

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor John Boor

February 28, 2024

Lent 3

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the subject of all the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments. But some passages say puzzling and seemingly impossible things about Him. Consider Psalm 41:4: "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You." David, the writer of this psalm, was indeed a sinner who needed God's gracious forgiveness. How puzzling it is that we would apply this confession of sin to our sinless Lord! But Paul writes, "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). In your Baptism, your sinless Jesus has joined Himself to you and has fulfilled all the words that testify of Him.

THE PRELUDE

Announcements

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.**

**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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philipians 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

2 Samuel 12:15b-23

P A reading from Second Samuel, the twelfth chapter.

^{15b}The LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. ¹⁶David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." ¹⁹But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." ²⁰Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. ²¹Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when

the child died, you arose and ate food.” ²²He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ ²³But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”

PSALM

Psalm 41:3-5

- A May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.
- C May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.**
- A The LORD sustains him on his sickbed;
in his illness You restore him to full health.
As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against You!”
My enemies say of me in malice,
“When will he die and his name perish?”
- C May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

P A reading from First Peter, the second chapter.

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. ²³When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. ²⁴He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord. (sung)

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE

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.

OFFERING

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" (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)