



March 29, 2023

The Sixth Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

- ♪ When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.
- ♪ Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
- ♪ See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- ♪ Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 425-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748;
Tune: Lowell Mason 1792-1872; 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

Deuteronomy 31:1–8

¹So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. ²And he said to them, “I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The LORD has said to me, ‘You shall not go over this Jordan.’ ³The LORD your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the LORD has spoken. ⁴And the LORD will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. ⁵And the LORD will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. ⁶Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

⁷Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. ⁸It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 4:7–12

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Gradual Hymn

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

- ♪ My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me, Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be. Oh, who am I
That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
- ♪ He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!
- ♪ Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King. Then “Crucify!”
Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
- ♪ Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight. Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.
- ♪ They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away; A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay. Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.
- ♪ In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave. What may I say?
Heav'n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

♪ Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 430 -Text: Samuel Crossman c.1624-83; Tune: John N. Ireland 1879-1902
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Holy Gospel

Matthew 27:27–54

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

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

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1 John 2:1

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

Mark 10:33

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.

Catechism

What is confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John, the Evangelist, writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” *John 20:22-23*

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Proclamation of the Word

“Thorns and the Cross”

Matthew 27:27–54

The Hymn

“Were You There”

- ♪ Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- ♪ Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
- ♪ Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
- ♪ Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Oh... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 456 -Text & Tune: African American Spiritual, 19th cent.;
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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

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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

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

- ♪ Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.
- ♪ Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner’s deep distress.
- ♪ Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior’s side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423 -Text: Girolamo Savonarola 1452-98; tr. James F. Wilde 1826-96;
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Postlude

Door Offering