

Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974
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Pastor John Boor
March 15, 2023
Lent 3
Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

Let there be light,” God said (Genesis 1:3). And there was light. Through the promised treasure of His Word, God keeps speaking to us. And because He does, there is light. Light from above! Light never-ending! Light that enlightens our way to life everlasting! Jesus Christ is this “light of the world” (John 8:12), the light no darkness can overcome. By His Word and Spirit, this light breaks through again today, enters our lives, and enables us to shine brightly for Him.

THE PRELUDE

Announcements

HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

LBW #104

**In the Cross of Christ I Glory, Tow’ring
O’er the wrecks of time. All the light of
Sacred story Gathers round its head sublime**

**When the woes of life o’er take me, Hopes deceive,
And fears annoy, Never shall the
Cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and
Love upon my way, from the cross the
Radiance streaming Adds mor luster to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the
Cross are sanctified; Peace is there that
Knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

Please stand

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

Amen

OPENING SENTENCES *2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5*

P For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,

C **so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**

P But He was wounded for our transgressions;

C **He was crushed for our iniquities;**

P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

C **and with His stripes we are healed.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1–11

P 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.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C **Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

P Even though You claimed us as Your own in the waters of Baptism, we often do not walk in the newness of life.

C **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**

P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

C **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.**

P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who blesses us with new birth in the water and the Spirit and assures us that our lives belong to Him. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world, and no amount of darkness in our world can overcome your presence shining in our lives. 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

Genesis 1:1–5

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

PSALM

Psalms 27:1–4, 13–14

P The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

C Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

P One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

C to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.

P I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

C Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. . . . ⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

John 8:12–18

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

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

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**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.**

PRAYER

- P Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.
- C **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**
- P Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**
- P Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.
- C **Enable us to see the blessings You have poured out into our lives through the washing of water with the Word.**
- P Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.
- C **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, 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.**

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.**

BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen.**

Hymn

“The Old Rugged Cross” (Verses 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)