

PREPARATION PSALMS (Hymnal pgs): Psalm 32(130), 65(136), 77(139)

PREPARATION PRAYER: Heavenly Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Who offered Himself in our place, You have given us access to the very mercy-seat of God. Give us Your continual help; put good desires into our minds and bring them to full effect; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

THE HYMNS 731 153 375:5

THE ORDER OF SERVICE **Worship Supplement** p12-21

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP p12

Prayer . . . Entrance Hymn . . . Invocation . . . Confession and Absolution

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD p 13

The Kyrie . . . Gloria in Excelsis . . . The Prayer of the Day - "Amen"

THE FIRST LESSON..... **ISAIAH 42:14-21**

"For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant.

¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools.

¹⁶ I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.

These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

¹⁷ But those who trust in idols, who say to images, 'You are our gods,' will be turned back in utter shame.

¹⁸ "Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see!

¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,
blind like the servant of the Lord?

²⁰ You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen."

²¹ It pleased the Lord for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Today: On Trial – Before Pilate

THE SECOND LESSON..... **JOHN 9:1-7,13-17,34-39**

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. ¹⁷ Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."

³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." ³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: **Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia!**

THE APOSTLES CREED

Supplement p 15

HYMN: 153 "*Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*"

THE 2017 LENTEN SERIES

SEE HIS CROSS!

TODAY: SHED NO TEARS FOR JESUS LUKE 23:26-31

As they 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. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then ""they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"" For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

THE OFFERTORY (Pg. 16)...**THE OFFERINGS GATHERED**

THE PRAYERS . . . THE BENEDICTION "*Amen*"

THE CLOSING HYMN: 375:5 "*My Guilt, O Father, Thou Hast Laid*"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUESDAY MARCH 21 7:00pm Service **It's No Secret!**

Pastor David Schaller, preaching

NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 26 – LENT 4

9:00am – Adult Bible Study

10am – Divine Service with Holy Communion

Daily Bible readings for home devotions; March 20-25, '17

Mon Psalm 25 pulses with conviction: I have a God who has done wonderful things (1), carrying sinners along past military conquest (2-3), social security (3-5), and prosperity (6-7)—all foreshadowing Easter (8) and Judgment Day (9) – when the pot boils over (10-12).

Tues John 2:13-25 Jesus boiled with righteous anger at people who made an auction barn of the Temple (13-15). The mystery of Easter is solved by those who believe the Scriptures (22). Contrariwise, saving faith is not produced by miracles; Jesus understood that (23-25).

Wed Galatians 2:17-21 On our part, we admit to being sinners. On God's part, Jesus' sinlessness took care of God's Law against sinners (18). That took us out from under the Law as a way of salvation (19), so that we are now motivated to live in/with/alongside Jesus, who really loved us enough to sacrifice Himself for us. (Basic ABC's.)

Thurs Ezekiel 33:7-11 As a watchman warns of danger, so we warn one another about the danger of drowning in sin—for the prospect of anyone dying in un-repentant sin (8-9) is scary. As we recognize this imminent danger (10), we also assure others that God really wants to keep them out of hell (11) -- and Lent presents God's solution.

Fri Matthew 18:15-20 outlines God's search-and-rescue protocol. If you are strong enough to rescue a sinking sinner all by yourself (15), well and good! If not, others will help pull in the lifeline (16). If the victim releases the rope, we may have to acknowledge that s/he has committed spiritual suicide despite our best efforts (17). Even under those circumstances, we implore God to not give up (18-20).

Sat Romans 13:1-10 presents God's protocol for our earthly wellbeing. Earthly government is not merely a social contract but also a God-supported arrangement to punish wickedness and promote the common good (3-7). On a personal level, we observe God's will as expressed in "the second table" of the Ten Commandments by really doing what we can to serve our neighbor's best interests. By "best interests" we mean his/her spiritual best interests; we do whatever we can to foster/promote our neighbor's awareness of God, of the perversity of human nature and God's solution to this wretched condition. It all comes back to understanding the meaning of Lent.

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SEE HIS CROSS

SURPRISING WORDS FROM OUR SAVIOR'S PASSION

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2017

Second Meeting of the Jewish Court

As soon as it was morning, all the ruling priests and the elders of the people and Bible scholars, that is, the whole Jewish Court, had a meeting. They brought Jesus before their court and asked, “Are You the promised Savior? Tell us.”

“If I tell you, you won’t believe Me,” He said to them. “And if I ask you a question, you won’t answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be sitting at the right of God’s power.”

“Are You, then, the Son of God?” all of them asked.

He answered them, “As you say: I am He.”

“Why do we need any more testimony?” they asked. “We’ve heard Him say it ourselves.”

Then the whole crowd of them decided to kill Jesus. They got up, bound Jesus, took Him from Caiaphas to the governor’s palace, and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor. It was early in the morning.

Judas Hangs Himself

When Judas who betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt sorry and brought the thirty shekels of silver back to the high priests and elders.

“I have sinned,” he said. “I have betrayed innocent blood.”

“What do we care about that?” they asked. “See to it yourself.”

Then Judas threw the money into the temple and left. He went away and hanged himself. Falling on his face, he burst in the middle, and all his intestines poured out.

The high priests took the money. “It isn’t right to put this into the temple treasury,” they said. “It’s blood money.” So they decided to buy with it the potter’s field for the burial of strangers. That’s why that field has ever since been called the Field of Blood. Then what the prophet Jeremiah said came true: “I took the thirty shekels of silver, the price of Him on whom some men of Israel set a price and I gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”

Before Pilate

To keep from getting unclean (they wanted to celebrate the Passover), the Jews themselves didn’t go into the governor’s palace. So Pilate came out to them.

“What accusation are you bringing against this Man?” he asked.

“If He weren’t a criminal,” they answered him, “we wouldn’t have handed Him over to you.”

–“Take Him yourselves,” Pilate therefore told them, “and judge Him according to your law.”

“We’re not allowed to kill anyone,” the Jews answered him. And so what Jesus said when He predicted how He would die was to come true.

Then they started to accuse Him: “We found that He makes our people disloyal, keeps them from paying taxes to the emperor, and says He is Christ, a king.”

Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. Jesus stood before the governor. Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

“Did you think of that yourself,” Jesus asked, “or did others tell you about Me?”

“Am I a Jew?” Pilate asked. “Your own people and the ruling priests handed You over to me. What did You do?”

“My kingdom is not of this world,” Jesus answered. “If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But now My kingdom is not of this world.”

“Then You are a king?” Pilate asked Him.

“Yes, I am a king!” Jesus answered. “I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who lives in the truth listens to Me.”

Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” After saying this he went out to the Jews again and told the ruling priests and the crowd, “I don’t find this Man guilty of anything.”

While the ruling priests and elders were accusing Him of many things, He said nothing.

“Don’t You have anything to say to this?” Pilate asked Him again. “Don’t You hear how many accusations they’re bringing against You?”

But Jesus didn’t answer him anymore in regard to anything that was said, so that Pilate was very much surprised.

P: The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me.

C: He laid down His life that I should be His very own.