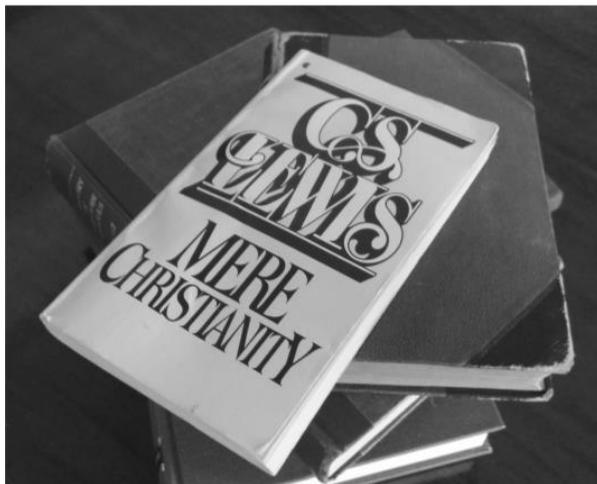


# Midweek Lenten Worship

Week #5:  
Christian Behavior &  
the Great Sin of Pride



## March 9, 2016

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### **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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### ***EVENING PRAYER***

Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book Evening Prayer, this liturgy recalls the Old Testament rhythm of prayer in the morning and the evening:

*“When you lie down and when you arise” (Deuteronomy 6:7).*

The liturgy of Evening Prayer, which grows out of the daily devotion of the home, has a simple, four-part outline: Service of Light, Psalmody, Readings and Responses, and Prayers. The Service of Light began as a daily lamp-lighting service at the setting of the sun in the early centuries before gas or electric lights. The image of light in the midst of darkness is easily associated with Christ who is our light (John 1:9). We look forward to the day when we will no longer need lamp nor sun, for the Lord God will be our light (Revelation 22:5).



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. ~ Wednesday Lenten Worship – 6:30 p.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,

Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

## SERVING TODAY

**Elder:** Paul DeLassus

**Lay Readers:** Mike Bandman, Bill Schwartz

**Disciple Care Elder:** Mike Bandman

**Ushers:** Lance Rasmussen, Christie Kozlik

**Acolyte:** Dane Peplow

## Opening Hymn

## Not All the Blood of Beasts

LSB 431



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,  
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con-science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.  
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

## Opening Words

**P:** The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C: to sing praise to Your Name, O Most High;**

**P:** to herald Your love in the morning,

**C: Your truth at the close of the day.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

(Silence for reflection on the sins that trouble us).

Pastor: We begin with me confessing my sin... 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 most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

**C: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.**

P: I thank my heavenly Father for this Good News. Amen.

**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 most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

**C: I thank my heavenly Father for this Good News. Amen.**

## **Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Psalm Reading**

## **Psalm 32 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup>Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup>For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

<sup>9</sup>Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

<sup>10</sup>Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

<sup>11</sup>Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***Epistle (New Testament Letter)***

***2 Corinthians 5:16–21 (ESV)***

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***Holy Gospel***

***Luke 18:9–14 (ESV)***

<sup>9</sup>[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

<sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I

fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’<sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

**Hymn of the Day**

**Lord, to You I Make Confession**

LSB 608; tune: 420



1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and  
 2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will  
 3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to  
 4 Lord, on You I cast my bur - den— Sink it in the



gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,  
 seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,  
 res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,  
 deep - est sea! Let me know Your gra - cious par - don,



Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to  
 Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my  
 Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -  
 Cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let Your Spir - it



see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.  
 sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.  
 lone can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.  
 leave me nev - er; Make me on - ly Yours for - ev - er.



*Refrain* Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

## **Sermon**

### **“Christian Behavior & the Great Sin of Pride”**

Pride or Self-Conceit is the centre of Christian morals, and the virtue opposite to it, in Christian morals, is called Humility. According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind (121-122).



Pleasure in being praised is not Pride....For here the pleasure lies not in what you are but in the fact that you have pleased someone you wanted to please. The trouble begins when you pass from thinking, ‘I have pleased him; all is well,’ to thinking, ‘What a fine person I must be to have done it.’ The more you delight in yourself and the less you delight in the praise, the worse you are becoming (125-126).

We say in English that a man is ‘proud’ of his son, or his father, or his school....Very often, in such sentences, the phrase ‘is proud of’ means ‘has a warm-hearted admiration for.’ Such an admiration is, of course, very far from being a sin (127).

[To know God we must be humble]—delightedly humble, feeling the infinite relief of having for once got rid of all the silly nonsense about your own dignity which makes you restless and unhappy all your life....I wish I had got a bit further with humility myself: if I had, I could probably tell you more about the relief, the comfort, of taking the fancy-dress off—getting rid of the false self, with all its ‘Look at me’ and ‘Aren’t I a good boy?’ and all its posing and posturing. To get even near it, even for a moment, is like a drink of cold water to a man in a desert (127-128).

If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think tell him the first step: to realise that one is proud (128).

## **Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer**

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## ***Prayers of the Church***

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**C: *Listen to my cry.***

P: Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

**C: *Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.***

P: In righteousness I shall see You;

**C: *When I awake, Your presence will give me joy.***

P: Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: *Amen.***

P: Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: *Amen.***

P: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night; we rest in surety, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. **C: *Amen.***

*(Silence for meditation)*

## ***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***

P: Guide us waking, O Lord,

**C: *and guard us sleeping,***

P: That awake we may watch with Christ

**C: *and asleep we may rest in peace.***

P: The almighty and merciful Lord,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**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!

**Announcements**

**Acknowledgments**

Adapted from "Evening Prayer" in *Lutheran Service Book*.  
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