



March 8, 2023

The Third Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand* “Christ the Life of All the Living” (vv. 1–4 & 7)

- ♪ Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- ♪ Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- ♪ Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- ♪ Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee. All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me And with heav’nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- ♪ Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 420 -Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg 1605-81, tr.Catherine Winkworth 1827-78
Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt 1687, setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain.*

Invocation

This is the day which the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

The name of the Lord is to be praised.

Psalm 113:3

Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

Joel 2:13

Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Matthew 16:24

Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

He was bruised for our iniquities.

Isaiah 53:5

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

The name of the Lord is to be praised.

Psalm 113:3

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.

Old Testament Canticle *Please Be Seated* Music: "Alas, and Did", Hymn 437

- ♪ The Lord God is my strength and song. My salvation, He is
With joy will you draw water from, The wells of salvation.
- ♪ And you will say in that great day: "Give thanks to the Lord God."
Call on His name, make known His deeds; Exalted be His name.
- ♪ Sing praises to the Lord always, For He is glorious.
Let this be known in all the earth, O shout and sing for joy.
- ♪ Glory to God the Father, sing; Glory to Christ, our King.
And Holy Spirit, Three in One; 'Tis now, and evermore.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:8–15

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

The Epistle

Romans 3:21–26

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Gradual Hymn

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

- ♪ Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov' reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?
- ♪ Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!
- ♪ Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures' sin.
- ♪ Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
- ♪ But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away: 'Tis all that I can do.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 437 -Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748;

Tune: Hugh Wilson 1764-1824, setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:47–68

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” ⁴⁹And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. ⁵¹And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled. ⁵⁷Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” ⁶²And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” ⁶³But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.” ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸saying, “Prophesy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

Responsory

We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 2:1

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Mark 10:33

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalms 32:1

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Mark 10:33

We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 2:1

He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Mark 10:33

The Hymn

“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” (vv. 1–5 & 15)

♪ O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken

That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?

Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession, What dark transgression?

♪ They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;

With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;

They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee; They crucify Thee.

- ♪ Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, This I do merit.
- ♪ What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him, Who would not know Him.
- ♪ The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted; God is committed.
- ♪ And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 439 -Text: Johann Heermann 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78;
Tune: Johann Crüger 1598-1662; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Catechism

Our Father who art in heaven. What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

Hallowed be Thy name. What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Thy kingdom come. What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father give us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Give us this day our daily bread. What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation. What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

But deliver us from evil. What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen. What does this mean?

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

Proclamation of the Word

“Clubs and Swords”

Matthew 26:47–68

The Hymn

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

- ♪ Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.
- ♪ Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
- ♪ Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.
- ♪ They that drink shall live forever; ’Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 435 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854

Tune: Ludwig M. Lindeman 1812-87, setting: Lutheran Book of Worship 1978; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

The Prayer *Please Stand*

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.

New Testament Canticle *Music: "Abide With Me," Hymn 878*

- ♪ Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise; Of heav'nly joy and earthly peace we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord, God, Almighty Father, heav'nly King.
- ♪ Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son, You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won, Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.
- ♪ Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord, At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored, With all the heav'nly host we glorify

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 946; Text: Edwin Le Grice 1911-92; ©1991 Kevin Mayhew;
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Benediction

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

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

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

- ♪ Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- ♪ Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
- ♪ Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.
- ♪ Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 436 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854; Tune: Richard Redhead 1820-1901;
Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Postlude

Door Offering