

MARCH 19, 2023 • 8:30 AM • LENT 4

**Welcome!** We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened through the study of God's Word and empowered to live as His witnesses.

**Families**, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; there is a cry room near the back of the sanctuary and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the elevator (to the left as you exit the sanctuary). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the Guest side of the Welcome Card found in the pews/ chair backs and place it in the offering plates.

**As We Gather** Barabbas was a heartless, brutal criminal with anger in his heart and blood on his hands. Custom dictated that Pontius Pilate should release one prisoner at the feast of Passover. Pilate knows Jesus is innocent and tries to get the crowd to ask for Jesus' release, but the crowd calls instead for Barabbas. The crowd condemns the innocent Jesus and demands that the guilty Barabbas receive a pardon. We are Barabbas. We are guilty and sinful and deserving of death. But we are also Barabbas in that Jesus takes our place, takes our punishment, and sets us free.

**VIDEO/ WELCOME**

*Preparing Hearts for Easter, I Thirst for You, Skit Guys*

*Please Stand*

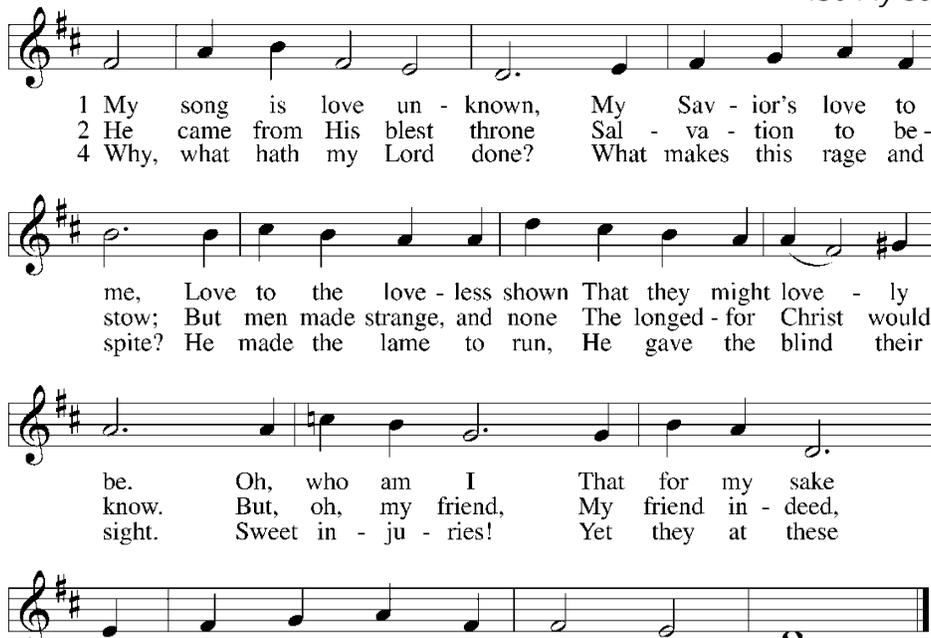
**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**OPENING HYMN**

430 My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -  
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and  
 me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would  
 spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their  
 be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,  
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these  
 My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
 Who at my need His life did spend!  
 Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

## OPENING SENTENCES

- P On our Lenten journey, we watch as Jesus stands trial before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.
- C Pilate knows that Jesus is innocent.**
- P Pilate tries to set Jesus free,
- C but the people call for a thief and murderer named Barabbas.**
- P Though Barabbas is guilty, he is set free.
- C Though Jesus is innocent, He is condemned to die.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*[ Silence for personal confession and prayer. ]*

- P We are like Barabbas. We are guilty. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death. Still, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and seek His forgiveness.
- C Heavenly Father, we have sinned against You and against our neighbors in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have rebelled against Your rule and reign. We know our guilt. We know we deserve the punishment of death. But we seek Your abundant mercy on account of Jesus.**
- P Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you. Jesus stands in your place and takes the punishment for your sin. He endures death for you. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen. We are pardoned. We are set free because of Jesus. Amen.**

## GREETING

### HYMN OF REFLECTION

*430 My Song Is Love Unknown*

- 3 Sometimes they strew His way, And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day, Hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath, And for His death  
They thirst and cry.
- 5 They rise and needs will have; My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He, To suffering goes, That He His foes;  
From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home, My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb, But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was His home, But mine the tomb;  
Wherein He lay.

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## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.**
- P Let us pray. Merciful Lord, You are our refuge in time of trouble and our hope in distress. Keep us in Your care that we may be raised from the death of sin to life in Christ and give faithful witness by proclaiming Your name and Your salvation to the nations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *(The Coming King.)*

*Zechariah 9:9-12*

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

*L This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

*849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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**EPISTLE** *(The Veil is Removed in Christ.)*

*2 Corinthians 3:12-18*

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

*L This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please Stand*

## VERSE

Psalm 57:1-2

P Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

**C I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.**

## HOLY GOSPEL *(My Kingdom is not of this world.)*

John 18:33-40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. <sup>39</sup> But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup> They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Be Seated – Children are dismissed for Children's Church (CC).*

## MESSAGE HYMN

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken



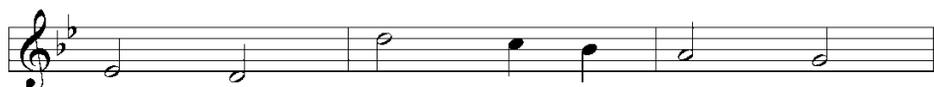
1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken  
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?  
5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?  
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;  
The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -  
Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?  
cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.  
her - it, This I do mer - it.  
quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

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## MESSAGE

*Please Stand*

*Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING** *(Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God's mission here! Children return from CC.)*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(Prayer response after each petition...)*

**P** Let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.

## + SACRAMENT +

## LENT RESPONSORY

*LSB p.231*

**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.

## HYMN

*439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken*

7 O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,  
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!  
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying; While Thou wert dying.

8 O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!  
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?  
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer? What dare I offer?

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Lord of heaven and earth, we praise You for bringing light to a darkened world. We bless You for calling us to be people who walk as children of the light, secure in the currents of the world around us. We thank You for inviting us to Your Holy Table. Joined together in the name of our Lord, we pray You to pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matt. 26:26–28; Mk. 14:22–24; Lk. 22:19–20; 1 Cor. 11:23–25

## PAX DOMINI

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
 C **And also with you.**

*Be Seated*

## COMMUNION HYMNS (see pew hymnals)

*Please Stand*

LSB 433 *Glory Be to Jesus*  
 LSB 683 *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You we have been fed and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Strengthen us through this Holy Meal in faith toward You and in caring love toward one another as we live out our callings. With Your loving grace, hear our prayers and grant all that is best for us according to Your caring will. Grant us Your abiding peace as we await Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, we pray.  
 C **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

- P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.  
 C **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

349 *Hark the Glad Sound*

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.

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## DISMISSAL

*Into the world, realizing that like Barabbas, Jesus takes our punishment and sets us free ...*

### A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen (virtual and in-person) today...

Pastor .....	Rev. Jason Hoerth	Reader .....	Nina Wichard
Children's Message .....	Chris Graves, DCE	Organist .....	Carol Trumbo
Elder .....	John Berndt	Acolyte .....	Isabelle Ripak

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