

Lenten Service

April 6, 2022

LENT



CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD;
AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME.

PSALM 51:10

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor John Boor

April 6, 2022

Lenten Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

THE PRELUDE

Announcements

HYMN

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

LBW #482

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

As we continue our Lenten journey, we meet the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.

Pilate condemns Jesus to death by crucifixion.

Pilate tries to release Jesus,

but the crowds demand Barabbas

Pilate washes his hands of Jesus' blood.

But Pilate is still guilty. Pilate caves to blackmail.

Pilate cares more about keeping his position

Than he does about executing an innocent man.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Like Peter, we have all experienced the pain and guilt of past sins. We know that we have been far from perfect. Though we follow Jesus, our thoughts, words, and actions have been poor representations of Christ to the world. Yet, in His infinite mercy, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him for forgiveness and restoration.

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against You. We have denied You in what we have done and in what we have failed to do. We have failed to trust You in all things. Lord, forgive us, restore us, and remove our guilt.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . . **O God of steadfast love and mercy, on the cross Your Son forgave His enemies. Turn our hearts from hatred and evil that we may forgive the offenses of those who seek our harm and forgive as we have been forgiven. Rescue us in our time of peril and deliver us from bitterness and resentment; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

C Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 11:17-21

¹⁷ Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.”’ ¹⁸ When they come there, they will remove all its detestable things and all its abominations from it. ¹⁹ And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within ^[a] them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰ that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God. ²¹ ^[b] But as for those whose hearts go after their detestable things and abominations, I will bring their conduct down on their heads,” declares the Lord GOD.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

⁴ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, ² but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL: John 19:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹ Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; ³ and they *began* to come up to Him and say, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and to give Him slaps *in the face*. ⁴ Pilate came out again and *said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.” ⁵ Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. *Pilate* *said to them, “Behold, the Man!” ⁶ So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, “Crucify, crucify!” Pilate *said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” ⁷ The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out *to be* the Son of God.”

⁸ Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was *even* more afraid; ⁹ and he entered into the Praetorium again and *said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate *said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?” ¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has *the* greater sin.” ¹² As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying, “If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out *to be* a king opposes Caesar.”

¹³ Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he *said to the Jews, “Behold, your King!” ¹⁵ So they cried out, “Away with *Him*, away with *Him*, crucify Him!” Pilate *said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE

“PONTIUS PILATE”

PASTOR JOHN

Hymn

“There Is A Green Hill Far Away”

LBW #114

**There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all**

**We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us,
He hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiv'n
He died to make us good
That we might go at last to heav'n
Saved by his precious blood**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you

Offering

Prayers

PRAYER

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For all who seek the truth, that they might find the truth in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all whose hearts are hardened by sin, that their hearts might be softened and their desires turned to others, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For our president, vice president, and governor, that they might lead our nation and state, seeking truth, liberty, and justice, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all Senators and members of the House of Representatives, that they may represent their constituencies well, seeking not their own enhancement and advancement, but the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the justices of the Supreme Court and all judges throughout the nation, that the Holy Spirit would guide them to judge with wisdom and clarity, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have been deceived, whether by their own foolishness or by others, that God might deliver them from their enslavement to lies, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless and preserve you.

Amen.

“The Old Rugged Cross”

**On a hill far away stood an Old Rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain**

**So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown**

**To the Old Rugged Cross, I will ever be true
It's shame and reproach, gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share**

**And I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown**

(The congregation leaves in silence)

Season of Lent

Lent is a solemn time in the church year, yet it is filled with rich images of God's love. These images are often paradoxical and challenge our faith, but as we journey with Jesus to the cross we find ourselves with a deeper faith in the one who came to save us. The cross, with all of its shame and horror, is also the symbol of God's loving commitment to the whole creation. The cross seems foolish, but in reality it is the power of God to save.

