



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org



Midweek Lent #4

*Theme: God on Trial
Misconceptions*

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: Like Herod, many people are intrigued by Jesus but for the wrong reasons. They want a magician to wave away their troubles, an iconoclast to inspire them for their cause, or an ally to approve of their choices. When they don't find those things they lose interest or even turn against him. How do we react to Jesus? How do we respond to those with misconceptions about him? We imitate Jesus who remained steadfast for us despite the cost.

Tonight we welcome Pastor John Berg as our guest preacher. Pastor Berg serves our sister church, Divinity, in West St. Paul.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor John Berg (Divinity, West St Paul)

Piano: Madison Boerner

K– 1st Grade Teachers: Allison Dorn, Debbie Hansen

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

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: Lamb of God

Salem K-1st Grade

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

Oh 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 child of God. (Refrain)

(6:30pm) Hymn: Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

CW 420 sts. 1-2,4-5



1 Je - sus, I will pon-der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
4 Grant that I your pas-sion view with re - pent - ant griev - ing;
5 If my sins give me a - larm and my con-science grieve me,



with your Spir - it me en - dow for such med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and stripes and wretch-ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
let me not bring shame to you by un - ho - ly liv - ing.
let your cross my fear dis - arm, peace of con-science give me.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails did wound you,
How could I re - fuse to shun ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure
Help me see for - give - ness won by your ho - ly pas - sion.



of your suf-f'ring, pain, and death that I may not per - ish.
how for them you died, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
since for me God's on - ly Son suf-fered with - out mea - sure?
If for me he slays his Son, God must have com - pas - sion!

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Part #3— *Before the High Priest*

PASTOR: They brought Jesus first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there, and brought Peter in. It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus replied,

CONGREGATION: "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

PASTOR: When Jesus had said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. He demanded, "Is that any way to answer the high priest?" Jesus replied,

CONGREGATION: "If I said something wrong, testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?"

PASTOR: Then Annas had Jesus sent, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Finally, two came forward and declared,

CONGREGATION: "We heard him say, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days. I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.' "

PASTOR: Yet even then their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus replied,

CONGREGATION: "Yes, it is as you say. But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

PASTOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him, and struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" They said many other insulting things to him and the guards took him and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him and said,

WOMEN: "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus. Are you not one of this man's disciples?"

PASTOR: But he denied it before them all,

MEN: "I don't know or understand what you're talking about."

PASTOR: Then he went out to the gateway. When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around,

WOMEN: "This fellow is one of them."

PASTOR: Again he denied it, with an oath,

MEN: "I don't know the man!"

PASTOR: About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" Then Peter began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them,

MEN: "I don't know what you're talking about."

PASTOR: Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

Very early in the morning, the chief priests with the elders, the teachers of the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood." They replied,

CONGREGATION: "What is that to us? That's your responsibility."

PASTOR: So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said,

CONGREGATION: "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money."

PASTOR: So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

CONGREGATION: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

(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 of the Day: What Grace Is This

CW 395 sts. 1-3, 6



1 What grace is this! My Lord and King
2 What grace is this— that ver - y God
3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
6 What grace is this? How can it be?



has set his face to suf - fer - ing. My God e -
would stoop to lift a cross of wood and walk a
he yields to Pon - tius Pi - late's law and lets the
He wears this raw hu - mil - i - ty to lift me



ter - nal dies to bring e - ter - nal life to me.
road of rock and blood, a sin - ner's road, for me.
Ro - man ham - mers draw a rush of blood for me.
to e - ter - ni - ty. Such grace—sweet grace— for me.

¹Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ²And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”

³So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

⁴Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

⁵But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

⁶On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. ⁹He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

“God on Trial: Misconceptions”

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

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.

Closing Hymn: Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

CW 420 st. 6



6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; help me bear my cross - es,
learn - ing hum - ble - ness from you, peace mid pain and loss - es.
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Donations Invited – 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.



Midweek Lenten Services 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm, meal between

March 13

Pastor Bob Edwards— Retired

March 20

Pastor Mark Wessel—Christ, North St. Paul

Palm Sunday Weekend (March 23/24) Regular Worship schedule

Maundy Thursday (March 28) 6:30 pm Worship with Communion

Good Friday (March 29)

10:00 am Good Friday Worship

6:30 pm Good Friday Tenebrae

Easter Sunday (March 31)

NO SATURDAY SERVICE on March 30th.

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

PREPARING FOR Easter

Easter for Kids

Salem's Easter for Kids program will be held the Saturday before Easter weekend (March 23rd) from 10am –12pm. Parents are invited to stay and "travel" with their kids to different stations as Salem members share the joy of Easter with adults and kids alike. Easter for Kids is open to all children up to 5th grade. Easter for Kids is a great chance for the unchurched to learn about our Savior too. Invite a friend! Register to attend on our website at www.salemlutheran.org.



Easter Breakfast

Each year Salem members enjoy an Easter breakfast together as part of our Easter celebration. We will continue this tradition this year! Please find the signup poster on the board in the church entry to see what items we need this year and ways to help. Thank you for serving and making our Easter joy a little brighter!

Easter Worship

Salem will celebrate Easter victory with three services on Easter Sunday morning. A sunrise service at 7am will be different from the other services, with readings and hymns reminding us of the wonder of the women's discovery of the empty tomb early Easter morning. Holy Communion will be offered in this quieter celebration of Easter victory.

Festival services at 9am & 10:45am will bring out our full-throated exultation as we celebrate loudly the meaning of Jesus' resurrection for every believer. Choirs will sing, trumpets will play, and handbells will ring as the church rejoices in Easter triumph. Join us for one or more services Easter Sunday, and invite a friend to celebrate with you.

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.**

