



Lenten Midweek Two

Ascension Lutheran Church
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Lenten Midweek Two – February 28, 2024

LENTEN MIDWEEK TWO

“You Meant It For Evil, But God Meant It For Good”

Each year on Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion, we read the full Passion account at the end of the service. The Passion narrates Jesus’ last hours of life, including His crucifixion and burial. Throughout most of the Church’s history, Palm Sunday solely focused on Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Church services typically featured a processional of palms, accompanied by an atmosphere of excitement as the Savior had arrived. However, many Christians attending only Sunday services missed the profound experience of the Passion, an integral part of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. In response, the Church incorporated the complete Passion account reading at the conclusion of Palm Sunday services to remind those who attend only on Sundays of the suffering and death that Jesus endured for our redemption.

This year, we will dedicate additional time to the Passion account. Each midweek service in Lent will include a reading from the Gospel of Luke. Commencing with Ash Wednesday, we will journey through the final hours of Jesus’ life. Luke provides unique insights into this important time, offering much to gain from contemplation and meditation on this writing. Our readings will be drawn from Luke 22-24, exploring instances where evil sought to prevail, but God’s will ultimately triumphed for good. Rather than confining your exposure to the Passion account to Palm Sunday alone, we invite you to join us every Wednesday to reflect on our Savior’s last hours. Your Lenten journey promises to be enriched with new insights and a deeper appreciation for the saving grace of God.

Theme: “The Real Battle”

The evil around us has a common thread. Evil is a part of everything we do, but we don’t always think about why it happens. People, leaders, schools – sometimes they do evil things. The list could go on, but the main source is still one thing: Satan. Even though Jesus faced many evil actors in the final hours of His life, underlying it was the plan of Satan to destroy the Redeemer and God’s plan of salvation for us all. But no matter where Satan tries to spread lies, make us doubt, or even hurt us, in the end, God makes us stronger and turns those bad things into something good.

Welcome

Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -
Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing, Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite, alt., Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758, Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Responsory

Psalm 51:14; 59:1; 141:8

- P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
- C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**
- P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
- C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**
- P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
- C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(silence for self-examination)
- C** **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
- C** **Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 9-16 (NRSV)

(C) sung response – tune: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word)

- (P)** In You, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in Your righteousness deliver me. Incline Your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.
- (C)** **Lord, be my rock, my refuge sure,
My mighty fortress, safe, secure.**
- (P)** For Your name’s sake lead me and guide me. Take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for You are my shelter from danger.
- (C)** **I place my spirit in Your care;
You, God, will keep me safely there.**
- (P)** Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eyes are tired from so much crying; I am constantly worn out. I am exhausted by sorrow, and weeping has shortened my life. I am weak from all my troubles; even my bones are wasting away. I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. Everyone has forgotten me, as though I were dead; I am like something thrown away. For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around, as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.
- (C)** **Lord, be my rock, my refuge sure,
My mighty fortress, safe, secure.**
- (P)** But as for me, I have trusted in You, O Lord. I have said, “You are my God.”
- (C)** **I place my spirit in Your care;
You, God, will keep me safely there.**
- (P)** My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, from those who persecute me.
- (C)** **Lord, be my rock, my refuge sure,
My mighty fortress, safe, secure.**

P Let Your face shine upon Your servant, and in Your lovingkindness save me.

C I place my spirit in Your care;
You, God, will keep me safely there.

Theme Reading

Luke 22:39–62 (ESV)

³⁹ And He came out and went, as was His custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed Him. ⁴⁰ And when He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” ⁴¹ And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.” ⁴³ And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ And when He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” ⁴⁷ While He was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss Him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” ⁴⁹ And when those who were around Him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And He touched his ear and healed him. ⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against Him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³ When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.” ⁵⁴ Then they seized Him and led Him away, bringing Him into the high priest’s house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with Him.” ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know Him.”

⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with Him, for he too is a Galilean.” ⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.” ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

A Garden In The Night

A garden in the night,
A soul in tortured prayer;
Engulfed in sorrow all alone,
Our Savior struggles there.

He knows His hour has come
To bear the price of love.
He reaches out, His spirit drowned
In agony and blood.

“My Father, let it pass,
This darkness now begun.
But here I am, Your sacrifice,
So let Your will be done.”

Lord, help us watch and pray,
Your burden gladly bear
That we may live and die like You,
Our lives a holy prayer.

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Message
“THE REAL BATTLE”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 22:39–62

Tithes and Offerings

Please place your offering in the basket provided. (*Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.*)

Prayer

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
Lord, hear my prayer; Come and lis - ten to me. O

O Lord, Hear My Prayer, Text: Taizé Community, Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–94, Text and tune: © 1982 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

(following each petition):

- P** Hear us, O Lord,
- C** for Your mercy is great.

Lord's Prayer

- 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

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Closing Reflection

- P** In Gethsemane, we see the full humanity of Jesus. He tells His disciples,
- C** “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.” (Matt. 26:38).
- P** He reaches out for their support,
- C** but they sleep, leaving Him all alone.
- P** He falls on His face before God.
- C** His sweat becomes like drops of blood.
- P** Jesus prays. The disciples are asleep, and when the pressure comes,
- C** they will crumble and scatter.
- P** Jesus prays. And when the pressure comes,
- C** He will be at peace.
- P** In His most vulnerable moments,
- C** He will be strong in the strength of Almighty God.
- P** Throughout His life, His Father has been His companion,
- C** His confidence, His food, His constant focus.
- P** And now, as every fiber of Jesus' being is screaming for escape,
- C** He does what He has always done: He trusts His Father and depends on Him alone.

Blessing

P The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n!
He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

Acknowledgments

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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