



**BEHOLD  
THE MAN!**

## MIDWEEK OF LENT 1

# A GOD WHO PRAYS

### AS WE GATHER

“Behold the man!” was Pontius Pilate’s short, yet most profound, sermon. Our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday is to behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. Each time together, we are meditating on and proclaiming His real, bodily suffering and death as well as His physical resurrection. He knew all that real bodies experience; He suffered, wept, bled, ate, and hoped.

Today, we remember how the man Jesus prayed to His Father and ours. He is our great High Priest, who even now prays for us!

As we move through this season of Lent, it will become increasingly clear why God became man: He lived this physical life in order to be nailed to a cross. Thereby, we are truly preparing for the celebration of His real, bodily, flesh-and-blood resurrection. Without that, our faith and our preaching are all in vain. God the Son became the embodied, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like us. What could be more profound? Behold the man, who has led the way for us through death to our own physical resurrection!

SERIES HYMN

“Behold the Man before You”

See Insert

### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of God the Father, God the Son † and God the Holy Spirit,

**C** Amen.

**P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

**C** **And the Word was God.** *John 1:1*

**P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

**C** **And we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.** *John 1:14*

**P** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood,

**C** **He Himself likewise partook of the same things.** *Hebrews 2:14*

- P** Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:  
**C** **He was manifested in the flesh,**
- P** Vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations,  
**C** **Believed on in the world, taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16**
- P** For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
**C** **And at the last He will stand upon the earth.**
- P** And after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
**C** **Yet in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:25–26**

## CONFESSION

- P** As we consider the true humanity of our Lord, let us confess our human failings.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*

- P** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “When you fast,”  
**C** **But we have avoided physical discomfort and preferred less physical “spiritual” disciplines.**
- P** Jesus prayed, “I am praying for them,”  
**C** **But we have spent more time praying for ourselves than interceding for others.**
- P** Jesus “was despised and rejected by men,”  
**C** **But we have avoided opposition whenever possible.**
- P** Jesus’ garments were stripped from Him,  
**C** **But we have tried to hide our shame from God and one another.**
- P** Jesus provided for His mother, who gave Him life, even while on the cross,  
**C** **But we have neglected the Church, who gives us news of eternal life.**
- P** Jesus, while dying to save us, admitted His physical need, saying, “I thirst,”  
**C** **But we often make decisions based on our creature comforts instead of our faith.**
- P** Jesus loved His disciples to the end and washed their feet,  
**C** **But too often we have served because it was expected, not out of love.**
- P** Jesus said of His life, “I lay it down of My own accord,”  
**C** **But we have sought to save our own skins.**

**P** Jesus was buried and rested in the tomb,  
**C** **But we have looked for ways to avoid even talking about death.**

**P** Jesus surprised everyone when He rose on Easter,  
**C** **But we have failed to live as those who will also rise to live with Him forever.  
Have mercy and forgive us, O Lord Jesus Christ.**

## FORGIVENESS

**P** The man Jesus, the Word made flesh, endured hunger, rejection, shame, abuse, and death to pay for our sins and to open heaven to all who trust in His name. He physically rose and now gives us our daily bread, lets His kingdom come to us and through us, and moves us to do His will here on earth until we follow Him through death to eternity with Him.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## RESPONSORY

*1 John 2:1; [Mark 10:33]; Psalm 32:1*

**P** We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**C** **He was delivered up to death;**

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C** **He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

**P** We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**C** **He was delivered up to death;**

**He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Almighty God, we are unable to pray as we ought, but You have had mercy on us by giving Your Son into death as the all-availing sacrifice for our sins and raising Him from the dead as our eternal High Priest, who always lives to make intercession for us.

**C** Grant us, we pray, all boldness and confidence to draw near to You and make our petitions known as You bid us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT

*Numbers 18:1–7 (God established the priesthood.)*

**L** A reading from the Eighteenth chapter of Numbers.

<sup>1</sup> So the LORD said to Aaron, “You and your sons and your father’s house with you shall bear iniquity connected with the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you shall bear iniquity connected with your priesthood. <sup>2</sup> And with you bring your brothers also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may join you and minister to you while you and your sons with you are before the tent of the testimony. <sup>3</sup> They shall keep guard over you and over the whole tent, but shall not come near to the vessels of the sanctuary or to the altar lest they, and you, die. <sup>4</sup> They shall join you and keep guard over the tent of meeting for all the service of the tent, and no outsider shall come near you. <sup>5</sup> And you shall keep guard over the sanctuary and over the altar, that there may never again be wrath on the people of Israel. <sup>6</sup> And behold, I have taken your brothers the Levites from among the people of Israel. They are a gift to you, given to the LORD, to do the service of the tent of meeting. <sup>7</sup> And you and your sons with you shall guard your priesthood for all that concerns the altar and that is within the veil; and you shall serve. I give your priesthood as a gift, and any outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## NEW TESTAMENT

*Hebrews 7:20–28 (Jesus is our great high priest.)*

**L** A reading from the seventh chapter of Hebrews.

<sup>20</sup> And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, <sup>21</sup> but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to Him: “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever.’” <sup>22</sup> This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. <sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, <sup>24</sup> but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. <sup>25</sup> Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> He has no

need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people, since He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

*John 17:1–26 (Jesus prays for His disciples.)*

**P** Return to the Lord, your God...

**C** **For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**P** In the upper room the night He was betrayed, Jesus prayed what has been called His High Priestly Prayer. In it, He prays for us, for those who have yet to come to faith, and for Himself. A reading from the seventeenth chapter of John.

**P** He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him.

**C** **And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

**P** I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed.

I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave Me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You. For I have given them the words that You gave Me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

**C** **I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.**

**P** All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me,

**C** **That they may be one, even as We are one.**

**P** While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

**C** **Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.**

**P** As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

**C** **I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word,**

**P** That they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. The glory that You have given Me I have given to them,

**C** **That they may be one even as We are one,**

**P** I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me.

**C** **Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am,**

**P** To see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent Me. I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN “Come, My Soul, With Every Care” LSB 779 Vs. 1-4

SERMON “A God Who Prays”

OFFERING

HYMN “Glory Be to Jesus” LSB 433 Vs. 1-3

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Special Prayers will be made at this time  
Petitions will end with the words, “In peace let us pray to the Lord”  
The congregation may respond, “Lord have mercy.”*

### LORD’S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**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** The blessing of almighty God—the Father, who sent His Son into the flesh, the † Son, who lived a truly human life in our stead, and the Holy Spirit, who has given us faith to trust our Savior—be upon you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

12:30 HYMN                      “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”                      *LSB 770 Vs. 1-3*

7:00 HYMN                      “Now the Light Has Gone Away”                      *LSB 887 Vs. 1,4,5*

### DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Acknowledgments**

Copyright © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.