

Even in the In-Between



Lent Midweek Worship Series

Pairing Scripture
with poems
by Tanner Olson

TONIGHT:
John 19:1-11 &
“For Us”
(Part Two)

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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A LITURGY OF DOUBT AND HOPE

Worship in a traditional order drawing on along with words of doubt and hope from Scripture, poets, and writers.

Opening Hymn

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 sts. 1-2, 4, 6



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 - pen - tant griev - ing.
6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; Help me bear my cross - es,



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.
Learn - ing hum - ble - ness from You, Peace mid pain and loss - es.



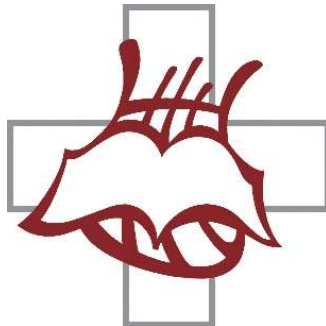
Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



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?
That I may in heav'n a - bove Sing Your praise for - ev - er.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615



Invocation

Jude 1-2,20-22,25

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

C: **To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,
before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

P: We come to be built up in our most holy faith,
building one another up through the Word of God.
God the Father calls on us to have compassion on one another:

C: **“Have mercy on those who doubt.”**

P: God the Son calls on us to support one another
as we wait for His mercy that leads to eternal life:

C: **Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling
and to present us blameless before the presence of his glory
with great joy. Amen.**

Confession of Sins

Based on “Emmanuel” by Aaron Niequist

P: Can we just admit together that we’re not fine?

C: **Because I’m not fine, and you’re not fine.**

P: Can we just admit together that we’re afraid?

C: **Because I’m afraid, and you’re afraid.**

P: Can we just admit together that we have doubts?

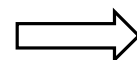
C: **Because I have doubts, and you have doubts.**

P: Can we just admit together that we’re not free?

C: **Because I’m not free, and I want to be.**

P: If you’re not free, then call out to God with me:

C: **Emmanuel,
God with us today,
We humbly call out Your Name:
Emmanuel,
As near as our need,
As close as the air that we breathe,
Emmanuel.
Lord, have mercy.**



P: Can we just admit together that we have failed?

C: ***Because I have failed, and you have failed.***

P: Can we just admit that our hands aren't clean?

C: ***And our hearts aren't clean, and they'll never be.***

P: Until we're freed, and mercy sings.

C: ***Emmanuel,***

God with us today,

We desperately cling to Your Name:

Emmanuel,

As near as our need,

As close as the air that we breathe.

Emmanuel.

Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Absolution (Forgiveness)

Based on liturgy by Bernie Seter and "Emmanuel" by Aaron Niequist

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, which means He does not desire your death. But rather He calls you to turn from your wicked ways and find life in the life of Christ. He has had mercy upon you. He graciously forgives your sins through the death and resurrection of Your Lord Jesus Christ. He strengthens you by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful lives according to His will, and will keep you in His grace until that day when He will take you to be with Him for eternity. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ***Amen.***

Emmanuel,

God with us today,

In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:

Emmanuel,

Who came near so we are freed,

As close as the Word that we hear.

Emmanuel.

The Lord has had mercy on us.

P: Now we can admit together that we've failed,

C: ***Because I am forgiven, and you are forgiven.***

P: Now we can admit together that our hands aren't clean,

C: ***Because Jesus made me clean, and He made you clean.***

P: If you're now free, then call out to God with me:

C: ***Emmanuel,***

God with us today,

In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:

Emmanuel.

The Lord has had mercy on us. Amen.

Reading Paired with Tonight's Poem

(See Handout)

John 19:1-11 (ESV)

Tonight's Poem by Tanner Olson

(See Handout)

Companion Reading

1 Peter 2:22-25 (ESV)

²²[Jesus Christ] committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, though ruthless Pontius Pilate declared Your innocence before the crowds, the crowds insisted and swayed him to hand you over to be crucified. But You did not return evil for evil. You who knew no sin became sin for us. May the shame You bore for us on the cross give us the greatest honor so that we might always see that only in suffering can we see who You truly are, our glorious King and Savior; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ***Amen.***

Hymn of the Day

My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430 sts. 1-3, 5



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
 way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
 slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 Who at my need His life did spend!
 And for His death They thirst and cry.
 That He His foes From thence might free.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683, Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879-1962
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Sermon

John 19:1-11 & "For Us" (Part 2)



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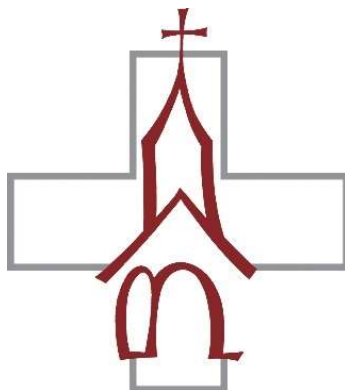
Confession of Faith (adapted from the Apostles' Creed)

Our Father and Creator, the One Above Us All,
made all things in the world above and the earth below.

Jesus, his special born Son,
was fathered by the Holy Spirit
and was born into this world through a virgin named Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, a ruler of the Roman people,
who had him nailed to a tree pole, the cross, where he bled to death.
He was buried and then went down to the world of the dead.
On the third day he came back to life, never to die again.
He returned to his Father in the world above
and sat down at his powerful right hand.
One day he will return to this earth to make the final decision
about the eternity of the living and the dead.

After he went to the world above,
Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us from the Father,
to live in and through us.
There is only one holy and world-wide group of believers in Jesus
—a Sacred Family called his Church.
All of the Holy Spirit's holy people sit together equally in this Family
and share his Sacred Food at his table.
He has forgiven us and set us free from all of our broken ways,
and all who trust in him, even though they cross over to death,
will be brought back to life again,
to a life that will never end. Amen.

Offering



Offertory

Just as I Am, without One Plea

LSB 570, sts. 1,3,5

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
5 Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be -



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Prayers of the Church

based on Langston Hughes' poem "Prayer [2]"

P: Gather up
in the arms of your mercy

C: **The sick, the depraved**
The desperate, the tired,

P: All the scum
of our weary city.
Gather up

C: **In the arms of your mercy.**

P: Gather up
C: **In the arms of your love—**

P: Those who expect

C: **No love from above.**

P: For them—for us—

C: **We pray now.**

Pastor then offers the Prayers of the Church

* Jesus reached out to people considered by others to be "scum". We reach out to all people. And we ourselves may even feel like "scum" sometimes. But look at how God responds with love.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

Benediction (Blessing)

Colossians 1:19-20

P: God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus Christ, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. You are reconciled to God the Father, through the work of God the Son, and kept in this faith by God the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Announcements

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY , MARCH 15

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10 -10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM -11:30AM

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10 -10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM -11:30AM

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY , MARCH 29

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10 -10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM -11:30AM

CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. USHERS, READERS, AND VARIOUS OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND COMMUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THOSE ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@BETHELGURNEE.ORG.



EASTER LILIES

**Order Deadline:
Friday, March 24**

As a donation to Bethel Lutheran Church I would like _____ Easter lily plant(s) at \$12.00 each to be placed in our worship areas for Easter services on **April 9**.

Name and telephone number [please print]

Total amount enclosed: \$_____

Checks can be written to “Bethel Lutheran Church” and place check (or cash) with the form in an envelope, marked “Easter lilies” and place in the offering plate or turn in at the church office. *****Please include your donation when you submit your form.**

**Remember to take your lily plant(s)
Easter Sunday after the service
or later in the week if you would like to keep it.**

Acknowledgements

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