



Midweek Lent 4
The King Mocked
March 25, 2020

MIDWEEK OF LENT 4

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

THE KING MOCKED

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

God will not be mocked. God is jealous. He insists upon what is His due. Yet, for the sake of sinners, the King of the Jews stands silent before His accusers. He endures the mocking and taunting of words and actions that feign the honor He is due. Why would God allow us to mock Him? It is all about salvation. The Son of God stands falsely accused for us. He allows Himself to be mocked and abused. That is what He must do if He is to restore the lost sinners, reclaim them to life, and repair the wrong that sin did. He is mocked and taunted so that He might be enthroned and honored—so that you and I might be enthroned and honored.

HYMN - “Christ, the Life of All the Living” (*LSB* 420) vs. 1-4

Stand

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

C Amen.

P Lord, have mercy on us.

C Christ, have mercy on us.

P Lord, have mercy on us.

P O God, the Father in heaven,

C Have mercy on us.

P O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C Have mercy on us.

P O God, the Holy Spirit,

C Have mercy on us.

P King of glory and Lord of might,

C Deliver us from evil.

P King of glory and Lord of might,

C Save us in temptation and trial.

P King of glory, You were enthroned in a manger at Your birth;

You were condemned though Your life was holy and good;

You were brought low by rejection;

You were marked with suffering and pain;

You were judged by those You came to save;

You were crowned with thorns and robed in mockery;

You were wounded and bore in your flesh the anguish of us all;

You were raised up and enthroned upon the cross;

You were despised by men and forsaken by God;

You were swallowed up in death and laid in a grave:

C For us and for our salvation.

P That we who were dead in sin might be made alive forevermore;

That we who sacrificed our glory to death might be raised to immortality;

That we who caused Your suffering might be set free from suffering;

That we who were made unclean by evil might be made holy and declared just;

That we who raised You up on the cross might learn to walk in its way;

That we who lost our joy might be led to rejoice in hope again;

That we who live in fear might be granted courage to live by faith:

C We ask You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,

C Have mercy on us.

P Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,

C Have mercy on us.

P Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,

C Have mercy on us.

P For Your willingness to be born among us as one of us yet without sin,

C We give You thanks, O Lord.

P For Your choice to suffer in our place and die in our stead,

C We give You thanks, O Lord.

P For Your sacrifice that gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation,

C We give You thanks, O Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You are holy and mighty and suffer the mockery of no one, except where You have chosen to suffer for us. Grant us Your Spirit and the full measure of His grace and wisdom, that we may not defame our Lord Jesus in word or deed but live in faithfulness to Him who bore all things for us and our salvation; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Judges 16:23–31

Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, “Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand.” And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, “Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us.” And when their hearts were merry, they said, “Call Samson, that he may entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars. And Samson said to the young man who held him by

the hand, “Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them.” Now the house was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about 3,000 men and women, who looked on while Samson entertained.

Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.” And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life. Then his brothers and all his family came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had judged Israel twenty years.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN - “Christ, the Life of All the Living” (*LSB* 420) vs. 5-7

EPISTLE LESSON Hebrews 11:29–40

By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong

out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 27:27–31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sit

HYMN - "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" (*LSB* 439) vs. 1-5

SERMON - "The King Mocked"

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYERS

P Let us pray for us, for all the people of God, and for those not yet of His kingdom.

P Lord, whose ear is open to the prayers of Your people,

C **Hear our prayers for the sake of our King, Jesus Christ.**

P Keep us from taking lightly that which is true for all time and in all places, that we may not fall in time of trial nor grow weary of well-doing in Your name. Lord,

C **Hear our prayers for the sake of our King, Jesus Christ.**

P Keep Your Church with Your grace and favor and bless those who serve her; sustain our nation against her enemies and bless those who serve us as elected or appointed civil servants. Lord,

C **Hear our prayers for the sake of our King, Jesus Christ.**

P When we reach the end of our ropes and know not where to turn, come to us and rescue us with healing and grace that there be no one who calls on Your name and does not rejoice in the healing power of Your love. Lord,

C **Hear our prayers for the sake of our King, Jesus Christ.**

P Remove from us the blindness to our own lost condition and give to us charity that we may not be quick to judge or quick to condemn. Bind us together in the healing grace of Christ no matter where we have come from. Lord,

C **Hear our prayers for the sake of our King, Jesus Christ.**

P As You are holy, lead us to holiness of life and conduct; as You are faithful, lead us to be faithful in all things, and as You are gracious, help us win over the unbelief by showing forth Your mercy. Lord,

C Hear our prayers for the sake of our King, Jesus Christ.

P In the night hours, grant us rest and refreshment for our bodies and peace for our minds that we may fulfill the holy vocation and calling imparted to us in our baptism in Jesus Christ. Lord,

C Hear our prayers for the sake of our King, Jesus Christ.

P Hear us as we pray as our Savior has taught us:

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.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord preserve your coming and going,

C From this time forth and even forevermore.

P The Lord bless you and keep you and bring you to everlasting life. In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Sit

HYMN - "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet" (LSB 444)

POSTLUDE