



MIDWEEK OF LENT 4

A GOD WITH A MOTHER

AS WE GATHER

“Behold the man!” was Pontius Pilate’s short, yet most profound, sermon. Today, we recall that the man Jesus had to be born and grow in the body of, and under the care of, His mother. But Mary is also His disciple, given to another, John, at the foot of the cross. And in our human relationships, we are all, parents and children, disciples of the man Jesus.

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

“Alas and Did My Savior Bleed”

LSB 437 vs. 1,2,5

*1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?*

*2 Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!*

*5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do.*

OPENING SENTENCES

- 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 triumphant over sin, death and the devil. Because of His victory, your sins are forgiven. By the great mercy of God and in the precious and powerful name of Jesus Christ, it is my joy to announce to you, that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

READING

Isaiah 49:1–6 (God knew His Servant from before His birth.)

P Isaiah writes as if he were God’s servant Israel, whom God chose while he was yet inside his mother. The Lord’s prophecy rings true for Jesus as well. A reading from the forty-ninth chapter of Isaiah.

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother He named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He hid me; He made me a polished arrow; in His quiver He hid me away. And He said to me, “You are My servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.” And now the LORD says, He who formed me from the womb to be His servant, to bring

Jacob back to Him; and that Israel might be gathered to Him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—He says:

“It is too light a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING *John 2:1–5; 19:25–27 (When His “hour” comes, Jesus cares for His mother.)*

P During His earthly life, Jesus listened to His mother, and when His “last hour” came on the cross, He provided for her well-being. A reading from the second and nineteenth chapters of John.

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with His disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her,

C “Woman, what does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”

P His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.” . . .

Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother,

C “Woman, behold, your son!”

P Then He said to the disciple,

C “Behold, your mother!”

P And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“For All the Faithful Women”

(LSB 855 vs.1, 8, 3–4)

*For all the faithful women who served in days of old
To you shall thanks be given, to all their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.”*

*We sing of Mary, mother, fair maiden, full of grace.
She bore the Christ, our brother, who came to save our race.
May we, with her, surrender ourselves to Your command
And lay upon Your altar our gifts of heart and hand.*

*O God, for saints and servants, those named and those unknown
In whom through all the ages Your light of glory shone,
We offer glad thanksgiving and fervent prayer we raise
That faithful in Your service, our lives may sing Your praise.*

*All praise to God the Father! All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise the Holy Spirit, who binds the Church in one!
With saints who went before us, with saints who witness still,
We sing glad alleluias and strive to do Your will.*

SERMON

“A God with a Mother”

OFFERING

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us use the experiences of the man Jesus as we pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.
- P** The man Jesus experienced severe hunger. For all who are denied basic food, clothing, or shelter, that God would provide whatever they need to support this body and life, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** The man Jesus was physically exposed on the cross. For all who try to hide their sins and failings, fearing God’s wrath and people’s scorn, that the Holy Spirit would grant them faith to know and trust the forgiveness Christ won for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** The man Jesus cared for His human mother. For all parents and children, especially those in fractured families and those dealing with daily turmoil, that our heavenly

Father would surround them with caring friends and counselors to renew the love that they have lost, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P The man Jesus experienced thirst. For all whose lives are focused on relief from pain and suffering, from illness or addiction, that according to His gracious plans God would bring about healing, relief, and health to body and mind, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P The man Jesus bled and died. For all who understand Jesus only as a moral teacher or example of pious living, that the Holy Spirit would open their hearts to see that Jesus' death is the reason He became man and to trust that in dying He did everything necessary for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P The man Jesus physically rose triumphant over death. For all artists and musicians, poets and writers who express Christian hope and encourage our joyful celebrating, anticipating the day when faith gives way to sight, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

C give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;

P Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (410)

C Amen.

THE 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.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29–32; antiphon: liturgical text

P Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping
That awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.

P My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people, a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

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.

HYMN

12:30 PM HYMN

“Glory Be to Jesus” (LSB 443, V, 1, 4, 6)

*1 Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!*

*4 Abel’s blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.*

*6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!*

7:00 PM HYMN

“Now Rest beneath Night’s Shadow” (LSB 880, V 1, 4, 5)

*1 Now rest beneath night's shadow
The woodland, field, and meadow;
The world in slumber lies.
But you, my heart, awaking
And prayer and music making,
Let praise to your Creator rise.*

*4 Lord Jesus, since You love me,
Now spread Your wings above me
And shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would devour me,
Let angel guards sing o'er me:
This child of God shall meet no harm.*

*5 My loved ones, rest securely,
For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may He send you
And bid His hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.*

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

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

If you would like to help beautify our Sanctuary on Easter morning by paying for an Azalea or Easter Lily, there is a sign up in the Narthex.