

The Fifth Sunday in Lent - Midweek

1 April 2020

Redeemer Lutheran Church

302 Grove Avenue

Tillamook, Oregon 97141

503.842.4823 redemertillamook@gmail.com

Rev. J. Wesley Beck, Vicar Eric Brinkert

Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" Matthew 27:17

The Opening Statement

P The case before you this morning, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, is that of Barabbas. As you may know, Jesus' path crossed with the prisoner after Barabbas had already been convicted of multiple crimes. As such, today's hearing is slightly different. Rather than a trial to determine guilt or innocence, this is a clemency hearing for Barabbas. Only one person can be released, Jesus or Barabbas. It is up to you to decide which prisoner is to be pardoned. All rise. This court is now in session.

O Love, How Deep

LSB 544 sts. 1, 5-6



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
5 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed,



Be - yond all in thought and fan - ta - sy,
For us, in crown of thorns ar - rayed,



That God, the Son of God, should take
He bore the shame - ful cross and death;



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
For us He gave His dy - ing breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

Invocation

John 15:12-13, 16-17

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

C Amen.

- P** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
- C** **Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends...**
- P** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you
- C** **That you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide,**
- P** So that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.
- C** **These things I command you, so that you will love one another.**

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.**

The Prayer of the Day

- P** O faithful Lord, we have rebelled against you over and over again through our thoughts, words and deeds. Yet you continue to claim us as your own because you took our place on the cross we deserved. Help us to live as your freed followers, no longer shackled by the bonds of sin, death and evil but released to share your saving message of new life with others. Allow us to lead others to you that they, too, may know the joy of knowing you.
- C** **Amen.**

Please be seated

Upon the Cross Extended*LSB 453 sts. 1, 5*

1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your
 Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.
 The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly
 giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.

5 Your soul in griefs unbanded,
 Your head with thorns surrounded,
 You died to ransom me.
 The cross for me enduring,
 The crown for me securing,
 You healed my wounds and set me free.

The First Reading*John 15:18-25*

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: "They hated me without a cause."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Reading of the Charges*Matthew 27:15-26*

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 Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

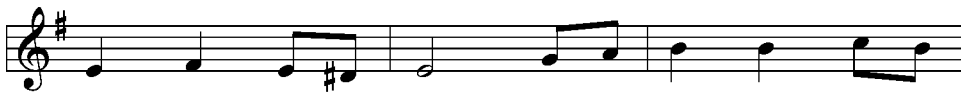
LSB 451 sts. 1-2



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - spect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.

The Prosecution: Oral Arguments

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

LSB 451 sts. 3–4



3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the



great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its
lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the



guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the
wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

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The Defense: Oral Arguments

We stand to confess

The Confession of Sins

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- C** **Almighty God, we confess to you the rebellious sin that still wars against our desire to live holy lives. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

The Verdict Is Rendered

- P** It was because of your sins that Jesus went to the cross and died. But thanks be to God, the work of God did not end there, because his Word tells us, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Jesus overcame sin, death and the devil for you. Having heard your confession, I announce this verdict: Because Jesus died in your place and rose again, you are forgiven and freed to live a life of gratitude and faith in Jesus. Depart in confidence and peace. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, you stand before God as his beloved and forgiven child. You are not guilty.

The Prayers of the People

- P** Lord Jesus, sometimes our hearts are glazed over and hardened by grief,
C **We wonder in the middle of our pain whether we can trust you or not.**
- P** Sometimes, we even wonder if you are our enemy.
C **Help us to take a long look at the hand you stretch out to us.**
- P** Help us to make a choice for faith instead of despair.
C **Help us to see that the hand you offer us is one that is scarred with pain.**
- P** Help us to accept the comfort given by Jesus' bleeding love. Because we can't see you, O God, help us to listen, and listen closely, for your words give hope to the hopeless, courage to the fearful, and joy to the downcast.
C **We trust your words of forgiveness, knowing that you have taken our place on the cross that we might be freed. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- 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 Benediction

Romans 4:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 3:16

- P** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**
- P** Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**

Please be seated

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

LSB 524 sts. 1, 3–4

1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
 4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My

a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
 shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing
 Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my

heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
 trea - sury filled With bound - less stores of grace.
 way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

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Announcements

Birthday this week: Sharon Cote on the 30th

Please remember to mail your **tithes and offerings**, preferably in your regular envelop, to the church office. We need to keep abreast of our obligations during these difficult times.

George & Terry were not able to collect **Bethesda Auxiliary** membership/donations last week with our virtual service. Because this need cannot be "self-isolated" please consider a donation of \$10 for men, women and youth of the congregation to support the ministry of sharing the love of Jesus in Word and Deed with people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Checks can be made out to Bethesda Auxiliary and mailed to Rev. George Putnam 4140 Sandy Way, Tillamook, OR, or put in the Putnam's mailbox in the narthex. A receipt will be given.