


February 28, 2024

Midweek Lent #3



GOD ON TRIAL

Truth



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org

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: Whether Pilate's tone was sincere or sneering, he expressed what may be the most important question of his day and ours: *What is truth?* We can be tempted to question God's truth, especially with the uncertainty of everything around us. However, God has given us truth in a person: his only Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus stood before Pilate as a real flesh and blood person. He gave his real life as a payment for sin, and his empty tomb is proof of God's truth that life overcomes death!

Tonight we welcome Pastor Bob Beaver as our guest preacher. Pastor Beaver serves our sister church, Salem Lutheran, in Woodbury.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Bob Beaver (Salem, Woodbury)

Piano: Luke Dorn

2nd-4th Grade Teachers: Michelle Stob, Jessie Wolfe, Tom Stob

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: Power in the Blood

Salem 2nd-4th Grade

Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's power, there's power in the blood.
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There is wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r,
in the blood of the Lamb;
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
in the precious blood of the Lamb.

Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There's power, there's power in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There is wonderful power in the blood. (*Refrain*)

(6:30pm) Hymn: Christ the Eternal Lord

CW 521 sts. 1-3



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, whose prom - ise here we claim,
2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word to ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son who shares our hu - man birth,



whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured on all who name your name;
whose time - less teach - ings still are heard set forth on Scrip - ture's page;
and by his death sal - va - tion won for ev - 'ry child of earth;



with thank - ful - ness and praise we stand be - fore your throne,
trans - form our thought and mind, en - light - en all who read,
in - spire our hearts, we pray, to tell your love a - broad,



in - tent to serve you all our days and make your glo - ry known.
with - in your Word by faith to find the bread of life in - deed.
that all may hon - or Christ to - day and fol - low him as Lord.

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

"The Scripture readings used in these midweek services 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— Gethsemane

PASTOR: Jesus told his disciples, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." Peter replied,

CONGREGATION: "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

PASTOR: Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, this very night before the rooster crows you will disown me three times." But Peter insisted emphatically,

CONGREGATION: "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."

PASTOR: And all the others said the same. Then Jesus went with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, a place called Gethsemane. Jesus and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. On reaching the place, Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray. Pray that you will not fall into temptation."

He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, along with him and began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Jesus withdrew about a stone's throw, knelt down, and fell on the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. He said,

CONGREGATION: "Father, everything is possible for you. If you are willing, take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will. Not my will, but yours be done."

PASTOR: An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." He went away a second time and prayed,

CONGREGATION: "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

PASTOR: When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. Returning to the disciples the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Going at once to Jesus, Judas approached Jesus to kiss him and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus asked him,

CONGREGATION: "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss? Friend, do what you came for."

PASTOR: Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" They replied,

CONGREGATION: "Jesus of Nazareth!"

PASTOR: "I am he," Jesus said. Judas the traitor was standing there with them. When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

CONGREGATION: "Jesus of Nazareth!"

PASTOR: Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."

CONGREGATION: **This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me.**

PASTOR: Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said,

CONGREGATION: **"Lord, should we strike with our swords?"**

PASTOR: One of Jesus' companions, Simon Peter, reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter, "No more of this! Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me? Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how, then, would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

CONGREGATION: **And he touched the man's ear and healed him.**

PASTOR: Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour - when darkness reigns! This has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled."

CONGREGATION: **Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest.**

PASTOR: All the disciples deserted him and fled. A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

(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: You Are the Way; through You Alone

CW 514



1 You are the way; thro' you a - lone can we the Fa - ther find;
2 You are the truth; your Word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb pro-claims your con-qu'ring arm,
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



in you, O Christ, has God re-vealed his heart and will and mind.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you nor death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Scripture Reading

John 18:33-40

³³Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

³⁵"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

³⁶Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

³⁷"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

³⁸"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

⁴⁰They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

"God on Trial: Truth"

Please remain seated after the sermon.

Offering



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.



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.

Hymn: O God from God, O Light from Light

CW 629 st. 3-4



3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, that death of
4 Then sing to Christ a might - y song; ex - tol his



pain mid hate and scorn— these all are past, and
name, his mer - cies tell! Sing, heav'n - ly hosts, your



now a - bove he reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
praise pro - long, and all on earth, your an - them swell!



Lift up your heads, you heav'n - ly gates! So sang his
All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain! For - ev - er



hosts, un - heard by men. Lift up your heads, for
let the song as - cend! To Christ the King, en -



you he waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
throned to reign, all glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Easter for Kids—Come, join your child(ren) to celebrate Jesus' Easter victory! Easter for Kids will be held March 23rd from 10am to Noon. Children and parents stay together for this family event, learning together about the meaning of Easter through songs, crafts, and games. Registration is now open on our website. Visit www.salemlutheran.org and click on Easter for Kids.

Donations Needed— Our church secretary, Debbie Swanson, is in the hospital in Rochester recovering from surgery. Her husband is traveling back and forth to support her and could use some assistance with gas cards. If you'd like to help, please see the church office.

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + www.salemlutheran.org + 651-439-7831
church@salemlutheran.org

LENTEN WORSHIP AT SALEM



Midweek Lenten Services

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

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.**

