

March 25, 2020

## LENTEN SERVICE

M: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy,  
and in your faithfulness, come to my relief.  
Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
for no one living is righteous before you.  
Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails.  
Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up my soul.  
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.**

**Almighty God, merciful Father,  
I, a troubled and repentant sinner,  
confess that I have sinned against you  
in my thoughts, my words, and my actions.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart.  
I have not loved others as I should.  
I am distressed by the sins that trouble me  
and am deeply sorry for them.**

*Silence for private confession*

M: Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**C: Yes, I believe.**

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

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## **PRAYER**

**M:** Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your word keep our faith burning brightly, and we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## **PASSION HISTORY** A Harmony of the Four Gospels

### **LESSON FOUR**

As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law. They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe. And if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?" He said to them, "I am what you are saying." Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!" Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the Roman governor. Then, when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he began to feel regret. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? That is your problem." He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money." They reached a decision. They met and decided to buy the potter's field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. So that field has been called "The Field of Blood" to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord commanded me." Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially defiled. (They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal).

So Pilate went out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?” They answered him, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” Pilate told them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Jews said, “It’s not legal for us to put anyone to death.” This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered him, “It is as you say.” The chief priests accused him of many things. When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Pilate questioned him again, “Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!” But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed. Then Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate answered, “I’m not a Jew, am I? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?” “My kingdom is not of this world,” Jesus answered. “If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.” “You are a king then?” Pilate asked. Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. I was born for this, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” “What is truth?” Pilate said to him. After he said this, he went out again to the Jews, and told the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man. But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.” When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time, he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. Herod and his soldiers treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, they sent him back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies with each other.

## **SERMON:** John 18:38-40 EHV

<sup>38</sup>“What is truth?” Pilate said to him.

After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So do you want me to release the King of the Jews for you?” <sup>40</sup>Then they shouted back, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” (Now Barabbas was a rebel.)

The Warrior Faces Satan’s Ally, the World

- I. Allied against the truth
- II. Allied against Jesus

**OFFERING** *(Thank you all who have mailed, dropped off or electronically given your gifts to our Lord. May God continue to bless you with all you need, just as he promised.)*

## **PRAYERS**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

**M/C:** 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.

### **LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C: Amen**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*Jesus, Priceless Treasure* .....C W349

1. Jesus, priceless Treasure,  
Fount of purest pleasure, Truest Friend to me.  
Ah, how long in anguish  
Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for thee?  
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!  
I will suffer naught to hide thee, Naught I ask beside thee.
  
3. Satan, I defy thee;  
Death, I now decry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease.  
World, thou shalt not harm me  
Nor thy threats alarm me While I sing of peace.  
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;  
Earth and all its depths adore him, Silent bow before him.
  
5. Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

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