



March 15, 2023

The Fourth Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow”

♪ Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, Where the blood of Christ was shed,  
Perfect Man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled!

♪ Here the King of all the ages, Throned in light ere worlds could be,  
Robed in mortal flesh is dying, Crucified by sin for me.

♪ O mysterious condescending! O abandonment sublime!  
Very God Himself is bearing All the sufferings of time!

♪ Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, Where the blood of Christ was shed,  
Perfect Man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 428 -Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson 1860-1952  
Tune: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## 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

Isaiah 59:1–13

<sup>1</sup>Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;  
<sup>2</sup>but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,  
and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.  
<sup>3</sup>For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity;  
your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness.  
<sup>4</sup>No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly;  
they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.  
<sup>5</sup>They hatch adders' eggs; they weave the spider's web;  
he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched.  
<sup>6</sup>Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make.  
Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands.  
<sup>7</sup>Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood;  
their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways.  
<sup>8</sup>The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths;  
they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.  
<sup>9</sup>Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us;  
we hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.  
<sup>10</sup>We grope for the wall like the blind; we grope like those who have no eyes;  
we stumble at noon as in the twilight, among those in full vigor we are like dead men.  
<sup>11</sup>We all growl like bears; we moan and moan like doves;  
we hope for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us.  
<sup>12</sup>For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us;  
for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities:  
<sup>13</sup>transgressing, and denying the LORD, and turning back from following our God,  
speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

## The Epistle

2 Timothy 2:8–13

<sup>8</sup>Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, <sup>9</sup>for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! <sup>10</sup>Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup>The saying is trustworthy, for:  
If we have died with him, we will also live with him;  
<sup>12</sup>if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;  
<sup>13</sup>if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

## Gradual Hymn

“We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died”

- ♪ We sing the praise of Him who died, Of Him who died upon the cross.  
The sinner's hope let all deride; For this we count the world but loss.
- ♪ Inscribed upon the cross we see In shining letters, “God is love.”  
He bears our sins upon the tree; He brings us mercy from above.
- ♪ The cross! It takes our guilt away; It holds the fainting spirit up;  
It cheers with hope the gloomy day And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.
- ♪ It makes the coward spirit brave And nerves the feeble arm for fight;  
It takes the terror from the grave And gilds the bed of death with light;

♪ The balm of life, the cure of woe, The measure and the pledge of love,  
The sinner's refuge here below, The angel's theme in heav'n above.

♪ To Christ, who won for sinners grace By bitter grief and anguish sore,  
Be praise from all the ransomed race Forever and forevermore.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 429-Text: Thomas Kelly 1769-1855; Tune: Daniel Read 1757-1836;  
Setting: Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:69–27:10

<sup>69</sup>Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” <sup>71</sup>And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>72</sup>And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” <sup>73</sup>After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup>Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

<sup>1</sup>When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. <sup>2</sup>And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>3</sup>Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, <sup>4</sup>saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” <sup>5</sup>And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup>But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.” <sup>7</sup>So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. <sup>8</sup>Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, <sup>10</sup>and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.”

## 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

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”

♪ Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain  
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.

♪ But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;  
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.

♪ My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,  
While as a penitent I stand, And there confess my sin.

♪ My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear  
When hanging on the cursèd tree; I know my guilt was there.

♪ Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;  
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 431 -Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: William Daman c.1540-91  
Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Catechism

You shall have no other gods. What does this mean?

**We should fear, love, and trust God above all things.**

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. What does this mean?

**We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.**

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. What does this mean?

**We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.**

Honor your father and your mother. What does this mean?

**We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love, and cherish them.**

You shall not murder. What does this mean?

**We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**

You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean?

**We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.**

You shall not steal. What does this mean?

**We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.**

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. What does this mean?

**We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.**

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. What does this mean?

**We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.**

You shall not covet you neighbor's wife, or manservant, or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. What does this mean?

**We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.**

## Proclamation of the Word

“A Rooster and Rope”

Matthew 26:69–27:10

## The Hymn

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

- ♪ Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!  
‘Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, ‘tis He, ‘tis He!  
‘Tis the long-expected Prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: ‘Tis the true and faithful Word.
- ♪ Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His?  
Friends thro’ fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.
- ♪ Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load;  
‘Tis the Word, the Lord’s anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.
- ♪ Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost:  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, Is the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 451 -Text: Thomas Kelly 1769-1855; Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn 1850;  
Setting: Paul G. Bunjes 1914-98; ©1982 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; 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;  
Used by permission, LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## **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**

“Upon the Cross Extended” (vv. 1–3 & 7)

- ♪ Upon the cross extended See, world, your Lord suspended.  
Your Savior yields His breath. The Prince of Life from heaven  
Himself has freely given To shame and blows and bitter death.
- ♪ Come, see these things and ponder, Your soul will fill with wonder  
As blood streams from each pore. Through grief beyond all knowing  
From His great heart came flowing Sighs welling from its deepest core.
- ♪ Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so sore abused You  
And caused You all Your woe? We all must make confession  
Of sin and dire transgression While You no ways of evil know.
- ♪ Your cross I place before me; Its saving pow’r restore me,  
Sustain me in the test. It will, when life is ending,  
Be guiding and attending My way to Your eternal rest.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 453 -Text: Paul Gerhardt 1607-76; tr. John Kelly 1833-90;  
Tune: Heinrich Isaac c.1450-1517, Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain.*

## **Postlude**

## **Door Offering**