

# Midweek of Lent 4

March 15, 2023

Prelude/Bells/Welcome

## Hymn

## “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

LSB 427

- 1 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.
- 2 When the woes of life o’ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 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.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Text: Public domain

## Confession & Absolution

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

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

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **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.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

## Opening Versicles

**L** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**L** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C** **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**

**L** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**C** **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

**L** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**C** **He was bruised for our iniquities.**

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Readings From Holy Scripture

### Reading

*Genesis 1:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Reading

*Ephesians 5:1–2, 8–14*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

*John 8:12–18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." <sup>13</sup>So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." <sup>14</sup>Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. <sup>15</sup>You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. <sup>16</sup>Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. <sup>17</sup>In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. <sup>18</sup>I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Responsory

**L** We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

**L** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C** **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

**L** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

## **Apostles' Creed**

**☩ 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.**

## **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.**

**Hymn****“God, Whose Almighty Word”****LSB 979**

- 1 God, whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard  
And took their flight:  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And where the Gospel day  
Sheds not its glorious ray,  
Let there be light!
- 2 Lord, who once came to bring,  
On Your redeeming wing,  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind:  
Oh, now to humankind  
Let there be light!
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,  
Life-giving, holy dove,  
Speed forth Your flight;  
Move on the water's face,  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light!
- △ 4 Holy and blessed Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, love, might!  
Boundless as ocean's tide,  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the earth, far and wide,  
Let there be light!

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825

Text: Public domain

**Sermon****Offering**

## Prayer

### Collect for the Word

#### Evening Prayer

**G** 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.

#### Blessing

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**G** Amen.

#### Hymn

#### “Abide with Me”

**LSB 878**

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.

Text: Public domain

## **Greet our brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Elder: Cody Waibel

Organist: Gladys Moore

### **Acknowledgments**

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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## *Special Services*

### *All Lenten Midweek Services at 6:30 pm*

*\*March 15, Midweek Lenten Service*

*\*March 22, Midweek Lenten Service*

*\*March 29, Midweek Lenten Service*

*\*5:30 pm – Light meal and desserts prior to worship  
service*



### *Holy Week Services*

*9:00 am, April 2, Palm Sunday*

*6:30 pm, April 6, Maundy Thursday Service/HC*

*6:30 pm, April 7, Good Friday Service*



### *April 9, Easter Sunday*

*7:00 am, Easter Sunrise with Holy Communion*

*8:00 am, Flowering of the Cross*

*8:15 am, Fellowship Breakfast with Easter Egg Hunt*

*10:30 am, Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion*