

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7 p.m.

Prelude

Welcome

(Stand)

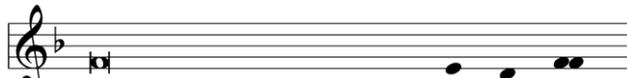


L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



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

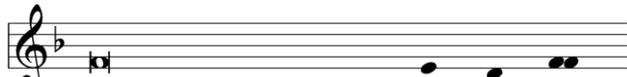
Congregation joins in chant



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.



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:

Hymn of Light *O Light Whose Splendor* LSB Hymnal 891



1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,



With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,



Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,



O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

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Collect

Leader 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 a 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.**

Confession and Absolution

Leader Holy and gracious God,

People **I confess to You that I have sinned. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

(Silence for personal confession)

Leader By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We are now at peace with God.

People **Amen.** *(Sit)*

Passion Reading 4

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. So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” “If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone.” 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, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.” Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you king of the Jews?” “Is that your idea, or did others talk to you about me?” “Am I a Jew? It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” “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.” “You are a king, then!” “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.” “What is truth?” 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, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 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. 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.” As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

Leader But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. He asked Jesus, “Where do you come from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate asked, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Don’t you realize I have power to free you or to crucify you?” “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.” From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. 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.”

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. 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.”

Leader 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, “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. 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, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers. Compiled by Mark R. Bitter. ISBN 0-8100-0365-1

Leader 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*

Hymn *My Song Is Love Unknown* LSB Hymnal 430, verses 1-3, 5 and 7

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Testimony *Kathy Passage*

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

Offering Hymn *May God Bestow on Us His Grace* *LSB Hymnal 823*



1 May God be-stow on us His grace, With bless-ings rich pro-
2 Thine o-ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev-'ry
△ 3 O let the peo-ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in-



vide us; And may the bright-ness of His face
na-tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
creas-ing; The land shall plen-teous fruit bring forth,



To life e-ter-nal guide us, That we His
The voice of ex-ul-ta-tion. For Thou shalt
Thy Word is rich in bless-ing. May God the



sav-ing health may know, His gra-cious will and plea-sure,
judge the earth, O Lord, Nor suf-fer sin to flour-ish;
Fa-ther, God the Son, And God the Spir-it bless us!



And al-so to the na-tions show Christ's rich-es with-out
Thy peo-ple's pas-ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
Let all the world praise Him a-lone, Let sol-lemn awe pos-



mea-sure And un-to God con-vert them.
nour-ish, In righ-teous paths to keep them.
sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A-men!"

Tune and text: Public domain

Prayer

Leader Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People Amen.

Leader Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People Amen.

Leader Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.

People Amen.

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

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night LSB Hymnal 883, verses 1, and 3-6



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the
3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as
4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet
5 When in the night I sleep - less lie, My soul with
△ 6 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



bless - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,
lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that
sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more
heav'n - ly thoughts sup - ply; Let no ill dreams dis -
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.
so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.
vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!
turb my rest, No pow'rs of dark - ness me mo - lest.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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Blessing

Silent Prayer

Postlude

Special thanks to our Cantor David Foster.