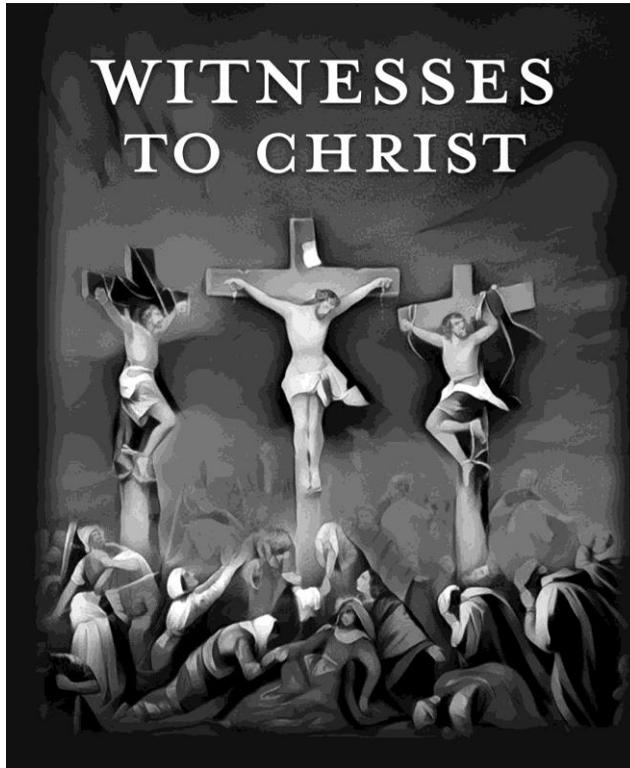


Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

April 6, 2022

Lenten Vespers: Midweek 5



Pontius Pilate

Pontius Pilate, a witness to Christ, consented to order Jesus' execution. Pilate may wash his hands and proclaim his own innocence in the death of Jesus, but Pilate is guilty. Pilate is caught between a rock and a hard place. Instead of doing what is right, Pilate has Jesus' flesh ripped, shredded, dressed in purple, and crowned with thorns. His hard heart is complicit in the death of Christ. While it may be an uncomfortable thought, Pilate's failures make us examine our own complicity in the evil of others. How have we deceived ourselves in proclaiming innocence? How have we been pressured into allowing evil to occur? Thanks be to God that our journey to the cross shows us Jesus' forgiveness.

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

April 6, 2022

Lenten Vespers: Midweek 5

Jonathan Christensen, Pastor
Lois Schweinler, Choir Director

Robert Hamrick, Organist
Craig Escude, Cantor

Serving Today

	<u>1:00 PM</u>	<u>7:00 PM</u>
Elders	Paul Mincer	David White
Lectors	Paul Mincer	Linda Licht

Serving Maundy Thursday April 14

	<u>7:00 PM</u>
Elders	Paul Mincer
Lectors	John Zagone

2606 Chimney Rock Road—Hendersonville, NC 28792

Church Phone 692-7027

Preschool Phone 698-5900

Church E-mail: mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com

Website: www.mtpisgahlutheran.com

Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM M-TH

9:00 AM—1:00PM on Friday

LENTEN VESPERS: MIDWEEK 5

Prelude

No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet

Paul D. Weber

Stand

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

- P** Today, we meet the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.
C **Pilate condemns Jesus to death by crucifixion.**
P Pilate tries to release Jesus,
C **but the crowds demand Barabbas.**
P Pilate washes his hands of Jesus' blood,
C **but Pilate is still guilty. Pilate caves to blackmail.**
P Pilate cares more about keeping his position
C **than he does about executing an innocent man.**

Kneel/Sit

Confession and Absolution

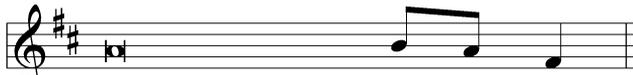
- P** Pilate can proclaim his own innocence and justify himself all he wants. He is still guilty. He is still a selfish sinner with a hardened heart who is complicit in the death of not only an innocent man, but of the sinless Son of God. We might be tempted to point a finger at Pilate to justify ourselves, but truth be told, we, too, struggle with hardened hearts. Still, our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him with repentant hearts and seek His forgiveness. Together we confess:
- C** **Heavenly Father, we have sinned against You in what we have done and in all that we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. We do not seek to wash our hands of these sins, Lord, but we seek Your forgiveness. We seek Your washing and renewal through the blood of Christ.**
- P** Almighty God, in His grace and mercy, has given His only Son, Jesus, to die and rise for our forgiveness and our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of our crucified and risen Lord, 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.
- C** **Amen. We are washed clean and forgiven by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ!**

Stand

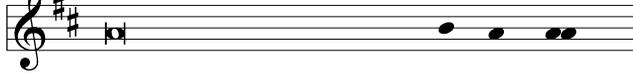
Lent Versicles



- L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



make haste to help me, O Lord.



Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 109:1-7, 20-31; antiphon: v. 26 Tone K



Help me, O | LORD my God!*

Save me according to Your | steadfast love!

Be not silent, O God | of my praise!*

For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me,
speaking against me with | lying tongues.

**They encircle me with | words of hate,*
and attack me | without cause.**

**In return for my love they ac - | cuse me,*
but I give my - | self to prayer.**

So they reward me e - | vil for good,*
and hatred | for my love.

Appoint a wicked man a - | gainst him;*
let an accuser stand at his | right hand.

When he is tried, let him come forth | guilty;*

let his prayer be count- | ed as sin!

May this be the reward of my accusers | from the LORD,*

of those who speak evil a- | gainst my life!

But You, O GOD my Lord, deal on my behalf for Your | name's sake;*

because Your steadfast love is good, de- | liver me!

For I am poor and | needy,*

and my heart is stricken with- | in me.

I am gone like a shadow at | evening;*

I am shaken off like a | locust.

My knees are weak through | fasting;*

my body has become gaunt, | with no fat.

I am an object of scorn to my ac- | cusers;*

when they see me, they | wag their heads.

Help me, O | LORD my God!*

Save me according to Your | steadfast love!

Let them know that this | is Your hand;*

You, O LORD, have | done it!

Let them curse, but | You will bless!*

They arise and are put to shame, but Your servant | will be glad!

May my accusers be clothed with dis- | honor;*

may they be wrapped in their own shame as | in a cloak!

With my mouth I will give great thanks | to the Lord;*

I will praise Him in the midst | of the throng.

For He stands at the right hand of the | needy,*

to save him from those who condemn his | soul to death.

Help me, O | LORD my God!*

Save me according to Your | steadfast love!

Silence for reflection

Psalm Prayer

P O God of steadfast love and mercy, on the cross Your Son forgave His enemies. Turn our hearts from hatred and evil that we may forgive the offenses of those who seek our harm and forgive as we have been forgiven. Rescue us in our time of peril and deliver us from bitterness and resentment; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Hymn

428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
 2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
 3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
 4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
 Throned in light ere worlds could be,
 O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
 Where the blood of Christ was shed,

Per - fect man - on thee did suf - fer,
 Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
 Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing,
 Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,

Per - fect God on thee has bled!
 Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
 All the suf - fer - ings of time!
 Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Readings

Reading

Ezekiel 11:17–21

P A reading from Ezekiel, the eleventh chapter.

¹⁷Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.’ ¹⁸And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. ¹⁹And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. ²¹But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Reading

2 Corinthians 4:1–6

P A reading from Second Corinthians, the fourth chapter.

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

John 19:1–16

P A reading from St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate 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." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, And let my
 2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all
 3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, That glad - ly
 4 Grant that I on - ly You may love And seek those
 heart and soul be bright, Il - lu - mined with the
 my im - pu - ri - ty That I may have the
 I o - bey Your Word. Let what You will be
 things which are a - bove Till I be - hold You
 light of grace That is - sues from Your ho - ly face.
 strength and will Temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.
 my de - sire, And with new life my soul in - spire.
 face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through Your grace.

Prayer

Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233

C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Collects

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** And let my cry come to You.
- P** O Lord God, by the example of Your blessed Son, grant us grace to accept patiently the suffering of this present time. Until we receive the full revelation of Your glory and full relief from all our afflictions, sustain us by Your healing grace through every trial. O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P Lord Jesus, though ruthless Pontius Pilate declared Your innocence before the crowds, You who knew no sin became sin for us. Grant that the shame You bore for us on the cross give us the greatest honor so that we might always see that only in suffering can we behold who You truly are, our glorious King and Savior. O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Hymn

956 Create in Me

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Acknowledgments

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