C: so my courage deserts me.

M: Be pleased, O LORD, to save me.

C: LORD, hurry to help me.

M: You are my help and my deliverer.

C: O my God, do not delay.

M: I waited and waited for the LORD.

C: Then he turned to me and heard my cry.

M: Then he put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

C: Many will see and fear. They will trust in the LORD.

M: How blessed is everyone who trusts in the LORD,

C: who does not look to the proud or to those who turn aside to falsehood.

M: Many are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God.

C: If I try to speak and tell about them, they are too many to count.

M: Lord Jesus, when the difficulties of life become more than we can bear and we find ourselves sinking into despair, put our feet back on the rock of your righteousness. You obeyed your Father's will on our behalf. When Satan would lead us to despair, give us the confidence to cry, "My Savior lived and died for me!" In his name we pray.

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: # 655 “Before You, God, the Judge of All”

♪ **Before you, God, the judge of all,
with grief and shame I humbly fall.
I see my sins against you, Lord,
my sins of thought and deed and word.
They press me sore; to you I flee:
O God, be merciful to me!**

**O Lord, my God, to you I pray:
O cast me not in wrath away!
Let your good Spirit ne'er depart,
but let him draw to you my heart
that truly penitent I be:
O God, be merciful to me!**

**O Jesus, let your precious blood
be to my soul a cleansing flood.
Turn not, O Lord, your guest away,
but grant that justified I may
go to my house at peace to be:
O God, be merciful to me!**

MESSAGE: Exodus 12:14-20, 24-27

¹⁴This day shall be a memorial for you, and you are to celebrate it as a festival to the LORD. Throughout your generations you must celebrate it as a permanent regulation. ¹⁵For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you must be sure to remove all yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day will be cut off from Israel.

¹⁶On the first day you are to have a holy convocation; also on the seventh day there is to be a holy convocation. You shall not do any work, except to prepare what everybody needs to eat. That is all you may do.

¹⁷You shall observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because on this very day I brought your divisions out from the land of Egypt. You shall observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent regulation. ¹⁸In the first month, you shall eat unleavened bread from the evening of the fourteenth day of the month until the evening of the twenty-first day of the month. ¹⁹No yeast is to be found in your houses for seven days, for whoever eats something leavened must be cut off from the Israelite community, whether a foreigner or native-born of the land. ²⁰You shall not eat anything leavened. You shall eat unleavened bread in every place you live.

²⁴“You shall observe these instructions as a perpetual regulation for you and your descendants. ²⁵When you enter the land that the LORD will give you just as he said he would, you shall observe this ceremony. ²⁶So when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ ²⁷you will say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Passover to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. When he struck the Egyptians, he spared our houses.’ ”

HYMN: # 519 “There Is a Redeemer”

♪ There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you oh my Father, for giving us your Son
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

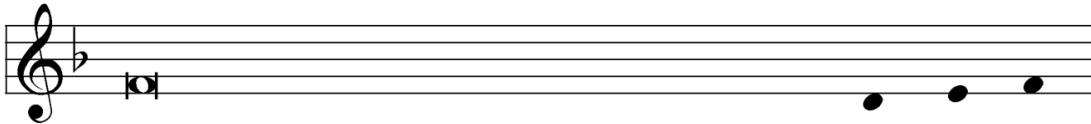
Jesus my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

**Thank you oh my Father, for giving us your Son
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.**

**When I stand in glory, I will see his face;
there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.
Thank you oh my Father, for giving us your Son
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.**

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: # 931 “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name”

♪ **Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.**

**Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with thee began, with thee shall end the day.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon thy name.**

**Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
turn thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep thy children free,
for dark and light are both alike to thee.**

**Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife.
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.**