

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7 p.m.

Prelude

Invocation

Leader We worship tonight in the name of the Father, Son † and Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Opening Psalm *verses from Psalm 4*

Leader Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

People **You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!**

Leader O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?

People **How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**

Leader But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself;

People **The Lord hears when I call to Him.**

Leader You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

People **In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

People **Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

Confession and Absolution

Leader Trusting that God hears us when we call to Him, we confess our sins.

Leader O Lord,

People **Hear us as we confess our sin to You. We are sorry for not living like Your children should live. We hear how You suffered so much to earn our freedom, yet we turn our backs on Your will. Forgive us for taking Your sacrifice for granted and for all our sinful thoughts and actions. Free us from our guilt, Lord, and give us Your peace for the sake of Jesus.** *(Silence for reflection)*

Leader Hear the good news. God's Word assures us that Jesus' suffering rescues us from our sin. His death saves us from eternal death, and His resurrection assures us of life eternal. Praise God for the freeing power of forgiveness.

People **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn *Lamb of God* *LSB Hymnal 550*

1 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.

Refrain

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

2 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. *Refrain*

3 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. *Refrain*

PASSION READING 4 L: Leader, P: People, W: Women, M: Men

Leader Then they led him off to Pilate. To avoid ceremonial uncleanness, the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

Women So Pilate came out to them and asked,

Leader “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

People “If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”

Leader “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

People “But we have no right to execute anyone.”

Women This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

Leader They began to accuse him, saying,

People “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.”

Women Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

Leader “Are you king of the Jews?”

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

Leader “Am I a Jew? It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

Men “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.”

Leader “You are a king, then!”

Men “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.”

Leader “What is truth?”

Women Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

Leader The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him,

People “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Leader Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.

Women Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews,

Leader “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”

Women When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them,

Leader “Here is the man.”

Women As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted,

Men “Crucify! Crucify!”

Women But Pilate answered,

Leader “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”
Men **“We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”**

Women **When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. He asked Jesus,**

Leader “Where do you come from?”
Women **But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate asked,**

Leader “Do you refuse to speak to me? Don’t you realize I have power to free you or to crucify you?”
Men **“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”**

Women **From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But they insisted,**

People **“He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”**

Leader 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. 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 they had been enemies.

Women **Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them,**

Leader “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.”

Women **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,**

Leader “Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?”

Women **For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.**

Men **While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message:**

Women **“Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”**

Leader But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

Response

People **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. *Isaiah 53:6***

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Hymn *My Song Is Love Unknown* *LSB Hymnal 430, verses 1, 3, 4 and 5*

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And 'gainst Him rise.
- 5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

Testimony *Greg Kopra*

Message *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

Offering *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* *LSB Hymnal 851*

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.
- 3 Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?
- 4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

People 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. 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.

Closing Hymn *O Savior, Precious Savior* LSB Hymnal 527

1 O Savior, precious Savior,
Whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor,
All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee,
To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee,
Our holy Lord and King.

2 O bringer of salvation,
Who wondrously hast wrought
Thyself the revelation
Of love beyond our thought,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee,
To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee,
Our gracious Lord and King.

3 In Thee all fullness dwelleth,
All grace and pow'r divine;
The glory that excelleth,
O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee,
To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee,
Our glorious Lord and King.

4 O grant the consummation
Of this our song above
In endless adoration
And everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee
Where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee,
Our Savior and our King!

Blessing

Silent Prayer

Postlude

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