

Lenten Midweek 4

LENT

March 6, 2024



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Lutheran Church

March 6, 2024

PRELUDE

Silent: When Heaven Grows Still...

Week Four: The Silence at the Cross

AS WE GATHER

As we walk through our Lenten journey captivated by all the sights and sounds of the breaking of bread in the upper room to the anguished prayers in the garden to the chaos in the temple to the heart-wrenching view of Calvary, we will take the time this year to notice the silence... those eerie and painful moments of unexpected quiet. Come... and journey this day to the silence of the cross.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

LSB 436 v. 1, 3, *add.*

♪ **Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

**Darkness covers all the land, Jesus cries with shrilling voice
Where is God’s almighty hand? Left by His own Father’s choice?
Silence calls for Christ to plea: “Why have you forsaken me?”**

INVOCATION *Mt 28:19*

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

RESPONSIVE READING

Pastor: Jesus said, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." *Mark 8:34*

People: If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all. *Mark 9:35*

Pastor: Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

People: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. *Mark 10:43*

Pastor: Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. *Galatians 6:2*

People: Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. *Is 53:4*

Pastor: Then all of the disciples deserted him and fled. *Matt 26:56b*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Dear Father, in a scream that reached back through time and pierced all of eternity, your Son cried out "Why have you forsaken Me?!" How those words must have broken Your heart. How Jesus' pain must have torn Your spirit. You turned away from Jesus' in His greatest hour of need so that we might never fear that terror. Your silence on Calvary speaks volumes to us today. You abandoned Him who you loved so deeply... just so we would never be there, in that moment... agonizingly wondering where you are.
(Silence...)

THE OLD TESTAMENT

from Psalm 22

(Why have you forsaken Me?)

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest...

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. ⁷ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ⁸ "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" ...

¹² Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; ¹³ they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; ¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— ¹⁷ I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over

me; ¹⁸they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. ¹⁹But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 5:7-10

(Loud cries and tears meet silence...)

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

Paul Manz

Lutheran High School North Choir

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 27:41-46

(Why have you forsaken Me?)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 27th Chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴²"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. ⁴⁵From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

LBW 107



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

HOMILY

“Silence at the Cross”

Matthew 27:41-46

Vicar Adam Hiles, Pastoral Student

Historic Trinity, Detroit; St. Paul, Royal Oak

OFFERTORY

LSB 450 v. 5

**♪ What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
 For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
 O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.**

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VOLUNTARY

PRAYER

During this Lenten season, we hear not only the echoes of the ages, but the echoes that ring against these very walls, as we pray the prayers of those who find their place in the stone, glass, wood, tile, paint or fresco of Historic Trinity.

Pastor: Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I feel my sins. They bite and gnaw and frighten me. Where shall I go? I look to you, Lord Jesus, and believe in you. Although my faith is weak, I cling to you and am made sure, for you have promised: who believes in me shall have eternal life. Even if my conscience is troubled and my sins frighten me and make me tremble, you have still said: "My son, be of good cheer; yours sins are forgiven you. I will raise you up on the last day, and you will have eternal life." I cannot help myself by my own strength. I come to you for help.

People: **Amen.** *~ Martin Luther (1483- 1546)*

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, I approach you. I am a sinner, and dare not rely on my own worth, but only on your goodness and mercy. I am defiled by many sins in body and soul, and by my unguarded thoughts and words. Gracious God of majesty and awe, I seek your protection, I look for your healing. Poor troubled sinner that I am, I appeal to you, the fountain of all mercy. I cannot bear your judgment, but I trust in your salvation. Lord, I show my wounds to you and uncover my shame before you. I know my sins are many and great, and they fill me with fear, but I hope in your mercies, for they cannot be numbered. Lord Jesus Christ, eternal king, God and man, crucified for mankind, look upon me with mercy and hear my prayer, for I trust in you. Have mercy on me, full of sorrow and sin, for the depth of your compassion never ends. Praise to you, saving sacrifice, offered on the wood of the cross for me and for all mankind. Praise to the noble and precious blood, flowing from the wounds of my crucified Lord Jesus Christ and washing away the sins of the whole world. Remember, Lord your creature, whom you have redeemed with your blood; I repent my sins, and I long to put right what I have done. Merciful Father, take away all my offenses and sins; purify me in body and soul, and make me worthy to taste the holy of holies. May your sacrifice, although I am unworthy, be for me the remission of my sins, the washing away of my guilt, the end of my evil thoughts, and the rebirth of my better instincts. May it incite me to do the works pleasing to you and profitable to my health in body and soul, and be a firm defense against the wiles of my enemies.

People: **Amen.** *~St. Ambrose (340-397 AD)*

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.

ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

Bob Chillcott

Lutheran High School North Choir

LENTEN BENECTION

from Psalm 22 and Numbers 6:26

Pastor: May He Who was forsaken, poured out like water, whose heart melted like wax; May He Whose hands and feet were pierced, who was laid in the dust of death; May He Who was surrounded and encircled, stared upon and gloated over; May He—together with the Father and the Holy Spirit—surround us, yet look upon us with favor, and give us peace.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The ✱ Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People:



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

POSTLUDE