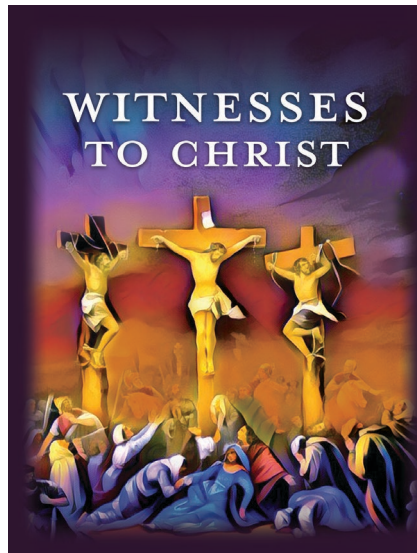


Zion Lutheran Church



April 6th, 2022
Evening Service

Lent – Week 5

PONTIUS PILATE

Pontius Pilate, a witness to Christ, consented to order Jesus' execution. Pilate may wash his hands and proclaim his own innocence in the death of Jesus, but Pilate is guilty. Pilate is caught between a rock and a hard place. Instead of doing what is right, Pilate has Jesus' flesh ripped, shredded, dressed in purple, and crowned with thorns. His hard heart is complicit in the death of Christ. While it may be an uncomfortable thought, Pilate's failures make us examine our own complicity in the evil of others. How have we deceived ourselves in proclaiming innocence? How have we been pressured into allowing evil to occur? Thanks be to God that our journey to the cross shows us Jesus' forgiveness.

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the

Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

C: 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.

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Pilate can proclaim his own innocence and justify himself all he wants. He is still guilty. He is still a selfish sinner with a hardened heart who is complicit in the death of not only an innocent man, but of the sinless Son of God. We might be tempted to point a finger at Pilate to justify ourselves, but truth be told, we, too, struggle with hardened hearts. Still, our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him with repentant hearts and seek His forgiveness. Together we confess:

C Heavenly Father, we have sinned against You in what we have done and in all that we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. We do not seek to wash our hands of these sins, Lord, but we seek Your forgiveness. We seek Your washing and renewal through the blood of Christ.

P Almighty God, in His grace and mercy, has given His only Son, Jesus, to die and rise for our forgiveness and our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of our crucified and risen Lord, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. We are washed clean and forgiven by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ!

OPENING HYMN – When I Behold Jesus Christ #542



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,
2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;
3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;
4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.



I won - der much at His love As He hung on the tree.
I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.
On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.
My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

First Reading – Ezekiel 11:17–21

“Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.’ And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My rules and obey them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading – 2 Corinthians 4:1–6

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Third Reading – John 19:1–16

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. They came up to Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing Him

out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in 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 the officers saw Him, they cried out, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God.” When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, “You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin.”

From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

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 OF THE DAY -- “Behold! The Lamb of God,” John Said

1 “Behold! The Lamb of God,” John said
“Who takes all sin away.”

This Lamb is Christ, who in our stead
For sin would mutely pay.

“Behold your King!” by Pilate scourged;
Sin’s hellish sum on Him converged,
While “Crucify!” the hateful urged,
Their Savior to betray.

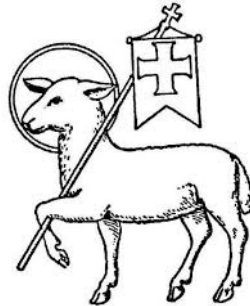
2 The Way—of justice was deprived;
The Truth—was overrun;
The Life—was all from Christ derived;
God glorifies His Son!

“I am the Bread of Life,” Christ said;
“My sacred blood for all, I shed;
Who eats and drinks of Me is fed.”
All death by Christ undone.

3 Christ’s glory is not seen by those
Who view God’s Word as dross,
For worldly wisdom never knows
How gain could come from loss.
Yet, this the glory of the Christ:
His perfect life He sacrificed,
His finished work for all sufficed—
Debt canceled on the cross.

4 May we this holy Lententide
Christ’s Passion clearly see;
This somber vision will provide
The truth that sets us free.
Hear John, who speaks of what he knows;
Come, follow on the path Christ chose:
The cross, the tomb from which He rose
In joyous victory!

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SERMON

MAGNIFICAT



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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KYRIE

C: Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For all who seek the truth, that they might find the truth in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all whose hearts are hardened by sin, that their hearts might be softened and their desires turned to others, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our president, vice president, and governor, that they might lead our nation and state, seeking truth, liberty, and justice, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all Senators and members of the House of Representatives, that they may represent their constituencies well, seeking not their own enhancement and advancement, but the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the justices of the Supreme Court and all judges throughout the nation, that the Holy Spirit would guide them to judge with wisdom and clarity, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who have been deceived, whether by their own foolishness or by others, that God might deliver them from their enslavement to lies, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all those who are sick, injured, or recovering from surgery, [*especially* . . .], that God might provide healing in His time and in His way, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all those who lost loved ones recently, [*especially* . . .], that they might be comforted by the power and hope of resurrection and eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give 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

G: 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 In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

DISTRIBUTION

COLLECTS

P: O Lord, hear my prayer.

G: And let my cry come to You.

P: Lord Jesus, though Pontius Pilate declared Your innocence before the crowds, You who knew no sin became sin for us. Grant that the shame You bore for us on the cross would give us the greatest honor and allow us to always see that only in suffering can we behold who You truly are, our

glorious King and Savior; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow #428



1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,



Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
Where the blood of Christ was shed,



Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing
Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,



Per - fect God on thee has bled!
Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
All the suf - fer - ings of time!
Per - fect God on thee has bled!

