

**Sunday, March 3, 2024, 9:00am**

***Lent...Its All About?***

**Third Sunday in Lent**



**LENT**  
*IT'S*  
**ALL ABOUT**  
**MISUNDERSTANDING**  
JOHN 18:1-11

*Some years ago, a 14-foot bronze crucifix was stolen from Calvary Cemetery in Little Rock, Arkansas. It had stood at the entrance to the cemetery for more than 50 years.*

*The cross was put there in 1930 by a Catholic bishop and had been valued, at the time, at \$10,000.*

*The thieves cut it off at the base, hauled it off, cut it into small pieces, and sold it for scrap. They received \$450. They obviously didn't realize the value of that cross.*

*That's the problem with our lost world, misunderstanding the value of the cross.*

*Not only do people not see the value of Jesus, they also misunderstand the value of His death.*

*May we not be so blind!*

***Prelude***

### **#427, *In The Cross Of Christ I Glory***

**1 In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.**

**2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy, Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**3 When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way, From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.**

**4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified; Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.**

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Text: Public domain

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

**C: Amen.**

**P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

**P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.**

**C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on Me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.**

P: 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 and ordained servant of Jesus, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: For zeal for Your house has consumed me,

**C: and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.**

P: Deliver me from sinking in the mire;

**C: let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.**

P: Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,

**C: or the pit close its mouth over me.**

P: Answer me, O Lord, for Your steadfast love is good;

**C: according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## KYRIE

*LSB 152*

Assistant: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Together, we pray,

**C: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and**

**steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Children's Time**

### **Exodus 20:1–17**

And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before Me. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments. “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. “You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery. “You shall not steal. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **1 Corinthians 1:18–31**

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we

preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Holy Gospel and Sermon Text according to St. John, the 18th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. So He asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: "Of those whom you gave Me I have lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

**#453, Verses 1-4, 7, Upon the Cross Extended**

- 1 Upon the cross extended See, world, your Lord suspended. Your Savior yields His breath. The Prince of Life from heaven Himself has freely given  
To shame and blows and bitter death.**
- 2 Come, see these things and ponder, Your soul will fill with wonder As blood streams from each pore. Through grief beyond all knowing From His great heart came flowing Sighs welling from its deepest core.**
- 3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so sore abused You And caused You all Your woe? We all must make confession Of sin and dire transgression  
While You no ways of evil know.**
- 4 I caused Your grief and sighing By evils multiplying As countless as the sands. I caused the woes unnumbered With which Your soul is cumbered,  
Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.**
- 5 Your soul in griefs unbounded, Your head with thorns surrounded,  
You died to ransom me. The cross for me enduring, The crown for me securing, You healed my wounds and set me free.**
- 6 Your cords of love, my Savior, Bind me to You forever, I am no longer mine. To You I gladly tender All that my life can render And all I have to You resign.**
- 7 Your cross I place before me; Its saving pow'r restore me, Sustain me in the test. It will, when life is ending, Be guiding and attending My way to Your eternal rest.**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.

Text: Public domain

**The Sermon                      *It's All About Misunderstanding***

**P: Please rise and join me as we profess our faith,**

**C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes**  
**OFFERTORY**

*LSB 159*

**Congregation:**

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

**The Prayers of His Children**

**P: Lord, in Your mercy. C: Hear our Prayer.**

**PREFACE**

*LSB 160*

**Pastor: The Lord be with you.**

**Congregation: And also with you.**

**Pastor: Lift up your hearts.**

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**Congregation: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing,**

**SANCTUS**

*LSB 161*

**Congregation: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **The Words of our Lord**

**P:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P:** Jesus, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

## **AGNUS DEI**

*LSB 163*

### **Congregation**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## **The Distribution of Holy Communion**

### ***#606, I Lay My Sins on Jesus***

- 1 I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God; He bears them all and frees us  
From the accursèd load. I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.**
- 2 I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him; He heals all my diseases;  
My soul He does redeem. I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.**
- 3 I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine; His right hand me embraces;  
I on His breast recline. I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;  
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.**

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89

Text: Public domain

### ***#621, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence***



- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder  
nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand Christ our God to earth  
descending Comes our homage to demand.**
- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords in human  
vesture, In the body and the blood, He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.**
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way As the Light of  
Light, descending From the realms of endless day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to  
vanquish As the darkness clears away.**
- 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to  
the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry: "Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord  
Most High!"**

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt.

Text: Public domain

### **#973, *Thy Word***

**ref: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp  
unto my feet And a light unto my path.**

**1 When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, Still You're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end.  
Refrain**

**2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; And I will love You to the end.  
Refrain**

Text: Amy Grant, 1960

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**P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in  
body and soul to life everlasting.**

**C: Amen.**

**P: Together, we pray,**

**C: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through  
this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would  
strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward  
one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**God's Benediction**

**#680, *Verses 2-5, Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise***

- 2** Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee Gone the nailing gone the railing  
Gone the pleading gone the cry Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.
- 3** Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be Then the ringing and the singing  
Then the end of all the war Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.
- 4** Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonder full surprise Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways Thine the glory Thine the story Then the welcome to the least Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
- 5** Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light Thine the river Thine the tree  
Then the Lamb eternally Then the holy holy holy Celebration jubilee  
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

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## *Postlude*