

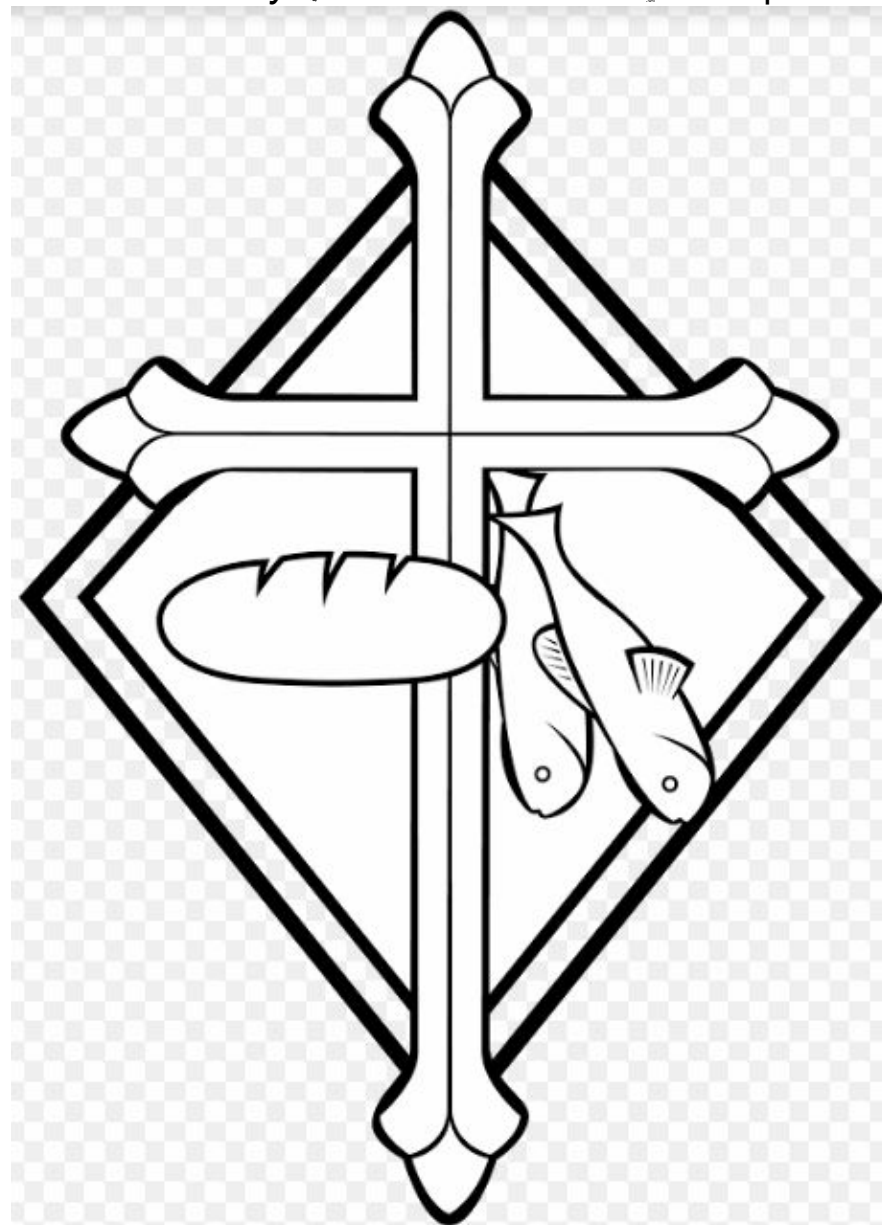


While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate's wife sent him a message. She said, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man, since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They all shouted together with one voice: "Take Him away! Release Barabbas to us!" Pilate said to them, "Then what do you want me to do with the Man You call the King of the Jews? What should I do with Jesus, Who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Crucify Him!" But the governor said, "Why? What has He done wrong?" But they kept shouting even louder: "Crucify Him!" Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, "Crucify! Crucify Him!" He said to them the third time, "Why? What evil has He done? I have found no grounds for sentencing Him to death. So I will whip Him and release Him." But they kept pressuring him with loud shouts, demanding that He be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming. When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, and that instead it was turning into a riot, he decided that what they demanded would be done. He took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this righteous Man's Blood. It is your responsibility."

