

Lenten Midweek Worship

“Faith for a Complicated World”

March 6, 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.

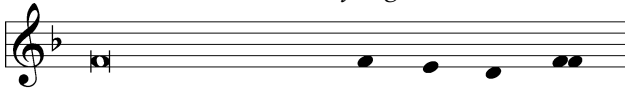
PRELUDE

“How Deep the Father’s Love For Us” setting by Lloyd Larson

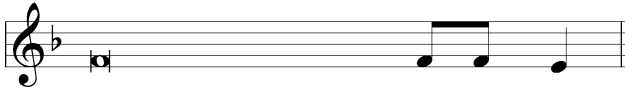
WELCOME AND EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

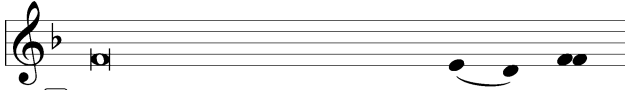
PROCESSION *(Service of Light)*



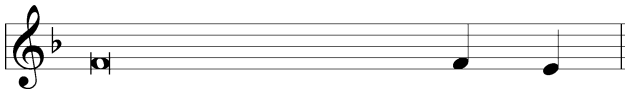
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



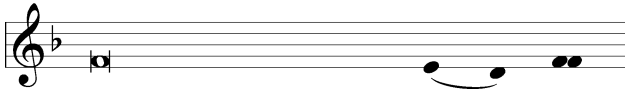
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



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

883 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

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.**

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

C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice
when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.



II Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in-cline to an-y e-vil thing;



let me not be oc-cu-pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil-do-ers.



II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.



Strip me not of my life. C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in



the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

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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

Micah 6:1-8

¹ Listen to what the LORD says: "Stand up, plead your case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. ² Hear, O mountains, the LORD's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. ³ "My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. ⁴ I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. ⁵ My people, remember what Balak king of Moab counseled and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD." ⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down

before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Still, My Soul, Be Still”

Getty/Townend

*Still, my soul, be still, and do not fear
Though winds of change may rage tomorrow.
God is at your side, no longer dread
The fires of unexpected sorrow.*

Chorus:

*God, You are my God,
And I will trust in You and not be shaken.
Lord of peace, renew
A steadfast spirit within me
To rest in You alone.*

*Still, my soul, be still, do not be moved
By lesser lights and fleeting shadows.
Hold on to His ways with shield of faith
Against temptation's flaming arrows.*

*Still, my soul, be still, do not forsake
The truth you learned in the beginning.
Wait upon the Lord, and hope will rise
As stars appear when day is dimming.*

⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:1-25

¹ Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king." ³ So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. ⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." ⁵ But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here." ⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ 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. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends--before this they had been enemies. ¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him." ¹⁸ With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" ¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

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²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" ²² For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him."

²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand.

²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

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

750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

- 1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee
And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.
- 4 God knows full well when times of gladness
Shall be the needful thing for thee.
When He has tried thy soul with sadness
And from all guile has found thee free,
He comes to thee all unaware
And makes thee own His loving care.
- 5 Nor think amid the fiery trial
That God hath cast thee off unheard,
That he whose hopes meet no denial
Must surely be of God preferred.
Time passes and much change doth bring
And sets a bound to ev'rything.
- 7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

Text: Public domain

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

"Faith for a Complicated World"

Please stand

MAGNIFICAT

- 1 **My soul now magnifies the Lord;
 My spirit leaps for joy in Him.
He keeps me in His kind regard,
 And I am blest for time to come.**
- 2 **For He alone who shows such might
 Has done amazing things to me.
His mercy flows; His name like light
 Remains in time perpetually.**
- 3 **His arm is strong; His strength is great.
 He scatters those of proud intent
And casts them down from high estate,
 Then gives the low His nourishment.**
- 4 **He feeds the hungry as His own;
 The wealthy leave with empty hands.
He gives His help to Israel;
 His gracious promise always stands.**

*Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: Chapel of the Cross no. VVPKL-
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OFFERING

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

setting by Michael Burkhardt

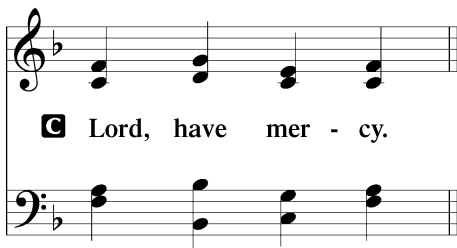
Please stand

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.**

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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.

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

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

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

POSTLUDE

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” setting by D. P. Smith

*CCLI Song # 5469284 Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend
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Serving at Chapel

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Preacher: | Eric Stacy |
| Assisting Minister: | Theodore Laesch |
| Acolyte: | Audrey Runser |
| Organist & Accompanist: | Ryan Meyer |
| Soloist: | Lynda Christian |
| Pianist: | Marilyn Kreitner |