



March 6, 2024

The Fourth Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

- ♪ Jesus, Lover of my soul, Let me to thy bosom fly While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide. Oh, receive my soul at last!
- ♪ Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on Thee. Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me! All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.
- ♪ Wilt Thou not regard my call, Wilt Thou not accept my prayer? Lo, I sink, I faint, I fall;
Lo, on Thee I cast my care; Reach me out Thy gracious hand! While I of Thy strength receive
Hoping against hope, I stand, Dying, and behold, I live!
- ♪ Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find. Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind. Just and holy is Thy name; I am all unrighteousness,
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.
- ♪ Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the Fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee; Spring Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.

The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn 345-Text: Charles Wesley 1707-1788; Tune: Simeon B. Marsh 1798-1875; Public Domain

Opening Sentences *Please Be Seated*

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth shall declare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15

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.

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

O come, let us worship Him.

Venite

Psalm 95:1–7

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with shouts of praise.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also.

The sea is His, for He made it; and His hand formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

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.

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

O come, let us worship Him.

Office 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.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

Joshua 3:1–6

¹Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. ²At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³and commanded the people, “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. ⁴Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.” ⁵Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” ⁶And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

The Epistle

1 John 1:1–10

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Gradual Hymn

“Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing” v. 3

♪ If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 421 -Text: Johann Heermann 1585-1647; Tune Johann Balthasar König 1691-1758;
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Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

John 19:1–16a

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.” ⁷The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” ¹¹Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“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;
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Proclamation of the Word

“Whom Do We Follow?”

John 19:1–16a

Apostles' Creed *Please Stand*

Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You have given to all who believe exceedingly great and precious promises. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may without all doubt trust in Your Son, Jesus Christ, so that our faith in Your sight may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who has taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on You and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

♪ Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding,
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

♪ Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth here-after.
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

♪ Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death.
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.

♪ Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 685 - Text: Sigismund von Birken 1626-81; ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship;
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Postlude

Door Offering