

April 1, 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.

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

LESSONS FIVE AND SIX

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, "You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him before you. I have found no basis for a charge against this man regarding the things of which you accuse him. Herod did not either, because he sent him back to us. See, he has done nothing worthy of death. So I will punish him and then release him." At the time of the feast the governor had a custom: to release one prisoner to the crowd, whomever they wanted. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder. The crowd came up and began to ask him to do what he usually did for them. So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, "Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you? Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?" Pilate in fact knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate's wife sent him a message. She said, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, since I have suffered many things 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 put to death. The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They all shouted together with one voice: "Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!" Pilate said to them, "Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews? What should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Crucify him!" But the governor said, "Why? What has he done wrong?" But they kept shouting even louder: "Crucify him!" Pilate addressed them

again, because he wanted to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, "Crucify! Crucify him!" He said to them the third time, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him." But they kept pressuring him with loud shouts, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming. When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, and that instead it was turning into a riot, he decided that what they demanded would be done. He took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood. It is your responsibility." And all the people answered, "His blood will be on us and on our children!" Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head. They kept hitting him in the face. Pilate went outside again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and temple police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jews answered 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 statement, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate asked him, "Are you not talking to me? Don't you know that I have the authority to release you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over me at all, if it had not been given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus. But the Jews shouted, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar! Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar!" When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge's seat at a place called the Stone Pavement, or Gabbatha in Aramaic. It was about the sixth hour on the day of preparation for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your king!" They shouted, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall

I crucify your king?" "We have no king but Caesar!" the chief priests answered. So then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. After they had mocked him, the soldiers took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him with Jesus carrying his own cross. As they were going out of the city, a certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of the people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Yes, be sure of this: the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?" Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with him to be executed. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means, "The place of a skull."). They offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. They crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Now it was the third hour when they crucified him. Pilate also had a sign written and fastened to the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the king of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it. Instead, let's cast lots to see who gets it." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So this is what the soldiers did. Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there. The people stood watching. And even the rulers were ridiculing him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the chosen one!" People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from

the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law and elders kept mocking him. They said, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he's the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him kept insulting him. One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him, "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? We are punished justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The sun was darkened. At the ninth hour Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "Listen, he is calling Elijah!" After this, knowing that everything had now been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." A jar full of wine vinegar was sitting there. Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with vinegar. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. When Jesus had taken the wine vinegar, he said, "It is finished." Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" When he had said this, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Suddenly, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. Tombs were opened and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. They came out of the tombs and after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city, and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and how he cried out and breathed his last, they were terrified and began to glorify God, saying, "This man really was righteous. Truly this was the Son of God!" All the crowds gathered to see this spectacle. When they saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests. All those who knew him, and many women who had followed

Jesus from Galilee and who had served him were there watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, Salome, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. Since it was Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over the Sabbath. Because that Sabbath was special, they asked Pilate to have their legs broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and then of the other who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water came out. The man who saw it has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth. Indeed, these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones will be broken." Again another Scripture says, "They will look at the one they pierced."

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SERMON: *John 6:66 EHV*

⁶⁶After this, many of his disciples turned back and were not walking with him anymore.

THE WARRIOR REJECTED BY MANY

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

376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day— Who can a
 3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, Which at the
 4 Lord, I be - lieve were sin - ners more Than sands up -
 5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my



are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in
 word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -
 ver - y throne of God For - ev - er will for
 on the o - cean shore, You have for all a
 man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
 sin - ners plead, For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.
 all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
 Your boundless mercy has for me,
 For me and all your hands have made,
 An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.

Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.