

Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor John Boor

March 29, 2023

Lent 5

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

The pilgrims packed Jerusalem during the Feast of Passover, waving palm branches and singing praises to the donkey-riding King who came to save. Not knowing exactly how or even when He would declare His victory over His foes, the multitudes celebrated and were “altogether joyful” (Deuteronomy 16:15). We can have the same joy and gladness in our hearts today as Jesus comes to us through the promised treasures of His Word. Because we have received the full story of His saving actions for us, we are blessed to know that by His death and resurrection that week of Passover, our humble King has delivered us from our enemies—Satan, sin, and death. Let us together be “altogether joyful” in Jesus!

THE PRELUDE

Announcements

HYMN

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

LBW #121

**Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, thy road pursue
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
Ride on! ride on in majesty!**

**The winged-squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.
Ride on! ride on in majesty!**

**Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.**

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

Amen

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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1-11

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.

You call us to celebrate Your victory over death and the grave, but often we resign ourselves to defeat and refuse to give You our praise.

Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us – to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, 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. He is the eternal King of Israel, King David's royal Son, who in the Lord's name comes to bless us with life and salvation. 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.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . . **Holy God, mighty Lord, endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign. Your own Son has triumphed over sin and the grave and opened to us the gates of everlasting life. Purify our hearts in Him that we may be granted a share in His glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.**

AMEN

First Reading

Deuteronomy 16:13–17

¹³“You shall keep the Feast of Booths seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and your winepress. ¹⁴You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns. ¹⁵For seven days you shall keep the feast to the LORD your God at the place that the LORD will choose, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

¹⁶“Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. ¹⁷Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that He has given you.”

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Please stand

GOSPEL VERSE

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

HOLY GOSPEL *John 7:28–39*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁸So Jesus proclaimed, as He taught in the temple, “You know Me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of My own accord. He who sent Me is true, and Him you do not know. ²⁹I know Him, for I come from Him, and He sent Me.” ³⁰So they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. ³¹Yet many of the people believed in Him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will He do more signs than this man has done?”

³²The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Him. ³³Jesus then said, “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to Him who sent Me. ³⁴You will seek Me and you will not find Me. Where I am you cannot come.” ³⁵The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? ³⁶What does He mean by saying, ‘You will seek Me and you will not find Me,’ and, ‘Where I am you cannot come’?”

³⁷On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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

- 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 **Inspire us by the palm-waving pilgrims who sang Your praises as You entered Jerusalem. Enter our lives that we may have victory in You amid the pain and adversity of this world.**
- 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" (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.)