

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

“Cross” Questions

March 4 & 5, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Many of our hymns begin with a simple declaration, such as “A mighty fortress is our God” (LSB 656/657) or “Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure” (LSB 654). A few include an exclamation and so have an exclamation point or two in them, including “Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you” (LSB 668) and “Jesus loves me!” (LSB 588). Even fewer actually ask a question. Among these are “What child is this?” (LSB 370) and “Who are you who walk in sorrow?” (LSB 476). Finding answers to questions is a great way of making discoveries. The refrain to the African hymn “When I Behold Jesus Christ” (LSB 542) asks plainly, “What kind of love is this?” as the hymnwriter reflects on the sacrificial love of Jesus. We may ask ourselves the same question as we reflect on all our Lord has done for us.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT – Ladies Guild/LWML – Dawn Ziolecki

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land. Psalm 85:8-9.

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #542 “When I Behold Jesus Christ”

When I behold Jesus Christ, True God who died for me,
I wonder much at His love As He hung on the tree.

Refrain What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.
What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.

For me You gave all Your love, For me You suffered pain;
I find no words, nothing can Your selflessness explain. **Refrain**

You had no sin, holy Lord, But You were tortured, tried;
On Golgotha there for all My sins You bled and died. **Refrain**

What love is this? Greater love No one has ever known.
My life with God-This I owe To You, and You alone. **Refrain**

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

People: O my God, in you I trust.

Pastor: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

People: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Pastor: Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

People: According to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, 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: 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.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Father in heaven, your ways direct us into justice and truth; strengthen our faith in Christ that we find in Him alone to be the way and the truth and the life. Keep the eyes of our faith focused on our Redeemer, and in the end, take us to be with your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 12:1–9* (A great promise of God is made to Abram.) Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old

when he departed from Haran.⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 4:1–8, 13–17* (The faith of Abraham, who believed God, is remembered.) What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.³ For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in^[a] him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:⁷ “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:1–17* (Jesus teaches Nicodemus about being born again.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Let Me Learn of Jesus” AGPS #156

Let me learn of Jesus; He is kind to me
Once He died to save me, nailed upon the tree.

When I go to Jesus, He will hear me pray
Make me pure and holy, take my sins away.

Let me think of Jesus; He is full of love,
Looking down upon me From His throne above.

SERMON HYMN #708 “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”

Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne’er from me depart,
With tender mercy cheer me. Earth has no pleasure I would share.
Yea, heav’n itself were void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in Thee can nothing shake.
Thou art the portion I have sought; Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, Forsake me not!
I trust Thy Word.

Yea, Lord, ‘twas Thy rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor. Lord, grant that I in ev’ry place
May glorify Thy lavish grace And help and serve my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.

Lord, let at last Thine angels come, To Abr’ham’s bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing; And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face, My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

SERMON

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

“CROSS” REFERENCE

Pastor: One of the original purposes for the Lutheran Confessions was to respond to questions about what Lutherans believed, taught, and confessed regarding Christian doctrines. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession addresses the teaching about the sufficiency of the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus Christ in this way: “We teach that the sacrifice of Christ dying on the cross has been enough for the sins of the whole world. There is no need for other sacrifices, as though Christ’s sacrifice were not enough for our sins. So people are justified not because of any other sacrifices, but because of this one sacrifice of Christ, if they believe that they have been redeemed by this sacrifice.” For those who realize the price paid by Jesus on the

cross to win salvation, the cross itself becomes a source of wonder and praise. That sense of holiness found in the cross is lyrically presented in the great Lenten hymn by John Bowring, “In the Cross of Christ I Glory.” We sing as the offerings are gathered.

SONG DURING OFFERING #427 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o’er-take me, Hope deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

OFFERINGS 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 Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, your Son has shown your love to the world in His death and resurrection. Give your people hearts to remember your gracious works and to proclaim your name in all things. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, you promise us an inheritance not because of your law but because of your promise to Abraham and to us. In your grace, nourish us in the faith unto life eternal. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you made your servant Abraham the father of us all through faith, and you have given all fathers the calling of Abraham to hand down the Gospel of Christ. Fill their hearts with the words of Christ, and remember them according to your great mercy. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, remember our nation and its leaders. Bless all who make, administer and judge our laws, and enable us to be good and responsible citizens. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, hear our prayers as we pray for Zachary Zieschang as he considers your call to serve us here at St. Paul's. Give him wisdom and discretion as he and his family listen to where you are calling them. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of life, be with those who mourn. Especially be with Cindy Albrecht remembering her mom, Marilyn, on her birthday. Also be with the family of Gloria Gammon as she has passed away and with the Librizzi family as Tom's mom passed away. Comfort them as they mourn, keeping their eyes on you and their return. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, be near to the sick and the suffering especially Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Marga, Cheryl, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, Debbie, Vern, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. Comfort them with your divine promises, and grant healing according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, Nicodemus was led by the word of Jesus to the cross, and from the cross he received the body of Jesus. Grant us faith like his to trust your Word and receive Christ's body and blood in the Holy Sacrament for forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, you give life to the dead and have united the faithful of all ages in the Body of Christ. As you shelter all the saints in the arms of your mercy, so comfort us who await your final victory over death and the life of the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #423 "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

HYMN #819 "Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

Sing Praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty pow'r made, In mercy He is keeping.
By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.
Within the kingdom of His might All things are just and good and right:
To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!

He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ's holy name, Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!

HYMN #435 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, we thank you for having welcomed us at your Table, showing your wondrous love and giving us a foretaste of the feast to come in your eternal kingdom. Grant that what we have received with our lips we may keep with pure hearts, and that through the gift imparted to us in this present life we may hereafter receive life everlasting. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #544 "O Love, How Deep"

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

He sent no angel to our race, Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame, And to this world Himself He came.

For us baptized, for us He bore His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew; For us the tempter over threw.

For us He prayed; for us He taught; For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus Still seeking not Himself but us.

For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death; For us He gave His dying breath.

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.

All glory to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

Preacher	Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Russell Hurst, Grant Gundersen, Debbie Nier
Organist	Olivia Kukor

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Mid-Week Lenten Services

Wednesday March 8th

10:00 am & 6:00pm

"Christian Confession and God's Grace"

Lenten Meal at 4:45pm

Chili, Toasted Baguettes, Salad

Hot dog meals will be available weekly, as well
as coffee, juice and milk.