

Fourth Wednesday in Lent

A Service of Prayer and Preaching



"From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." (Matthew 16:21)

March 6, 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Fargo, North Dakota

Prelude, including "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear," (LSB 908), setting by Jacob B. Weber

Opening Verses

- P** The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.
- C** **Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.**
- P** Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.
- C** **Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.**
- P** Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.
- C** **I hate those who cling to worthless idols; as for me, I trust in the Lord.**
- P** I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.
- C** **You have not given me into the hands of the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place.**

- P** Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.
- C** **My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.**
- P** Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends—those who see me on the street flee from me.
- C** **I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.**
- P** For I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side!”
- C** **They conspire against me and plot to take my life.**
- P** But I trust in you, Lord; I say, “You are my God.”
- C** **My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.**
- P** Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. (*Psalms 31:1-16*)
- C** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. . . Almighty and everlasting God, our times are in our hands, every step of the way you are guiding us to the future that you see fit for us, teach us to trust in you and following after your son through all things even to life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn ***“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”***

LSB 451

First Reading

Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Divine Necessity”

Matthew 16:21

Hymn of Response

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow”

LSB 428

Prayers

Offering *(Please sign and pass the green Fellowship book found at the center end of each pew.)*

Prayer/Benediction

Closing Hymn

“Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow”

LSB 880

*Acknowledgements: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.
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Those Assisting in Worship:

Officiant: Pastor Bernie Worrall

Organist: Dr. Katie Rolf

Special Music: (4:15) Louise Tegtmeier, acc. by Dr. Katie Rolf

(6p) Women’s Group: Barbara Downs, Sammi Hintz, Mariah Westerhausen,
Karen Hintz, Diane Heagle, Karen Woyen; accompanied by Dr. Katie Rolf

Ushers: Volunteers

Videographer: Kay Tegtmeier