

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 10, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.



Welcome!

To our guests and visitors:

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

Man of Sorrows (Lent)

Man of sorrows, Lamb of God,
By His own betrayed.
The sin of man and wrath of God
Has been on Jesus laid.

Silent as He stood accused,
Beaten, mocked, and scorned,
Bowing to the Father's will,
He took a crown of thorns.

Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation,
Where Your love poured out over me;
Now my soul cries out, "It is finished
Praise and honor unto Thee."

Sent of Heaven, God's own Son,
To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones
Who nailed Him to that tree.

Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation,
Where Your love poured out over me;
Now my soul cries out, "It is finished
Praise and honor unto Thee."

Now my debt is paid;
It is paid in full
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled.

Now the curse of sin
Has no hold on me.
Whom the Son sets free,
Oh, is free indeed!

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Praise and honor unto Thee."

CCLI Song # 6476063 Brooke Ligertwood | Matt Crocker © 2012 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God invites us to gather in His name.

People: We are gathered to worship and praise.

Pastor: Our heavenly Father's house is a house of prayer for all the nations.

People: He gathers people from every corner of the earth to sing His praises.

Pastor: We listen to God's Word.

People: We hear the message proclaimed of Christ crucified.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though this is a house of prayer, we do not always honor God's house as we should. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us ever into His house to ask for forgiveness.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: **we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Disrupt our sinfulness. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world, not only to disrupt our sinfulness but also to forgive us by His death and resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen. We are forgiven because of Christ crucified.**

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, in righteousness You disrupted the sinful lives of those in the temple, pointing them to the purpose of Your Father's house. Disrupt our sinful lives so that our church would be a home of prayer for all the nations; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

Potter's Hand

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior, I know for sure all of my days are held in Your hand,
Crafted into Your perfect plan.

You gently call me into Your presence, Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit;
Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life Through your eyes.
I'm captured by Your holy calling. Set me apart; I know You're drawing me to yourself.
Lead me, Lord, I pray.

Take me, mold me, use me, fill me; I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Mold me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me; I give my life to the Potter's hand.

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior, I know for sure all of my days are held in Your hand,
Crafted into Your perfect plan.

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Mold me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me; I give my life to the Potter's hand.

"The Potter's Hand" Words and Music by Darlene Zschech Copyright 1997 Darlene Zschech/Hillsongs Australia. Used by permission. CCLI#2960087

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 3:14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

O Come All You Unfaithful

O come all you unfaithful
Come weak and unstable
Come know you are not alone

O come barren and waiting ones
Weary of praying
Come see what your God has done

Christ is here Christ is here
Christ is here for you

O come bitter and broken
Come with fears unspoken
Come taste of His perfect love

O come guilty and hiding ones
There is no need to run
See what your God has done

Christ is here Christ is here
Christ is here for you

He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon
His promise is peace for those who believe
He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon
His promise is peace for those who believe

He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon
His promise is peace for those who believe
He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon
His promise is peace for those who believe

So come though you have nothing
Come He is the offering
Come see what your God has done

Christ is here Christ is here
Christ is here for you

Christ is here Christ is here
Christ is here for you
Christ is here for you

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Sermon

Coming Clean

John 3:14-21

The Offering

Prayer of Blessing

Pastor: God of every blessing, we are filled with thanksgiving and joy for all that you provide in daily life. Accept and bless these offerings, that they might sustain your church and meet the deep needs of all your people through the many ministries they support. Teach us how to trust your promises and live as your faithful followers.

People: **Amen**

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, as we come before You with our prayers and petitions, we thank You for Your genuine love, and we pray, Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: **with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, show Your love to all those who have experienced broken families, homes, and churches. Surround them with Your love and with people who will love them as You love them. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: **with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, extend Your love to all those who have abandoned the faith. Strengthen us to lovingly invite them toward Your genuine love for the world. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: **with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your earthly life You experienced the death of those You loved. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in such grief. Point them to the hope of eternal life with You. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: **with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, be present with all those who are single. Encourage them with the love of friends and family. Provide caring people to remind them that they are not alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: **with more fervent love for You.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared many good works for us to do in our earthly lives. Give us courage to do those good works with joy, expecting nothing in return, knowing we are saved by grace alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: with more fervent love for You.

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

People: with more fervent love for You.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised in love to hear our prayers; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

The Invitation

P: This morning we have another opportunity to encounter God's real, tangible grace for us in this meal; that in, with, and under these simple elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus Christ given to us for the forgiveness of sins.

And so, we become what we eat. We are the body of Christ to be sent out into the world. So it's necessary and good that we partake of this meal; that we experience God's love for us in this way, that we share this family meal together. So if this is your confession I would invite you to join me as we confess together our faith.

C: I understand and admit that I have sinned against God, that I recognize my sin and humbly ask God to forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that He is my only hope against sin, death, and the devil.

I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and under the form of the bread and wine I receive this true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life to the Lord and His Church by faithfully worshipping Him, cheerfully giving my time and resources, and joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

Words of Institution

On the night He was betrayed,
He took the bread, gave thanks, and said,
“Take eat, my friends, this broken bread,
this is my body for forgiveness of your sin.
When you eat, my friends, this meal of love,
remember me and my love for you again.”

On the night He was betrayed,
He took the cup, gave thanks, and said,
“Take drink, my friends, this cup of wine,
this is my blood for forgiveness of your sin.
When you drink, my friends, this cup of love,
remember me and my love for you again.”

**Oh, we are here, to thank You Lord,
for the bread and wine outpoured.
For it is Your body and Your blood
that You so lovingly and freely give to us.
So we praise You holy Lamb of God;
We love You our sweet Jesus.
We love You our sweet Jesus.
We love You our sweet Jesus.**

“On the Night” words and music by Mark Zehnder. Used by permission. CCLI#2960087.

Distribution

Behold The Lamb

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us:
And we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you:
Eat and remember
the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us one.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin, shed for you:
Drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond
And to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n around the table of the King.

"Behold The Lamb" Words and Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

Communion Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and blood, strengthen and preserve you in the one true
faith until life everlasting.
Go in His peace.
C: **Amen**

Post-Communion Collect

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal where we receive Your genuine love. Keep us firm in faith and increase our love of You and our neighbors; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Benediction MAY THE PEACE OF GOD

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

Refrain

And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his Communion
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

Refrain x2