



Midweek Lent 3
The King Condemned
March 18, 2020

MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

THE KING CONDEMNED

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Pilate stood on the horns of a dilemma. He suspected the plot against Jesus was fabricated. He was in fear of the conspirators and worried about his place. He thought he had a solution. He would offer to release a prisoner and give them a choice between a notorious criminal, Barabbas, and Jesus. But Jesus would not be deterred from His mission. A notorious prisoner is released to freedom because an innocent King is willingly condemned and delivered to death.

HYMN - “My Song Is Love Unknown” (*LSB* 430) vs. 1-3

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 merciful Lord, when justice demanded that we bear the full weight of our sin, You sent Your Son, Jesus, to stand condemned in our place. Give us such an appreciation for His selfless action, that we may rejoice in His grace and use wisely the freedom which He purchased by carrying upon Himself the whole burden of our sin and death; 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 Leviticus 16:1, 6–10, 15–22

The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the Lord and died.

“Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel. And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord and use it as a sin offering, but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.

“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses. No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

“And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN - “My Song Is Love Unknown” (*LSB* 430) vs. 4-7

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 8:31–39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of

God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 27:11–26

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” And he said, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sit

HYMN - "O Christ, You Walked the Road" (LSB 424)

SERMON - "The King Condemned"

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 You felt the full weight of our sin and the condemnation of the world against You, O Lord, and yet You showed to us Your patience and compassion. Give us such a heart and inhabit our thoughts with Your Word. Lord,

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

P Give to Your Church the fullness of Your grace that she may remain faithful in difficult times; give to our nation faithful leaders who will defend us against our enemies and encourage us to live virtuous and holy lives. Lord,

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

P Come to the broken and wounded with grace, relieve the sorrowing and lonely, and give Your people Your peace. In the day

of trouble, we call on You, O Lord, for we know that You will not allow us to be snatched from Your hand. Lord,

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

P When faithfulness requires that we suffer for Your sake, make us bold, steadfast, and immovable. When persecution comes to us, help us endure without forsaking the good confession of Christ. Lord,

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

P Call the erring and those who have lapsed from the faith, that they may be renewed by Your Spirit to love You for what You have done and rejoice in their salvation by Your hand. Lord,

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

P Plant us on the unchanging foundation of Your Word, that by the aid of the Holy Spirit we may be made steadfast in faith and faithful in service to You and to others in Your name. 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:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 - "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" (LSB 437)

POSTLUDE