And all the people answered, "His Blood will be on us and on our children!" Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand, knelt in front of Him, and mocked Him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on Him, took the staff, and hit Him repeatedly on His head. They kept hitting Him in the face. Pilate went outside again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against Him." Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" When the chief priests and temple police saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate told them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no basis for a charge against Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because He claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate asked Him, "Are you not talking to me? Don't you know that I have the authority to release You or to crucify You?" Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me at all, if it had not been given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus. But the Jews shouted, "If you let this Man go, you are no friend of Caesar! Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar!" When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge's seat at a place called the Stone Pavement, or Gabbatha in Aramaic. It was about the sixth hour on the day of preparation for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They shouted, "Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" *"We have no king but Caesar!"* the chief priests answered. So then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

After they had mocked Him, the soldiers took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him with Jesus carrying His own cross. As they were going out of the city, a certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They placed the cross on Him and made Him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of the people was following Him, including women who were mourning and wailing for Him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Yes, be sure of this: the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?" *(Here ends 5th Passion Reading)*

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS
Lent-4 Midweek ✦ *Psalm 102 You Are Enthroned Forever*
Wednesday 🕊 March 29th, 2017 🕒 4:30 pm



*Historic Church Year Symbol for 4th Sunday in Lent: Laetare – John 6:1-15
Jesus feeds 5000 men (plus women & children) with five loaves and two fish.*

Image courtesy of the Lutheran Synod Publishing <https://lutheransynodpublishing.com>

The INVOCATION (Congregation please rise if you are able.)

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

The CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

OPENING HYMN *O What Precious Balm and Healing #293, Sing verses 1-4*

The VERSICLES & The GLORIA PATRI *ELH, p.120-121*

PSALMODY ✠ **Penitential Psalm 102:** *A prayer of an afflicted man. When he is faint and pours out his lament before the LORD.*

P: ¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry for help come to you.

C: ² Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly.

³ For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers.

My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food.

⁵ Because of my loud groaning I am reduced to skin and bones.

I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.

⁷ I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof.

All day long my enemies taunt me; those who rail against me use my name as a curse.

⁹ For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears

Because of Your great wrath, for You have taken me up and thrown me aside.

¹¹ My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations.

¹³ You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come.

For her stones are dear to Your servants; her very dust moves them to pity.

¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.

For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in His glory.

¹⁷ He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:

¹⁹ "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from Heaven He viewed the earth,

To hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death."

²¹ So the Name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem

When the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD.

²³ In the course of my life He broke my strength; He cut short my days.

So I said: "Do not take me away, O my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations.

²⁵ In the beginning You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your Hands.

They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing You will change them and they will be discarded.

²⁷ But You remain the same, and Your years will never end. (...continue ↗)

²⁸ The children of Your servants will live in Your presence; their descendants will be established before You."

(All) **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, One True God, now and forever. Amen.**

PASSION HISTORY 5TH READING ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ *Trial (Pontius Pilate) "Crucify Him!"*

RESPONSORY *P: O LORD have mercy upon us. C: ♪ Thanks be to You, O LORD!*

MAIN HYMN *When in the Hour of Utmost Need ELH #257 (7v) TUNE: WENN WIR IN*

SERMON - 2017: PENITENTIAL PSALMS (102) "YOU ARE ENTHRONED FOREVER"

(after sermon) **The OFFERING**

The VERSICLE *P: ♪ Let my prayers rise before You as incense:*

C: ♪ And the lifting up of my hands -- As the ev'ning sacrifice.

In Place of **NUNC DIMITTIS** *Peace to Soothe Our Bitter Woes ELH #595 (2v)*

**1. Peace to soothe our bitter woes, God in Christ- on us bestows;
Je-sus bought our peace- with God With- His holy, pre-cious Blood;
Peace in Him for sinners found, Is- the Gos-pel's joyful sound.**

**2. Peace to us the Church doth tell, 'Tis her wel-come and farewell;
Peace- was our Baptis-mal dow'r, Peace- shall bless our dy-ing hour;
PEACE BE WITH YOU, FULL AND FREE, NOW- AND THROUGH- ETERNITY.**

KYRIE ELEISON *(Lord Have Mercy) C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us. - Lord, have mercy upon us.*

The LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, ... Amen.

