

ST. JOHN'S AND PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCHES
HOME WORSHIP SERVICE BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020

Due to the precautions involving the spreading of COVID-19, services at our churches have been suspended. In place of these services, you are encouraged to use this bulletin and the recorded sermon and hymn mp3s for your home worship.

Opening Hymn 354 "In The Cross Of Christ I Glory"

(Play the mp3 tune for 354)

1. In the Cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the Cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the Cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

Reader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen.

R: Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

All: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

R: Rejoice, dear repentant sinners! Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who was sacrificed to take away the sin of the world. Because of His atoning sacrifice on the cross of Calvary, we are forgiven.

G: The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. Amen.

Prayer

R: Gracious Redeemer, grant Your blessing to us during this Lenten season. Let us see the pains of body and agony of soul that were Yours, and help us to realize that our sins were also responsible for them. May we by faith always see You as our Substitute, Who bore the burden of our sin and guilt perfectly, so that we now stand pure and sinless in God's holy eyes.

G: Hear us, for Your love's sake. Amen.

The Passion History Reading – Part VI -- The King on a Cross

(read by the Reader, or take turns with family members)

Then they crucified Him there, and two others with Him, robbers and criminals, one on the right hand, and the other on the left, and Jesus in the center. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors." Now it was the third hour (9:00am; Jewish time) when they crucified Him.



Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do."

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and divided them up among themselves into four parts, to each soldier a part, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take.

Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be;" that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things; and sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

Now Pilate wrote a title or inscription of His accusation over Him. And the soldiers put it above His head on the cross. And it was written: "THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS." Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in letters of Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews', but 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews".'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

And the people stood, looking on, and those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise even the rulers, the chief priests, together with the scribes, the Pharisees, and the elders, sneered at Him and mocked Him among themselves, and said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. Let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the Chosen of God. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, that we may see and believe in Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God'."

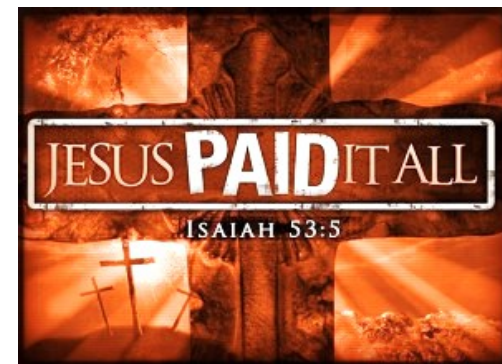
And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing. One of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us!"

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!" And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."



Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. And it was about the sixth hour (12:00 noon). Then the sun was darkened. And there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour (3:00pm). And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" Which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" And when some of those who stood by heard that, they said, "Look! This Man is calling for Elijah."

After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst." Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there. Then immediately someone ran, and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, on hyssop, and put it to His mouth, and offered it to Him to drink. He and the others said, "Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah will come to save Him and take Him down." So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"



And when Jesus had cried out again with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hand I commend My spirit." And having said this, He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit, and breathed His last. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked; and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion, who stood opposite Jesus, saw what had happened, and that He cried out like this, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man." When the centurion, and those with him who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this Man was the Son of God."

CONFESSION OF FAITH - ALL

(from the Formula of Concord – on Justification by Faith)

"We unanimously believe, teach, and confess the following about the righteousness of faith before God. A poor sinful person is justified before God, that is, absolved and declared free and exempt from all his sins and from the sentence of well-deserved condemnation, and is adopted into sonship and inheritance of eternal life, without any merit or worth of his own. This happens without any preceding, present, or subsequent works, out of pure grace, because of the sole merit, complete obedience, bitter suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Christ alone. His obedience is credited to us for righteousness. These treasures are brought to us by the Holy Spirit in the promise of the holy Gospel. Faith alone is the only means through which we lay hold on, accept, apply, and take them for ourselves. This faith is God's gift, by which we truly learn to know Christ, our Redeemer, in the Word of the Gospel and trust in Him. We trust that for the sake of His obedience alone we have the forgiveness of sins by grace, are regarded as godly and righteous by God the Father, and are eternally saved."

This is most certainly true!

Sermon

Play the audio recording Pastor Naumann sent with this service bulletin.

2 Kings 24:18-25:7 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 19 He also did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. 20 For because of the anger of the LORD this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, that He finally cast them out from His presence. Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. 25:1 Now it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around. 2 So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. 3 By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. 4 Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king went by way of the plain. 5 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. 6 So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. 7 Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.

"Zedekiah: The King Who Turned Out the Lights"

Prayers

Lord God, give us strength and willingness to say with your Son, "Not my will but your will be done." Make us cheerful and trusting to bear whatever you let happen to us. From your hand we am willing to take the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Keep us from sin, gracious Father, and comfort us with your kind Word so that we may reflect Your love to all mankind.

Our prayers go up to Your throne of grace and mercy in behalf of our homes, our congregations, our nation, and the world in our current pandemic. We ask, that according to Your will, You would provide healing for those who have contracted the virus and that You would soon bring an end to the pandemic. Especially, O Lord, protect the elderly and those who are in particular danger. Guard and defend all our medical personnel who care for the sick. We pray for all our families and friends, and for our fellow believers throughout the CLC and our sister synods overseas.

In Your name we pray as you have taught us:

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.

BLESSING

Reader: May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us: his light to guide us, his presence to shelter us, his peace to unite us.

Group: Amen.

Closing Hymn 724 "Jesus, Remember Me"

(Play the mp3 tune for 724)

1. Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.
2. Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom. Amen.