

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor John Boor

March 20, 2024

Lent 5

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

In Psalm 41:7-8, David lamented, "All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, 'A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.'" These words pointed forward to our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose again in defiance of His enemies. Do you have enemies who whisper and scheme against you? Have you been brought low – perhaps so low that you despair of ever rising again? Jesus was vindicated in His resurrection, and you shall be too. You can have certainty in your resurrection and vindication because Jesus Christ is risen.

THE PRELUDE

Announcements

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

Amen

OPENING SENTENCES

P O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, your road pursue,
With palms and scattered garments strewed.

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 wond'ring eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on his sapphire throne
Awaits his own anointed Son.

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

Jeremiah 9:12-16

A reading from Jeremiah, the ninth chapter.

¹²Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? ¹³And the LORD says: "Because they have forsaken My law that I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice or walked in accord with it, ¹⁴but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. ¹⁵Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink. ¹⁶I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them."

A reading from Second Timothy, the third chapter.

¹But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

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

Matthew 26:1-5

P The Holy Gospel according St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said to His disciples, ²"You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." ³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill Him. ⁵But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

LBW #296

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st 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
Has broken ev'ry 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

- 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

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 & 4)

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)