

Lenten Midweek Worship

“When You See Such Blind Ignorance, What Do You Think?”

February 28, 2024

6:30 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

The familiar words of the Patriarch Joseph, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good” (*Genesis 50:20 ESV*) capture the uniqueness of Luke’s account of Jesus’s suffering, death, and resurrection. Enemies, faithless disciples, hapless crowds, pragmatic powerbrokers, and Satan himself are all arrayed against the perfectly innocent Son of God. Through them, one evil purpose comes to pass: Jesus’s destruction. God the Father, however, puts their plan to use and then overturns it in the victory that no one expected.

PRELUDE

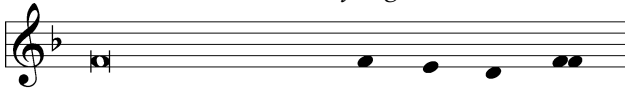
“O Dearest Jesus”

setting by John Behnke

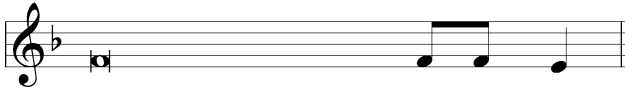
The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God.

WELCOME AND EXCHANGE OF PEACE

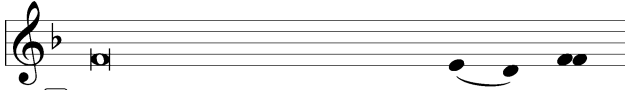
PROCESSION *(Service of Light)*



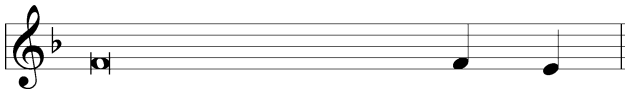
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



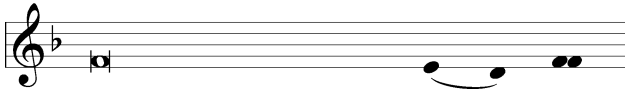
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.



L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

HYMN

886 The Day Thou Gavest

PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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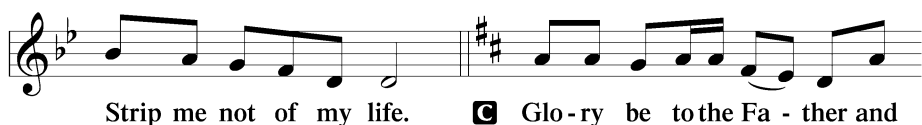
Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PSALMODY

Psalm 141





PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.
Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before
You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us
that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with
the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and
may glorify You forever.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT

Hosea 4:1-6

¹ Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land:

"There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. ² There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. ³ Because of this the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying.

⁴ "But let no man bring a charge, let no man accuse another, for your people are like those who bring charges against a priest. ⁵ You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother-- ⁶ my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written:

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" —

¹⁰ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. ¹⁴ The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“The Perfect Wisdom of Our God”

Getty

*The perfect wisdom of our God
Revealed in all the universe:
All things created by His hand
And held together at His command.
He knows the mysteries of the seas,
The secrets of the stars are His;
He guides the planets on their way
And turns the earth through another day.*

*The matchless wisdom of His ways
That mark the path of righteousness;
His word a lamp unto my feet,
His Spirit teaching and guiding me.
And O the mystery of the cross,
That God should suffer for the lost,
So that the fool might shame the wise,
And all the glory might go to Christ!*

*O grant me wisdom from above,
To pray for peace and cling to love,
And teach me humbly to receive
The sun and rain of Your sovereignty.
Each strand of sorrow has a place
Within this tapestry of grace;
So through the trials I choose to say:
“Your perfect will in Your perfect way.”*

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second and twenty third chapters.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 22:63-23:1

⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.

⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?"

⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.

⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. ⁶⁷ "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." ⁷⁰ They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am." ⁷¹ Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

Pastor: 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 descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. 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.

HYMN OF THE WORD

573 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

"When You See Such Blind Ignorance, What Do You Think?"

Please stand

MAGNIFICAT

- 1 My soul rejoices,
My spirit voices—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior
Has shown me favor—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing,
Join in confessing
God, who is solely
Mighty and holy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely
Shall rest securely
On all who fear Him,
Love and revere Him—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
- 2 His arm now baring,
His strength declaring—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters,
Their rule He shatters—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted;
The meek exalted.
Full are the hungry;
Empty, the wealthy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token
All that was spoken
To Abr'ham's offspring
God is fulfilling—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

OFFERING

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" setting by Thomas Keesecker

Please stand

LITANY

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ give thanks to the Lord:
People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

(silence for meditation)

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.
People: To You, O Lord.

(continued on next page)

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

People: Amen.

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

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

580 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

- 1 The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
 Who sent His Son to save our race,
 Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
 That we might thus be justified.
- 2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
 Who made the atoning sacrifice,
 And calls the souls with guilt oppressed
 To come and find eternal rest.
- 3 It brings the Savior's righteousness
 To robe our souls in royal dress;
 From all our guilt it brings release
 And gives the troubled conscience peace.
- 4 It is the pow'r of God to save
 From sin and Satan and the grave;
 It works the faith which firmly clings
 To all the treasures which it brings.
- 5 It bears to all the tidings glad
 And bids their hearts no more be sad;
 The weary, burdened souls it cheers
 And banishes their guilty fears.
- 6 May we in faith its message learn
 Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
 May we in faith its truth confess
 And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

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POSTLUDE

“Fugue in D Minor”

Felix Mendelssohn

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Robert Briggs
Assisting Minister:	Theodore Laesch
Acolyte:	Anna Zvirgzdins
Soloist:	Ted Laesch
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer