



March 20, 2024

The Sixth Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

- ♪ Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
- ♪ Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
- ♪ Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives’ liberty, Was also shed in love for me.
- ♪ Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.
- ♪ When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- ♪ Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 563 -Text: Nicolaus Ludwig Zinzendorf 1700-60; tr. John B. Wesley 1703-91;
Tune: George J. Elvey 1816-93; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Opening Sentences

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 *Please Be Seated*

“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.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 17:8–13

⁸Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. ⁹So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” ¹⁰So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. ¹²But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. ¹³And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

The Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–28

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

²³Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Gradual Hymn

“Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing” v. 5

♪ O my God, my rock and tower, Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.

*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 19:28–42

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“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
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Proclamation of the Word

“Jesus Finishes the Battle”

John 19:28–42

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*

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

- ♪ O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown. O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.
- ♪ How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn! Grim death, with cruel rigor,
Hath robbed Thee of Thy life; Thus Thou has lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.
- ♪ What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place; Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.
- ♪ My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine. Thy lips have often fed me
With words of truth and love; Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.
- ♪ What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? O make me Thine forever!
And should I fainting be Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.
- ♪ My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door; Then let Thy presence cheer me,
Forsake me nevermore! When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!
- ♪ Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die; Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh. Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell, My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 450 -Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux 1091-1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt 1607-76;
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Postlude

Door Offering