

March 10, 2021 – Lent IV

LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN WREATH

OPENING HYMN – LSB 729

“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”

♩ 1. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
great and free.

♩ 2. I am trusting Thee, for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
trusting now.

♩ 3. I am trusting Thee, for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
by Thy blood.

♩ 4. I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev’ry day and hour supplying
all my need.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?

C: My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

P: My eyes are ever on the Lord,

C: For only He will release my feet from the snare.

P: The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground –

C: Trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.

P: And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;”

C: “But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

P: “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Lord, we confess that, by nature, we are blind to your Word and will. Too often we shut our eyes to Your loving truth.

C: Father in heaven, forgive us!

P: Lord, we confess that we too often fail to see the good You have planned and the blessings You have given. We become ensnared in Satan’s temptations.

C: Christ our Savior, forgive us!

P: Lord, we confess that we have resisted your call to open our eyes, and look at the fields, ripe for a harvest of those who do not know You.

C: Holy Spirit, forgive us!

All:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Amen

P: Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me...He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind..." He opens our eyes and hearts to the good news of His forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 32:36-40

For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants,
when he sees that their power is gone
and there is none remaining, bond or free.
Then he will say, 'Where are their gods,
the rock in which they took refuge,
who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their drink offering?
Let them rise up and help you;
let them be your protection!
"See now that I, even I, am he,
and there is no god beside me;
I kill and I make alive;
I wound and I heal;
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.
For I lift up my hand to heaven
and swear, As I live forever,

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”
“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PASSION HISTORY ACCORDING TO THE FOUR GOSPELS

Part IV – HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE

Liturgist:

To avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

PEOPLE:

“IF HE WERE NOT A CRIMINAL,” THEY REPLIED, “WE WOULD NOT HAVE HANDED HIM OVER TO YOU.”

Liturgist:

Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

PEOPLE:

“BUT WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO EXECUTE ANYONE,” THE JEWS OBJECTED.

Liturgist:

This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. And they began to accuse him, saying,

PEOPLE:

“WE HAVE FOUND THIS MAN SUBVERTING OUR NATION. HE OPPOSED PAYMENT OF TAXES TO CAESAR AND CLAIMS TO BE CHRIST, A KING.”

Liturgist:

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Pastor:

“Is that your idea, or did others talk to you about me?”

Liturgist:

“Do you think that I am a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

Pastor:

“My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

Liturgist:

“You are a king then,” said Pilate.

Pastor:

“You are right in saying I am a king.” In fact, for this reason I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

Liturgist:

“What is truth?” Pilate asked.

PEOPLE:

THEN PILATE TOOK JESUS AND HAD HIM FLOGGED. THE SOLDIERS LED JESUS AWAY INTO THE PALACE AND CALLED TOGETHER THE WHOLE COMPANY OF SOLDIERS. THEY PUT A PURPLE ROBE ON HIM, THEN WOVE A CROWN OF THORNS AND SET IT ON HIM AND THEY BEGAN TO CALL OUT TO HIM. “HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS!” AGAIN, AND AGAIN THEY STRUCK HIM ON THE HEAD WITH A STAFF AND SPIT ON HIM. FALLING TO THEIR KNEES, THEY WORSHIPPED HIM.

Liturgist:

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

PEOPLE:

AS SOON AS THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THEIR OFFICIALS SAW HIM, THEY SHOUTED, “CRUCIFY! CRUCIFY!”

Liturgist

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

PEOPLE:

THE JEWS INSISTED, “WE HAVE A LAW, AND ACCORDING TO THAT LAW HE MUST DIE, BECAUSE HE CLAIMED TO BE THE SON OF GOD.”

Liturgist:

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate asked. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

Pastor:

“You have no power over me that was not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

Liturgist:

On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and teachers of the law were standing there vehemently accusing him.

PEOPLE:

THEN HEROD AND HIS SOLDIERS RIDICULED AND MOCKED HIM. DRESSING HIM IN AN ELEGANT ROBE, THEY SENT HIM BACK TO PILATE. THAT DAY HEROD AND PILATE BECAME FRIENDS – BEFORE THIS DAY THEY HAD BEEN ENEMIES.

Liturgist:

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him, neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and release him.”

PEOPLE:

NOW IT WAS THE GOVERNOR’S CUSTOM AT THE FEAST TO RELEASE A PRISONER CHOSEN BY THE CROWD. AT THAT TIME THEY HAD A NOTORIOUS PRISONER CALLED BARABBAS. SO WHEN THE CROWD HAD GATHERED, PILATE ASKED THEM,

Liturgist:

“Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

PEOPLE:

WHILE PILATE WAS SITTING ON THE JUDGE’S SEAT, HIS WIFE SENT HIM THIS MESSAGE: “DON’T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT INNOCENT MAN, BECAUSE I HAVE SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL TODAY IN A DREAM ON ACCOUNT OF HIM.” BUT THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE ELDERS PURSUADED THE CROWD TO ASK FOR BARABBAS AND TO HAVE JESUS EXECUTED.

Liturgist:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE:

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN – LSB 739

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

♩ 1. Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord;
lead me home.

♩ 2. When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord;
lead me home.

♩ 3. When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord;
Lead me home.

SERMON

Who is this?

“Raising the Widow’s Son”

Rev. Craig Meyer

OFFERING

PRAYER

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

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN – LSB 702

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

♩ 1. My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

♩ 2. May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm and changeless be,
A living fire!

♪ 3. While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

♪ 4. When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

P: May the name of the Lord be praised.

C: Yes, the name of the Lord be praised! Amen.