



The Fourth Sunday in Lent - Midweek
25 March 2020

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Rev. J. Wesley Beck, Vicar Eric Brinkert

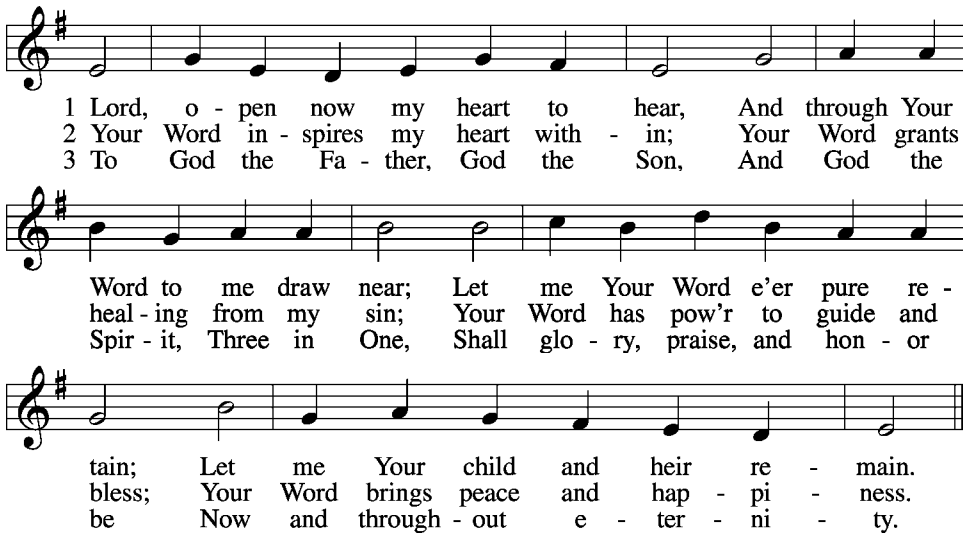
Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" John 18:38

The Opening Statement

- ☑ Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, tonight Pontius Pilate stands accused of obstruction of justice. Though he was merely a puppet ruler in Judea doing the will of the Emperor, Pilate, when faced with the case of Jesus of Nazareth, chose to let the Jewish leaders execute Jesus even though he had come to the conclusion that Jesus was innocent of any crime. Pilate chose to preserve himself, rather than carry out his duty to do what was just. He was a coward in the face of blatant lies and injustice. I know that you will come to the obvious conclusion that the man on trial here tonight should be convicted. All rise. This court is now in session.

Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

LSB 908



1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
 2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants
 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the

Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -
 heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and
 Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or

tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.
 bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
 be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

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Invocation

Isaiah 53:7-8, 9-10

- ☐ In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 ☑ **Amen.**
- ☐ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;
 ☑ **Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.**
- ☐ By oppression and judgment he was taken away...
 ☑ **Although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth...**

- P** When his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
G **The will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.**

Apostles' Creed

- G** **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** You are the Way, the Truth and the Life, O Lord, but so often we forget that and we stand in the way of your Truth. Help us to claim you as our King, not hiding your presence from others or washing our hands of our association with you. Give us the grace to announce to the world that you are truly the sinless Son of God who took on our sins that we might be saved. We who once were guilty are now made innocent by your blood. Let your righteousness reign in our hearts and lives forever.
G **Amen.**

Please be seated

You Are the Way; through You Alone

LSB 526 sts. 1-2

1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
 2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True

we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
 wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -

God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
 form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.

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The First Reading*John 14:1-7*

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Reading of the Charges*John 18:28-38*

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" 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

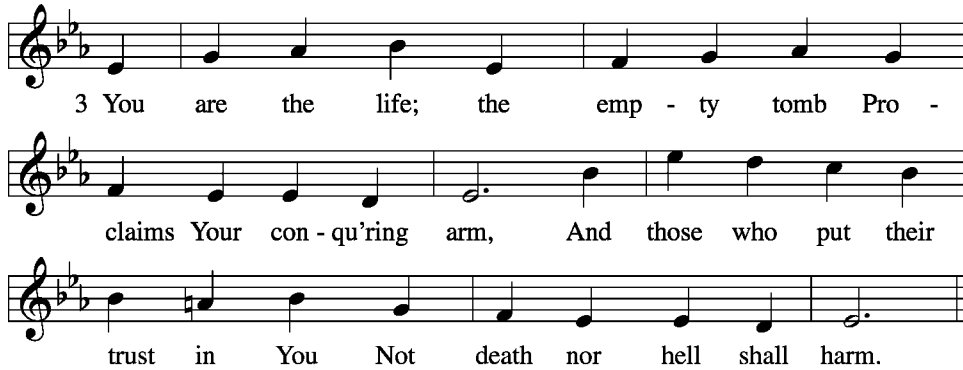
kingdom is not from the world." Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

You Are the Way; through You Alone

LSB 526 st. 3



3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

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The Prosecution: Oral Arguments

You Are the Way; through You Alone

LSB 526 st. 4



4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant
us that way to know, That truth to keep, that
life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

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The Defense: Oral Arguments

We stand to confess

The Confession of Sins

- ☐ Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.
- ☑ **Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We have obstructed justice, turning away from your Word and will. We have sought truth apart from Jesus, who is the Truth. He is our King, but we have turned from his lordship to rule our own lives. Have mercy on us, forgive us and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

The Verdict Is Rendered

- ☐ People of God, hear these words: It is for your sins that Jesus stood before Pilate and allowed himself to be convicted, sent to the slaughter like an innocent lamb. He suffered the penalty of death in your place and rose in triumph from the dead. In Jesus' name, I render this verdict: You have been declared not guilty. You have been forgiven for the sake of Jesus. He has taken your punishment upon himself. Jesus has fulfilled all righteousness that you might be set free. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

- ☑ Lord God, often our hearts are glazed over and hardened by grief;
- ☑ **We wonder, in our pain, if we can trust you or not.**
- ☑ We even wonder if you are our enemy.
- ☑ **Help us to take a long look at the gracious hand you extend to us in the name of Jesus.**
- ☑ Lead us by your Spirit to faith instead of despair.
- ☑ **Help us to see that the hands extended to us are scarred by pain and marked by nails.**
- ☑ Help us to accept the comfort of your love.
- ☑ **Help us to listen to your Word so that we can offer, in turn, your Word of comfort to others.**
- ☑ We trust your words of forgiveness, knowing that you always hear and answer our repentant prayers.
- ☑ **We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- ☑ **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

Isaiah 42:1, 4; 2 Corinthians 13:14

- P** Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
G **I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations...**
- P** He will not grow faint or be discouraged
G **Till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.**
- P** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
G **Amen.**

Please be seated

Not What These Hands Have Done

LSB 567 sts. 1-3, 6



1 Not what these hands have done Can save this guilt - y soul;
 2 Not what I feel or do Can give me peace with God;
 3 Thy work a - lone, O Christ, Can ease this weight of sin;



Not what this toil - ing flesh has borne Can makemy spir - it whole.
 Not all my prayers and sighs and tears Can bear my aw - ful load.
 Thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, Can give mepeacewith - in.

- 6 I bless the Christ of God,
 I rest on love divine,
 And with unfalt'ring lip and heart
 I call this Savior mine.

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