

Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974

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Pastor John Boor

March 1, 2023

Lent 1

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

THE PRELUDE

Announcements

Please stand

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

HYMN

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

LBW #107

Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, And the burden of the day

Upon that cross of Jesus My eye at times can see
The very dying form of One, Who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart, with tears, Two wonders I confess,
The wonders of His glorious love, And my own worthlessness.

I take, O cross, your shadow For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, My glory all the cross.

For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
So that in Him we might become the righteousness of God
But He was wounded for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
And with His stripes we are healed.

Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

With humble hearts, let us pray together:

Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray. We confess that we have not lived our lives as we ought, forgetting that You have called us to be the salt of the earth. Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us to forgive our sins, to redeem our lies, and to cancel the debt we owe to God. With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who "salts" us with His life-giving and life-preserving Word and with the sweetness of His forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you 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

Lord Jesus Christ, You call Your people to be the salt of the earth, to sweeten and preserve this world even as you have sweetened our lives with Your forgiveness and have preserved us by Your Spirit. Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word; For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading 2 Kings 2:19-20

¹⁹Now the men of the city said to Elisha, "Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful." ²⁰He

said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. ²¹Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, "Thus says the LORD, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it." ²²So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

Second Reading *Colossians 4:2-6*

²Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

⁵Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Gospel Verse

(sung)

**Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the fifth chapter

Glory to You, O Lord. (*sung*)

¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ. (*sung*)

Message

Salt: The Gift That Sweetens and Preserves

Pastor John

Hymn

"Lord, whose Love through Humble Service"

LBW #423

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

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.**

Offering

Prayers

PRAYER

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

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your death on the cross, You forgive the sins of all people. Help us to have compassion on others and reflect Your generous love to them, for all people are created in Your image. On our hearts imprint Your image,
blessèd Jesus, King of grace.

Lord, give us the strength to forgive others as You have forgiven us. On our hearts imprint Your image,
blessèd Jesus, King of grace.

Lord, embolden us to be generous with all the good gifts You have given us. Prevent us from any greed or dishonesty that would harm others and be a poor reflection upon You. On our hearts imprint Your image,
blessèd Jesus, King of grace.

Lord, instill in us a love for the poor that is not rooted in our superiority over them or in some vain hope of making ourselves feel better. Rather, teach us how to love in true humility and service. On our hearts imprint Your image,
blessèd Jesus, King of grace.

Lord, we pray for the leaders of this nation and of all the nations throughout the world, that Your wisdom would be upon them for the health and welfare of all people. On our hearts imprint Your image,
blessèd Jesus, King of grace.

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.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. 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.

Hymn

"The Old Rugged Cross" (Verse 1 & 2)

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)