



YOU MEANT IT FOR EVIL, BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD

SERMON SERIES BASED ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

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MARCH 9, 2022

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Lenten Journey through the Passion of the Christ

Jesus was Numbered with the Transgressors

AS WE GATHER

Jesus' disciples had learned from Him for three full years. Jesus is now eating the Passover with them in the upper room. What do the disciples do? They argue about who is the greatest! Sinful pride rears its ugly head and, once again, it is clear that Jesus is a friend to sinners, even numbered among the transgressors. Jesus will have to teach them again . . . for they still have much to learn. We, too, have much to learn, as our sinful pride can show forth in many ways in life. May God be merciful to us poor sinners, for the sake of Christ.

HYMN #424 "O Christ, You Walked the Road" Sts. 1-3

O Christ, you walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r And fought our ancient foe.
No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.
No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 19:7-14*

Pastor: In this Lenten season, we journey through the Passion of the Christ,

People: **and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.**

Pastor: The journey of Jesus was for all sinners, those who know the good they should do but fail, those whose sin is often hidden from the eyes of all but God's, and for those whose sin is obvious for all to see. The Law of our God is good and right. We acknowledge that, but more importantly confess our failings to seek God's grace and mercy. We join with the psalmist of old:

Pastor: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: **the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.**

Pastor: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: **the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.**

Pastor: the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;

People: **the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.**

Pastor: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

People: **sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Pastor: Moreover, by them is your servant warned;

People: **in keeping them there is great reward.**

Pastor: Who can discern his errors?

People: **Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**

Pastor: Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;

People: **let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.**

All: **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 29:4; 32:3–5*

Pastor: We come before the Lord in confession of our sins, awaiting His voice of forgiveness. Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. His voice is full of forgiveness. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN #424 **“O Christ, You Walked the Road”** St. 5

O Christ, you walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation’s hour To fight our ancient foe.

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, as we journey through the season of Lent, bless us to look upon our Lord’s passion anew. Help us to hear Your voice through Your Word of life that You may guide, direct, and bless us in our earthly journeys, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

READING *Isaiah 53:1–12* (The Prophecy of the Passion of the Christ)

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ 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 that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

READING *Luke 22:14, 24-38*(Jesus deals with sinful disciples and is numbered among them) ¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. ²⁸ “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.” ³⁵ And he said to them, “When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything? “They said, “Nothing.” ³⁶ He said to them, “But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷ For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors.’ For what is written about me has its fulfillment.” ³⁸ And they said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords.” And he said to them, “It is enough.”

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #437 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov’rign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?
Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!
Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures’ sin.
Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
But drops of grief can ne’er repay The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away: ‘Tis all that I can do.

SERMON “He was Numbered Among the Transgressors”

Luke 22:14, 24-38

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

People: 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.

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Lord God, merciful Father, we praise you for sending your holy Son, Jesus, to be numbered among the transgressors. Forgive us for all the times pride and arrogance rule our lives. Forgive us for the times we shrink back and deny our Lord.

People: **Strengthen us towards humility and grant us boldness of faith to speak the truth and share Christ's love even in difficult circumstances.**

Pastor: Ever-present Lord, as we face trials and temptations, injustices and seemingly inescapable situations, we cry out to you. Yet, in silence before His accusers, Christ endured injustice, went to the cross for us, and cried out for our forgiveness.

People: **Be with us in our journey through this life, that we may hear your voice, witness your mighty deeds, and hold firm to the faith you have given.**

Pastor: Help us as we face injustice, difficult days, and times of trial, that we may stand firm in the faith.

People: **Be with those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, that the needs of all your people be heard and comforted with your everlasting peace.**

Pastor: Grant continued repentance in this Lenten season as we reflect on Christ's Passion, your love for this world through and in Him, and the forgiveness and new life He has come to bring through His suffering and death.

People: **Keep us steadfast in the faith amid all we face in this world, that our trust and hope remain in you alone.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

CLOSING PRAYER *Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer*

Luther's Morning Prayer (10:00am)

People: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer (6:00pm)

People: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

CLOSING SENTENCES

Pastor: In this Lenten season, we journey through the Passion of the Christ,

People: and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

Pastor: Jesus was numbered with the transgressors, even died for the transgressors,

People: that we might be forgiven, redeemed, and renewed as God's people.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

HYMN #609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.

Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion:
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven:
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Preacher

Liturgist

Director of Parish Music

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen

Pastor Harold Bender

Michelle Prince