

February 21, 2024

Midweek Lent #2



GOD ON TRIAL

Sympathy



Salem Lutheran

14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org



Midweek Lent #2

*Theme: God on Trial
Sympathy*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

SERIES THEME: Our midweek Lent series theme is ***God on Trial***. The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God—and his people—are judged. Temptations are many in this environment: treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model—and our motivation—in Jesus. This series takes us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before men in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and courage to testify to the truth.

TONIGHT'S FOCUS: When we feel that the world is against us, it is easy to feel self-pity. We make ourselves the victims and wallow in our trouble. Jesus refused to do that. Rather, he felt compassion for those he knew would suffer after him and even forgave those crucifying him. Likewise, rather than pitying ourselves, we feel pity for those who have no idea of the destruction that awaits them. We want them to know the Father's forgiveness.

Tonight we welcome Pastor Al Schleusener as our guest preacher. Pastor Schleusener serves our sister church, Mt. Olive, in St. Paul.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Al Schleusener (Mt. Olive, St. Paul)

Piano: Madison Boerner Choir Director: Luke Dorn

Handbell Director: Jessie Wolfe

Order of Worship



Preservice Music & Words of Welcome

Please remain seated.

M: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night, and peace at the last.

C: Amen.

M: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: To sing praise to your name, O Most High;

M: To herald your love in the morning,

C: Your truth at the close of day.

M: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

C: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven,
And to you, my brothers and sisters,
That I have sinned in thought, word, and deed.**

By my fault,

By my own fault,

By my own grievous fault.

For this I pray to God Almighty to have mercy on me.

Forgive all my sins,

And bring me to everlasting life.

M: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun when we shall serve him in newness of life.

C: Amen.

(4pm) Choir Anthem: At the Cross

Jubilate Choir

There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies.
There's a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide.
Where all the love I've ever found comes like a flood, comes flowing down.

Refrain

At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life. I'm in awe of You. I'm in awe of You.
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white, I owe all to You, I owe all to
You, Jesus.

There's a place where sin and shame are powerless,
where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness,
where all the love I've ever felt comes like a flood, comes flowing down. (Refrain)

Here my hope is found, here on holy ground. Here I bow down, here I bow down.
Here, arms open wide, here You saved my life. Here I bow down, here I bow.
(Refrain)

(6:30pm) Hymn: Go to Dark Gethsemane

CW 425 sts. 1-3



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing



tempt - er's pow'r; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - rained. Oh, the worm - wood and the gall,
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,



watch with him one bit - ter hour. Turn not from his
oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"



griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
pain, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

"The Scripture readings that begin today are called the Passion History. Unlike the ordinary meaning of the word passion, the meaning of this word as it applies to the series of readings during Lent is based on the original Latin and Greek. Passio (Latin) and pascha (Greek) speak of suffering as reflected in our contemporary word compassion ("suffering with someone"). So we read a history of the suffering and death of our Savior. The readings each week are a composite, sequential account taken from all four gospels. They provide us with the complete story of the suffering and death of our Lord."

Part #1— The Passover & Lord's Supper

PASTOR: Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples,

CONGREGATION: "As you know, the Passover is two days away and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

PASTOR: Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the High Priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. They said, "But not during the feast, among the people, or there may be a riot."

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. They counted out for him thirty silver coins, and he watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus sent two of his disciples, Peter and John, saying, "Go into the city. As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters. Say to its owner, 'The Teacher says, my appointed time is near. Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

In the evening at the proper hour, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them,

CONGREGATION: "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

PASTOR: Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. He got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. He asked them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Once you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

PASTOR: After Jesus had said this, he was deeply troubled and testified,

CONGREGATION: "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

PASTOR: His disciples were very sad. They stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant, and began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. One after the other they began to say to him,

CONGREGATION: "Surely not I, Lord?"

PASTOR: Jesus replied, "The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born. It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish."

Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly," but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said,

CONGREGATION: "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, then God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

"My little children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A

new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

PASTOR: Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

CONGREGATION: **While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,**

PASTOR: "Take and eat: this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

CONGREGATION: **In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying,**

PASTOR: "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine from now until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung a hymn, Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him.

(Verses compiled from the New International Version)

After the reading, the congregation joins in the seasonal response...

C: All we, like sheep, have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds, we are healed.

Hymn: Delay Not! Delay Not!

CW 712



1 De - lay not! De - lay not! O sin - ner, draw near!
2 De - lay not! De - lay not, O sin - ner, to come,
3 De - lay not! De - lay not! The Spir - it of grace,
4 De - lay not! De - lay not! Why long - er a - buse



The wa - ters of life are now flow - ing for you.
for mer - cy still lin - gers and calls you to - day.
long grieved and re - sist - ed, may take his sad flight
the love and com - pas - sion of Je - sus, your God?



No price is de - mand - ed, the Sav - ior is here;
Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
and leave you in dark - ness to fin - ish your race,
A foun - tain is o - pened—how can you re - fuse?



re - demp - tion is pur - chased, God's prom - ise is true.
its mes - sage, un - heed - ed, will soon pass a - way.
to sink in the gloom of e - ter - ni - ty's night.
Come, wash and be cleansed in his par - don - ing blood.

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:26-34

²⁶As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.

²⁹For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then

“ ‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!”
and to the hills, “Cover us!” ’

³¹For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

³³When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

“God on Trial: Sympathy”

Please remain seated after the sermon.

Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God’s work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren’t expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

Handbell Offertory

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Prayer of the Church

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen.



1 God was there on Cal - va - ry, God the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
2 All the world on Cal - va - ry cru - ci - fied the Prince of life,
3 Sin was there on Cal - va - ry, all the sins of ev - 'ry - one,
4 Love was there on Cal - va - ry, stream - ing from the heart of God,



dy - ing that the world might live, there on Cal - va - ry.
pierced the hands of God's own Son, there on Cal - va - ry.
laid up - on God's sin - less Lamb there on Cal - va - ry.
reach - ing out for ev - 'ry - one there on Cal - va - ry.

5 Life was there on Calvary,
flowing from his wounded side,
spent that death itself might die
there on Calvary.

6 We were there on Calvary;
we were pardoned, saved, set free,
saved to live eternally—
blessèd Calvary!

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # 48708 and CCLI # 630266

LENTEN WORSHIP AT SALEM



Midweek Lenten Services

4:00 pm and 6:30 pm, with a meal between services

February 28	Pastor Bob Beaver— Salem Woodbury
March 6	Pastor John Berg— Divinity, West St. Paul
March 13	Pastor Bob Edwards— Retired
March 20	Pastor Mark Wessel— Christ, North St. Paul

Palm Sunday

March 23	5:00 pm Worship with Communion
March 24	8/10:30 am Worship with Communion

Maundy Thursday— March 28

6:30 pm Holy Thursday Worship with Communion

Good Friday— March 29

10:00 am Good Friday Worship
6:30 pm Good Friday Tenebrae

Easter Sunday— March 31

7:00 am Easter Dawn Worship with Communion
8:00 - 10:30 am Easter Breakfast
9:00 am Easter Festival Worship
10:45 am Easter Festival Worship

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

For our guests

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

For those with young children

We love to see families worship together, and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, on the wall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome, too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

