

25 March 2020

Midweek Lenten Worship

Opening Hymn

“O Dearest Jesus”

Hymn 117 in the CHRISTIAN WORSHIP Hymnal

Prayer

M: Lord God, You have brought us safely to this hour of evening 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 Jesus Christ, our living Savior, Who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



The Word

PSALM OF THE DAY – Read Responsively

Psalm 2

Also found on page 65 in the CHRISTIAN WORSHIP Hymnal

M: Why do the nations conspire

C: **and the peoples plot in vain?**

M: The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD

C: **and against His Anointed One.**

M: The One enthroned in Heaven laughs;

C: **the Lord scoffs at them.**

M: Then He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath, saying,

C: **“I have installed My King on Zion, My holy hill.”**

M: I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:
C: **He said to me, "You are My Son;
today I have become Your Father."**

M: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

C: **and to the Holy Spirit,**

M: *as it was in the beginning,*

C: **is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Psalm Prayer

Spoken by Pastor

M: Lord God, You anointed Your Son to be King for the sake of Your Church. Help us, as members of His Kingdom, to serve Him faithfully and to come to the full knowledge of His grace and glory, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

LESSON FIVE

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, "You brought This Man to me as one Who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined Him in your presence. I have found in This Man no basis for the charges you are bringing against Him. Herod did not either, for he sent Him back to us. See, He has done nothing worthy of death. So I will have Him flogged and release Him."^a

At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder. The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, "Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you? Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?" For Pilate in fact knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate's wife sent him a message. "Have nothing to do with that Righteous Man," she said, "since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

They all shouted together with one voice: "Take Him away! Release Barabbas to us!"

Pilate said to them, "Then what do you want me to do with the Man you call the King of the Jews? What should I do with Jesus, Who is called Christ?"

They all said to him, "Crucify Him!"

But the governor said, "Why? What has He done wrong?"

But they kept shouting even louder: "Crucify Him!"

Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. But they kept shouting, "Crucify! Crucify Him!"

He said to them the third time, "Why? What evil has He done? I have found no grounds for sentencing Him to death. So I will whip Him and release Him." But they kept pressuring him with loud voices, demanding that He be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming.^b

Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged.^c

The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort^d of soldiers around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand, knelt in front of Him, and mocked Him by saying, "Hail, King of

the Jews!" They spit on Him, took the staff, and hit Him repeatedly on His head. They also kept hitting Him in the face.^e



Pilate went outside again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against Him."

So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold The Man!"

When the chief priests and guards saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

Pilate told them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no basis for a charge against Him."

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He

ought to die, because He claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace again and asked Jesus, "Where are You from?"

But Jesus gave him no answer.

So Pilate asked Him, "Are You not talking to me? Don't You know that I have the authority to release You or to crucify You?"

Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me at all if it had not been given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin."

From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus. But the Jews shouted, "If you let This Man go, you are no friend of Caesar! Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar!"

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge's seat at a place called the Stone Pavement, or Gabbatha in Aramaic. It was about the sixth hour^f on the Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your King!"

They shouted, "Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your King?"

"We have no king but Caesar!" the chief priests answered.^g

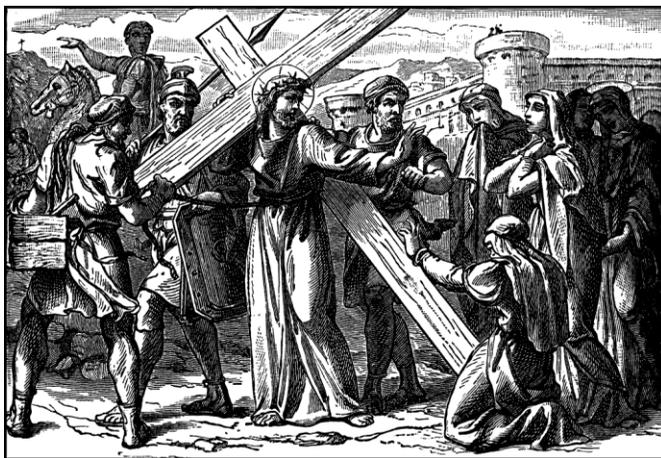
When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he decided that what they demanded would be done. He took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this Righteous Man's blood. It is your responsibility."

And all the people answered, "Let His blood be on us and on our children!"

Since He wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them.

So then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.^h

After they had mocked Him, the soldiers took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him. Jesus was carrying His own cross.



As they were going out of the city, a certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of the people was following Him, including women who were mourning and wailing for Him.

Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us.'" For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?"ⁱ

^a Luke 23:13-16

^b Matthew 27:15-23; Mark 15:6-14; Luke 23:17-23; John 18:39-40

^c John 19:1; Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15

^d A Roman *cohort* was about six hundred soldiers

^e Matthew 27:27-30; Mark 15:16-19; Luke 23:17-25; John 19:2-3

^f The word *about* indicates an approximate time reference. Likely this was in the first part of the day, between 6 AM and 9 AM, using the time system of the Roman civil day, which began at 12 midnight. Mark 15:25 states that Jesus was crucified at 9 AM. John also seems to use Roman civil time to calculate the day in John 20:19 (because the evening is considered part of the *first day of the week*. Jewish time regarded sunset as the beginning of the next day).

^g John 19:4-15

^h Matthew 27:24-26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:24; John 19:16

ⁱ Hosea 10:8

^j Matthew 27:31-32; Mark 15:16-19; Luke 23:26-31; John 19:16-17

LESSON RESPONSE

C: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. By His wounds we are healed.

Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed

Spoken in unison

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent

suffering and death. All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Sermon Hymn

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”
Hymn 114 in the CHRISTIAN WORSHIP Hymnal

Sermon

KINGS CONSPIRE TO KILL CHRIST

Rev. Thomas Rothe; First Lutheran Church, Prescott, AZ

SERMON TEXT

Psalm 2:1-6

1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? **2** The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, **3** “Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.” **4** The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. **5** He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, **6** “I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.”

Prayer

Read Responsively

- M: Heavenly Father, You loved the world and gave Your Son to liberate us from sin and death by His obedient death on the cross.
- C: We confess that without Your love we are lost.**
- M: Lord of the Church, we thank You for the treasure of the Gospel. By Your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith.
- C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases You, no matter what the danger or the cost.**
- M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the Kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.
- C: By Your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in Your mercy, be their Guardian and Friend, their Comfort and Hope.

M: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Spoken in unison

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.

The Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

**"Not All the Blood of Beasts"
Hymn 128 in the CHRISTIAN WORSHIP Hymnal**



*Lord Jesus, since You love me,
Oh, spread Your wings above me
And shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would assail me,
Your mercy will not fail me;
I rest in Your protecting arm.*

Christian Worship Hymn 587 Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow, v. 3

**** Acknowledgements ****

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR LENT

Week 1

Ash Wednesday	Luke 18:9-14	Friday	John 1:35-42
Thursday	John 1:29-34	Saturday	John 1:43-51

Week 2

Sunday	Mark 2:18-22	Thursday	John 3:16-21
Monday	John 2:1-12	Friday	John 3:22-36
Tuesday	John 2:13-22	Saturday	John 4:1-26
Wednesday	John 2:23-3:15		

Week 3

Sunday	Mark 3:31-4:9	Thursday	John 5:19-29
Monday	John 4:27-42	Friday	John 5:30-47
Tuesday	John 4:43-54	Saturday	John 7:1-13
Wednesday	John 5:1-18		

Week 4

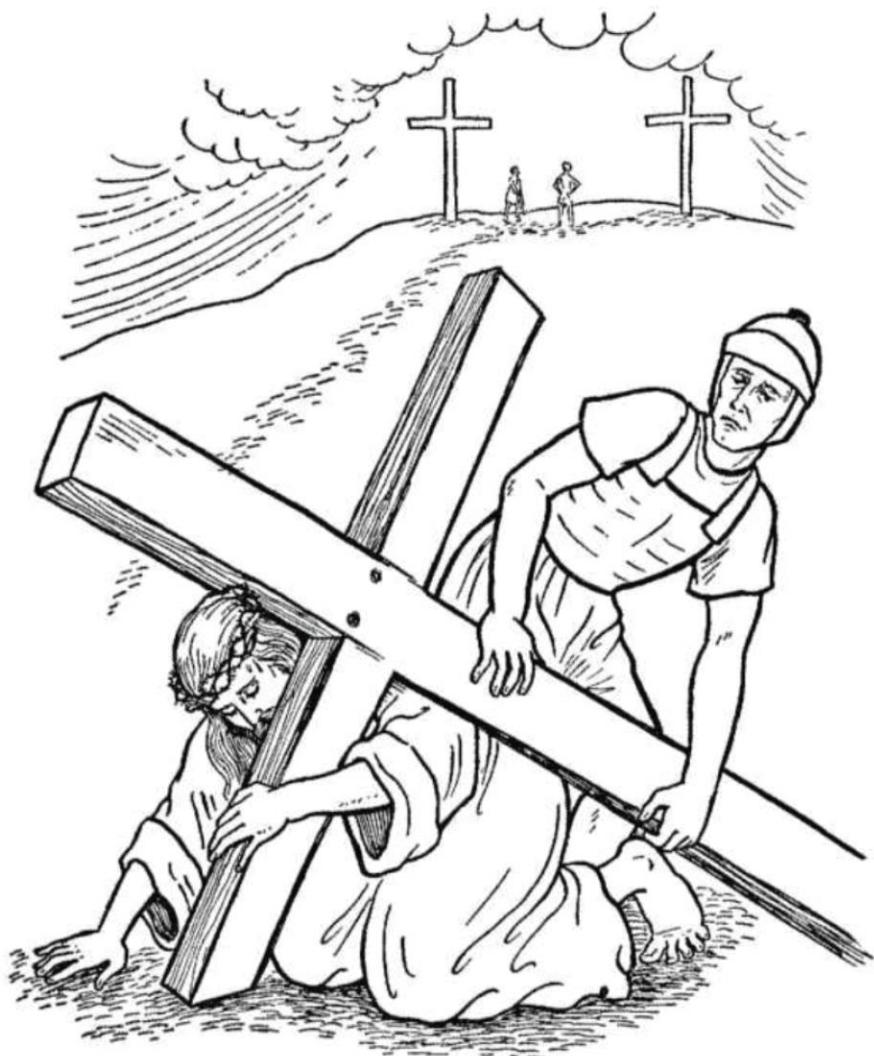
Sunday	Mark 5:1-20	Thursday	John 8:21-32
Monday	John 7:14-36	Friday	John 8:33-47
Tuesday	John 7:37-52	Saturday	John 8:47-59
Wednesday	John 8:12-20		

Week 5

Sunday	Mark 8:11-21	Thursday	John 6:41-51
Monday	John 6:1-15	Friday	John 6:52-59
Tuesday	John 6:16-27	Saturday	John 6:60-71
Wednesday	John 6:27-40		

Week 6

Sunday	Mark 8:31-9:1	Thursday	John 10:19-42
Monday	John 9:1-17	Friday	John 11:1-27
Tuesday	John 9:18-41	Saturday	John 11:28-44
Wednesday	John 10:1-18		



Jesus had to bear His own cross to the city gate where Simon of Cyrene was compelled to bear it after Jesus.