



Lenten Midweek Five

Ascension Lutheran Church
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Lenten Midweek Five – March 2023, 2024

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

2024 Lenten Midweek Series:

“You Meant It For Evil, But God Meant It For Good”

Each year on Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion, we read the full Passion account at the end of the service. The Passion narrates Jesus’ last hours of life, including His crucifixion and burial. Throughout most of the Church’s history, Palm Sunday solely focused on Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Church services typically featured a processional of palms, accompanied by an atmosphere of excitement as the Savior had arrived. However, many Christians attending only Sunday services missed the profound experience of the Passion, an integral part of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. In response, the Church incorporated the complete Passion account reading at the conclusion of Palm Sunday services to remind those who attend only on Sundays of the suffering and death that Jesus endured for our redemption.

This year, we will dedicate additional time to the Passion account. Each midweek service in Lent will include a reading from the Gospel of Luke. Commencing with Ash Wednesday, we will journey through the final hours of Jesus’ life. Luke provides unique insights into this important time, offering much to gain from contemplation and meditation on this writing. Our readings will be drawn from Luke 22-24, exploring instances where evil sought to prevail, but God’s will ultimately triumphed for good. Rather than confining your exposure to the Passion account to Palm Sunday alone, we invite you to join us every Wednesday to reflect on our Savior’s last hours. Your Lenten journey promises to be enriched with new insights and a deeper appreciation for the saving grace of God.

+ PREPARATION +

Theme: “That Day, and Today”

Sometimes evil is so overwhelming, the voices of criticism and insults are so loud, and the waves of suffering are so difficult that we miss God’s promises. So often, God comes to us in small ways, in little voices, and in the ordinary. Today Jesus is given over to death on a cross so we might live. The crowd, the religious leaders, the soldiers, and even one of the criminals suffering the same fate as Jesus were all heaping insults and screaming at Him. However, the voice of another criminal, one who committed an evil act that condemned him (unlike Jesus, who was without sin), is the one voice that points to God’s work for good. This man believed and was brought into the kingdom on that very day. But always remember, we also have the same victory by Jesus’ work on the cross *right now*. The trials and tribulations threaten to overwhelm, but through faith we win!

Prelude

Welcome

Lamb Of God

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side;
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God.

Chorus

**Oh, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Your gift of love they crucified.
They laughed and scorned Him as He died.
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **(chorus)**

I was so lost. I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side;
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God. **(chorus)**

Lamb Of God, Paris, Twila © 1985 Straightway Music / Mountain Spring Music. CCLI License No. 759893

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalm 22:1-11; 16-26

(odd verses – **P**; even verses – **C**)

¹My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

Why are You so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

²**O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet You are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴**In You our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and You delivered them.**

⁵To You they cried and were rescued;
in You they trusted and were not put to shame.

**⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

**⁸“He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver him;
let Him rescue him, for He delights in him!”**

⁹Yet You are He who took me from the womb;
You made me trust You at my mother’s breasts.

**¹⁰On You was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother’s womb You have been my God.**

¹¹Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

**¹⁶For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—**

¹⁷I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;

**¹⁸they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.**

¹⁹But You, O LORD, do not be far off!
O You my help, come quickly to my aid!

**²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!**

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

**²²I will tell of Your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise You:**

²³You who fear the LORD, praise Him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him,
and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!

**²⁴For He has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and He has not hidden His face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to Him.**

²⁵From You comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear Him.

**²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek Him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!**

Theme Reading

Luke 23:26-43 (ESV)

²⁶ And as they led Him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ And there followed Him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for Him. ²⁸ But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" ³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments.

³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over Him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And He said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise."

Forgive Them, O My Father (tune: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded)

'Forgive them, O My Father,
they know not what they do:'
the Savior spoke in anguish,
as the sharp nails went through.
No word of anger spake He
to them that shed His blood,
but prayer and tenderest pity
large as the love of God.

For me was that compassion,
for me that tender care;
I need His wide forgiveness
as much as any there.
It was my pride and hardness
that hung Him on the tree;
those cruel nails, O Savior,
were driven in by me.

And often I have slighted
Thy gentle voice that chides:
forgive me too, Lord Jesus;
I knew not what I did.
O depth of sweet compassion!
O love divine and true!
Save thou the souls that slight Thee,
and know not what they do.

Message

“THAT DAY, AND TODAY”

Pr. Jim Sprengle

Luke 23:26-43

Jesus, Remember Me



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

Jesus, Remember Me, Text: Luke 23:42, Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–94, Text and tune: © 1981 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

Tithes and Offerings

Please place your offering in the basket provided. (*Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.*)

Prayer

Sweet Hour Of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By Thy return sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer,
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him, Whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care,
And wait for Thee sweet hour of prayer.

(following each petition):

P Hear us, O Lord,
C for Your mercy is great.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ,
Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day;
and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I
have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night.
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.

Closing Reflection ~

“Last Words”

- P** O dying Christ, I hear You speak.
Your body hangs, so pale and weak,
- C** **Yet love is strong And still aware.**
Your heart is planning for another's care.
- P** Tormented Christ, I hear You pray
The words that only love can say:
“Father, forgive!” What selfless prayer!
Your thoughts are mercy as You suffer there!
- P** Forsaken Christ, I hear You cry.
You scream Your pain, but no reply.
- C** **Abandoned here, Alone in death,**
You trust Your Father with Your final breath.

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Blessing

- P** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to
everlasting life.
- C** Amen.

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 sinners such as I?

Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears.

But tears of grief cannot repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do.

Acknowledgments

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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