The (Evening) COLLECT *(Pastor prays, Cong. Amen) C: ♪ A- -men.*

The BENEDICAMUS *P: ♪ Let us bless the Lord. C: ♪ Thanks be to God.*

The 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: ♪ A- -men.*

CLOSING(BENEDICTION) All Praise to Thee My God this Night ELH #565 (3v)

Silent Prayer *(Candles out.) You may be seated. FELLOWSHIP*

**History of Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Four Evangelists + The Wartburg Project Version© 2014.
FIFTH PASSION READING** ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ **Jesus' Sentencing and Way to the Cross**

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, "You brought this Man to me as One Who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined Him before you. I have found no basis for a charge against this Man regarding the things of which you accuse Him. Herod did not either, because he sent Him back to us. See, He has done nothing worthy of death. So I will punish Him and then release Him." At the time of the feast the governor had a custom: to release one prisoner to the crowd, whomever they wanted. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder. The crowd came up and began to ask him to do what he usually did for them. So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, "Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you? Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas - or Jesus, Who is called Christ?" Pilate in fact knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy. (...continues on back page ↗)

INTRODUCTION Our text for tonight is **Psalm 102**, which we prayed earlier in the service. We also again examine the **Office of the Keys**.

“I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop” (Psalm 102:7b) prays our Psalmist. There are times in our lives when we feel like that sparrow. Alone, in a big empty space, without a friend in the world. But notice that for the psalmist this isn’t simply loneliness. What is it that has separated him from his friends? What is it that has brought his own mortality and fear right in front of his face? **It is God’s indignation and wrath at his sin.**

When God’s Law does its work in our hearts, we are alone and silent before an angry God. For remember, God does not overlook sin. Sin must be punished. As Paul said, *“Through the Law comes knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20)*. This is what the Law does, my friends. It crushes us, it shows us that we deserve death and condemnation. The Law casts us into hell. Remember, hell is complete separation from God. And sin is what separates us from God. We are not worthy to be in His presence.

So these sins cling to us and hold us back and down. These sins seek to keep you away from God and His mercy. Sin tries to blind you to your own true character as a beggar before God. But God’s Law will have it’s way with you. Like Jesus looking at Peter last week, God’s Law looks at you, and you see yourself for what you truly are: **a sinner who needs Redemption.**

This is what **Confession and Absolution is all about**. This is what the Gospel is all about. The Gospel is (all) about forgiveness of sins. The Gospel is about reconnecting you to the God who saves you. As the psalmist wrote, *“But You, O Lord, are enthroned forever” (Psalm 102:12)*. He promises to arise and have mercy on Zion. He will have mercy on you. That is His promise for all eternity.

So what does this have to do with Confession and Absolution? Let’s look at the **Small Catechism** again.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

God wants us to plead guilty of all sins, even the ones we are not aware of. We do this in the Lord’s Prayer every day. We also do this in the general Confession and Absolution on Sunday. But Individual

Confession and Absolution is about what troubles the sinner’s conscience.

Last week I said that we don’t confess **for God**. Our confession is not for His benefit. God knows our sins. We’re not telling Him anything new. Rather, we confess **for ourselves**. We confess so that God will forgive us.

As a sinner, I want to hear that God forgives me. I don’t want to read about it. I don’t want to simply pray about it and wonder whether it can really be true. That is one of Satan’s great games. Satan loves to cast doubt on God’s forgiveness. But where Satan casts doubt, our Lord plants a tree of righteousness and certainty.

Remember, when you hear of our Lord’s Passion and death at Calvary, that is *for you*. He was abandoned by all, so that you would never be abandoned and left alone. He was flogged and spat upon, so that you would never bear those marks from God. He was given over to the hands of His enemies, so that you may remain in God’s presence forever. He died, so that you might live.

So when Satan flings your sins at you, when the world tells you that you are not worthy to be saved, when your own conscience casts doubt in your heart about your life and salvation, where do you flee? Flee to God’s word of absolution and forgiveness. Our Lord died on the cross so that your sins would be forgiven, so why cling to them? Confess them, and our Lord will fling them into the depth of the sea. As He said in **Psalm 103**, *“As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us” (v. 12)*.

Every time you hear Words about Forgiveness from God, that is **about Christ’s death on the Cross**. It is also about your Baptism. For it is in Baptism that God connected you to Christ’s death and resurrection, and it is in Absolution that He returns you to those waters of forgiveness again and again and again. That, my friends, is the Christian life.

So rejoice! God hears your prayers for mercy. You are **not** alone as a sparrow on a housetop. The God Who laid the foundations of the earth, and Who sent His son to die for you, will hold you in the Palm of His Hand and love you forever. **IJ’N, Amen. SDG**

HYMN PRAYER VERSE ***Now I Have Found the Ground Wherein***

*Now I have found the ground wherein - Sure my soul’s anchor may remain
The Wounds of Jesus, for my sin - Before the world’s foundation slain;
Whose mercy shall unshaken stay, - When Heav’n and earth are fled away.
Amen. (ELH 499.1)*