

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lenten Worship – March 25, 2020



Startling Statements from our Savior's Passion
"Give us Barabbas!"

WELCOME

M: O Lord, open my lips,

C: (J) And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: (J) O Lord, come quickly to help me.

M: Behold the Lamb of God; let us worship him.

PRAYER

M: Lord, God, you have brought us safely to this hour of prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 32:1-7

P: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,

C: whose sins are covered.

P: Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against him

C: and in whose spirit is no deceit.

P: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away

C: through my groaning all day long.

P: For day and night your hand was heavy on me;

C: my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

P: Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" – and you forgave the **guilt of my sin.**

P: Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;
C: surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

P: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble
C: and surround me with songs of deliverance.

OUR SAVIOR'S LAST DAYS - PART FIVE ADDITIONAL MOCKERY AND REJECTION

EXAMINATION BEFORE HEROD

Luke 23:4-12

Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." 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." 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 a sign of some sort. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the 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.

BARABBAS CHOSEN

Matthew 27:20-23

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 then release him." (Luke 23:13-16) Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. (Mark 15:6-10) But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 27:15-18, 21-23

15 Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. 16 At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. 17 So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. 21 "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. 22 "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" 23 "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" (NIV ®)

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PRAYER

M: In the opening / closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:

C: (♪) Lord, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:

C: (♪) Christ, have mercy.

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:

C: (♪) Lord, have mercy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: (♪) Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: (♪) Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:

C: (♪) Thanks be to God.

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.

C: (♪) Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

C: (♪) Amen.