

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

God's Truth: Mysterious and Powerful

March 9, 2025

10:30am

AS WE GATHER

"Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness" (1 Timothy 3:16). As we have now entered the forty-day pilgrimage of Lent, we approach the most climactic event of our Lord's earthly ministry, the one that confused and frightened the first followers of Jesus and perhaps even some to this day. The expectation of the establishment of the kingdom of God with Jesus, the Son of God, seated on a royal throne as ruler was demolished as they witnessed their Rabbi, Master, and Lord taken captive, convicted, tortured, and executed on that Passover in Jerusalem.

The cross has always been an offense. To this day, the same mystery stands: His royal throne is but a frightful cross of crucifixion—His kingdom hidden to the eyes. When confronted with the facts of God's Word, many cannot see past this mystery. Yet it is the power of God's Word that gives people the gift of faith and new eyes to see what was incomprehensible and secret now revealed by the Spirit of God. God's truth is that in the death of Christ, redemption and forgiveness of sin now avails for the entire world. Sinners are delivered, justified before God by faith in the blood of Jesus shed on the cross and given the ability to repent and believe and become children of God for eternity. For sinful mankind, this life-giving truth is impossible to believe or understand. Only because of the mighty Word of God proclaimed to the world by His church and by the power of the Spirit is that otherwise mysterious Word actually easy and powerful to understand and to believe.

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

Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:3-4

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

"At the Cross (I Know a Place)"

I know a place a wonderful place
Where accused and condemn'd find mercy and grace
Where the wrongs we have done and the wrongs done to us
Were nailed there with Him
There on the cross

Chorus: At the cross (at the cross)...He died for our sin
At the cross (at the cross)...He gave us life again

My hope is built upon nothing less
Than on Jesus Christ's blood and His righteousness
I dare not put my trust in sweet lies and deceit
But lean on His name to make me complete
Chorus

When I can't find the strength within
To sing praise for His love for I see my sin
I remember the cross and how grace ever strong
First loved from the cross and gave me a song
Repeat Chorus twice

Ending: I know a place a wonderful place

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

People: For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith and confess our sins unto God our Father, that we may receive His forgiveness.

People: O God, we believe your Word is true for it reveals our sin for which we deserve your rebuke and judgment. Yet even more, we believe in your promise of mercy and forgiveness for the sake of Christ. We therefore confess to you all our sins. We plead the suffering and sacrifice of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, as the all-sufficient price of our redemption, and beg your grace and forgiveness for the sake of faith in our Savior alone. Hear us in your mercy and according to your promise in Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: “Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge,” upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Son to be tempted by the devil, and by the power of your Holy Word alone He defeated the old, evil foe for us. Increase our faith and confidence in your mighty Word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, that we may endure all temptation and remain true to your call as members of your family and the household of faith; through Jesus Christ, 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 *Deuteronomy 26:1–11* (Moses prepares Israel for entrance into the Promised Land.) “When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵“And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 10:8b–13* (The message of salvation to all)

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;

for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 4:1–13* (The temptation of Jesus)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory be to you, O Lord.

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” ⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ ¹¹and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” ¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Do You Know Who Died For Me?”

Do you know who died for me? Jesus did, Jesus did,
Lovingly He died for me, Yes, He really did.

Do you know who rose for me? Jesus did, Jesus did,
Lovingly He rose for me, Yes, He really did!

Do you know who lives for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,
Lovingly He lives for me, Yes, He really does!

Do you know who cares for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,
Lovingly He cares for me, Yes, He really does.

SERMON HYMN “How Deep the Father’s Love For Us”

How deep the Father’s love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Pastor: God of all mercy, you answer those who call upon you. Hear our prayers for all people in need of healing and restoration especially Jack, Kay, Rhonda, Harland, Liz, Jerry, June, Wendy, Sharon, John, Debbie, Bob, Judy, Carole, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Marlene, Dorothy, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah. Give them healing, help and hope through faith in Christ.

People: Be with them in their trouble, and rescue them according to your gracious will.

Pastor: God of all comfort, bless and be with all who mourn the passing of loved ones. Bless Al Weil and family as they remember Eleanor, who would have been 91 years old. Comfort Lisa as she remembers her mother, Diane Gray.

People: Comfort them all with the knowledge that they now dwell with all your saints in the glories of heaven.

Pastor: O Lord, everyone who believes that Jesus is Lord will not be put to shame. Unite your people in the one true faith and inspire them to trust your Word of Truth.

People: Bring us with penitent hearts to receive the great riches of your Son's body and blood for forgiveness, new life, and eternal salvation.

Pastor: Lord God, as you brought your people to the Promised Land and gave them an inheritance of abundance, so you give us all that we have.

People: Preserve us from greed, and grant us thankful hearts to declare your goodness and gladly support the ministry of Christ with our tithes and offerings.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, the adversary continually afflicts us and walks about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. We implore you for the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, to help us by your grace, strengthen our hearts by your Word, that empowered by your Holy Spirit, our enemy would not prevail over us, but that we may abide evermore in your grace and be preserved to life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil by the power of your Word. By that same power we now dare to approach your presence at your invitation to receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by means of your Son's body and blood given to us in this Holy Sacrament. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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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 #424 "O Christ, You Walked the Road"

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.

When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align.

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

HYMN #550 "Lamb of God"

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

**Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

Refrain

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

"Above All"

Verse: Above all powers, above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure what You're worth

Chorus:

*Crucified... laid behind the stone You lived to die rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground You took the fall and thought of me...
Above all*

Repeat Verse and Chorus

Ending: Like a rose, trampled on the ground,
You took the fall, and thought of me...above all.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

People: **and His mercy endureth forever.**

Pastor: We give thanks to you, almighty God, both for your command to believe
and for the faith to receive this salutary gift, and we pray that as Christ's
redeemed people we may show forth the light of your grace and love to
our neighbors; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Bless we 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 **“The Power of the Cross”**

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day. Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then nailed to a cross of wood.
This the pow’r of the cross. Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath. We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh to see the pain written on Your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev’ry bitter thought, ev’ry evil deed crowning Your blood-stained brow.
This the pow’r of the cross. Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath. We stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life. “Finished!” the vict’ry cry.
This the pow’r of the cross. Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath. We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suff’ring I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live won through Your selfless love!
This the pow’r of the cross Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost. We stand forgiven at the cross.

Ending: We stand forgiven at the cross.

POSTLUDE *“Amazing Love”*

Preacher
Liturgist
Lector
Special Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Debbie Nier
Praise Team

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**Lent Worship
Wednesday at
10:00am &
6:00pm
*The Hand of the***