



**BEHOLD  
THE MAN!**

## MIDWEEK OF LENT 4

### A GOD EXPOSED

#### 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. Today, we recall that the man Jesus, after being clothed in mock royal robes, had His own garments taken from Him in order to shame Him. But, unlike every other human, He had nothing to hide. His clothes were taken from Him; but we are given the robe of His own righteousness!

#### OPENING HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

*Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see;  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*

*Follow to the judgment hall;  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
O the worm-wood and the gall!  
O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.*

*Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb  
There' adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete:  
"It is finished!" Hear Him cry;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.*

## INVOCATION

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

**P**: In the Name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**: **Amen.**

**P**: We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

**C**: **Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling...**

**P**: All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**C**: **We groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling...**

**P**: Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

**C**: **All who are baptized into Christ have clothed themselves with Christ.** [2 Cor. 5:1-5 & Gal. 3:27]

## 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. May He who began a good work in you bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:6). Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son †, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

READING *Genesis 3:7–21 (Adam and Eve cover themselves with fig leaves, but after pronouncing judgment, the Lord clothes them with durable garments.)*

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some

fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

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

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

READING *John 19:1–5, 23–24 (Jesus is mocked in royal robes, then stripped of His own clothing.)*

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. They came up to Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” . . . When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things.

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

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

SERIES HYMN

“Behold the Man before You”

*Behold the man before you:  
The One who would restore you  
Stands silent in your stead.  
He waits for His conviction—  
Your rightful crucifixion.  
He bows His holy, weary head.*

*Exposed and bare, He covers  
Your shame with grace that hovers  
Upon you night and day.  
His final breath expended—  
The reign of death upended.  
His verdict kills the devil’s sway.*

*Christ, God and man, is living!  
His risen body giving  
Proof that our Savior won.  
Your hands will raise to bless Him,  
Your lips will e’er confess Him:  
The born and dead and risen One!*

SERMON

“A God Exposed”

OFFERING

PRAYERS

*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 PM HYMN

“Jesus Grant that Balm and Healing”

LSB 421, 1 & 5

*Jesus, grant that balm and healing  
In Your holy wounds I find,  
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling  
Pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within  
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,  
Show the peril, and from sinning  
Keep me from its first beginning.*

*O my God, my rock and tower,  
Grant that in Your death I trust,  
Knowing death has lost its power  
Since You crushed it in the dust.  
Savior, let Your agony  
Ever help and comfort me;  
When I die be my protection,  
Light and life and resurrection.*

7:00 PM HYMN

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”

LSB 883 1, 3 & 6

*All praise to Thee, my God, this night  
For all the blessings of the light.  
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,  
Beneath Thine own almighty wings.*

*Teach me to live that I may dread  
The grave as little as my bed.  
Teach me to die that so I may  
Rise glorious at the awe-full Day.*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

## DISMISSAL

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

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

## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

April 14 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM  
Palm Sunday Worship Service

April 18 - 7:00 PM  
Maundy Thursday Worship Service.

April 19 - 7:00 PM  
Good Friday Worship Service

April 20 - 10:00 AM  
Rise Up With Jesus Easter Event and Egg Hunt

April 21  
8:00 AM - Easter Sunrise Service  
9:00 AM - Easter Breakfast will be served by our Youth in the  
Parish Hall.  
10:15 AM - Easter Celebration Service  
1:00 PM - Nuer Language Easter Celebration Service