

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)
Lenten Worship - March 18, 2020

Startling Statements from our Savior's Passion
"Not a word to Herod"

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 22:1-8

Psalm 22 foretells the experience of Christ on the cross.

M: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
C: **Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?**
M: My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.
C: **Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.**
M: In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.
C: **To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**
M: But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone and despised by the people.
C: **All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:**
M: "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him."
C: **Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."**

HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living | Christian Worship 114 v. 1-3

Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
Who, thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe --
Through thy suff'rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou, ah, thou hast taken on thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

OUR SAVIOR'S LAST DAYS - PART FOUR
HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE

PETER'S DENIAL

Then seizing him (Jesus), they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. (Luke 22:54-55) While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about." Peter went out into the entryway (Mark 14:66-68) ... where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" (Matthew 26:71-72) After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about." (Mark 14:70-71) The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. (Luke 22:61,62)

HYMN

Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower | Christian Worship 476 v. 3

Oh, keep me watchful, then, and humble; Do not allow my steps to stray.
Uphold me when my feet would stumble, And keep me on the narrow way.
Fill all my nature with thy light, O Radiance strong and bright!

JUDAS' REMORSE

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me." (Matthew 27:3-10)

HYMN

Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing | Christian Worship 121 v. 1-2

Jesus, grant that balm and healing In your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me from its first beginning.

Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,
Let me think about your passion, And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded." That the tempter flee confounded.

THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JESUS

Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace; because 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," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. (John 18:28-32) And 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 Messiah, a king." (Luke 23:2)

HYMN

He Stood Before the Court | Christian Worship 115 v. 1

He stood before the court On trial instead of us;
He met its pow'r to hurt, Condemned to face the cross --
Our King, accused of treachery; Our God, abused for blasphemy!

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TRUTH

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born, and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. (John 18:33-38) 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." (Matthew 27:19)

HYMN

The Lamb I Christian Worship Supplement 714

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice? Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain

Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own! The Lamb is reigning on his throne.

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.

Refrain

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill So still, his will, On our behalf the law to fill.

Refrain

He sighs, he dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, He gives me his own righteousness.

Refrain

He rose, he rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong 'Til ev'ry heart to him belong.

SERMON TEXT

Luke 23:8-9

8 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. 9 He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. NIV (®)

Startling Statements from our Savior's Passion
"Not a word to Herod"

PRAYER

M: Lord Jesus Christ, you set us free,

C: Accept our thanks eternally!

M: Forgiven through your precious blood,

C: We now are reconciled to God.

M: Defend us, Lord, from sin and shame,

C: Help us by your mighty name,

M: To bear our crosses patiently,

C: Consoled by your great agony.

M: Strengthen our faith through your Word and promises.

C: Keep us close to you now and always.

M: Teach us to hate sin and love righteousness.

C: Empower us to think and act in ways which are pleasing to you.

M: Help us to treasure you, Jesus, as our greatest treasure,

C: Fill our hearts with peace and hope and joy as we take hold of the gracious

blessings you won for us on the cross.

M: Enlighten those who are still trapped in the darkness of sin and unbelief,
C: Use us as your instruments to share your saving truth with others.

All: To you Jesus, be all honor, glory and praise, now and forever. Amen.

All: (♪) O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

BENEDICTION

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

C: (♪) Amen.

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | Christian Worship 125 v. 1 & 4

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.