

4th Midweek Lenten Service March 22nd, 2023
St. Peter and St. Luke Lutheran Churches

Opening Hymn “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

LSB 440, vs. 1, 3 & 6

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.
- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion.
- 6 Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**
P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**
P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C **and illumine Your Church.**

Phos Hilaron

LSB 244

- P** Joyous light of glory:
C **of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light. We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever. O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.**

Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

- P** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 31 (King James Version)

- P** In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.
- C** **Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.**
- P** For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.
- C** **Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength.**
- P** Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.
- C** **I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD.**
- P** I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;
- C** **And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room.**
- P** Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly.
- C** **For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed.**
- P** I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me. I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.
- C** **For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.**
- P** But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.
- C** **My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.**
- P** Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake.
- C** **Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave.**
- P** Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.
- C** **Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!**
- P** Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

C Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.

P For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.

C O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

P Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Psalm

Psalm 141

P Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

C O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to You.

P Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

C Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

P Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

C But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

P Let us pray. Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 10:1-10

¹Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. ²She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. ³And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. ⁴And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, ⁵the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her.

⁶ And she said to the king, “The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, ⁷ but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard. ⁸ Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! ⁹ Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD loved Israel forever, he has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness.” ¹⁰ Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold, and a very great quantity of spices and precious stones. Never again came such an abundance of spices as these that the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

Epistle

Galatians 2:11-21

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.^[a] ¹³ And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?” ¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Please rise for the Gospel

Holy Gospel

John 14:19-24

¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

Hymn “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

LSB 440 vs. 2, 4 & 5

- 2 Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
- 4 Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev’ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God’s only Son Suffered without measure?
- 5 If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

Sermon

Offering

Litany

LSB 249

After each petition:

- P** let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

- P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
C **Alleluia.**

- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

- P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
C **To You, O Lord.**

Collect for Peace

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, given to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

Benedicamus & Benediction

LSB 252

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"

LSB 438

- 1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth, None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint, To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer, He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies, "All this I gladly suffer."
- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The Lamb of God, our Savior,
Whom God the Father chose to send To gain for us His favor.
"Go forth, My Son," the Father said, "And free My children from their dread
Of guilt and condemnation. The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by Your passion they will share The fruit of Your salvation."
- 3 "Yes, Father, yes, most willingly I'll bear what You command Me.
My will conforms to Your decree, I'll do what You have asked Me."

O wondrous Love, what have You done! The Father offers up His Son,
Desiring our salvation. O Love, how strong You are to save!
You lay the One into the grave Who built the earth's foundation.

4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be, My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before Your throne, Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought,
As Your own bride shall we be brought To stand in joy beside You.

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P Go in Peace and Serve the Lord.

G **Thanks Be to God.**

P And remember, God really really really does love you!