

**Now in Him our curse is ended,
Sin is crushed, and wrath is stayed;
God remains both just and gracious
By the stroke His justice made.**

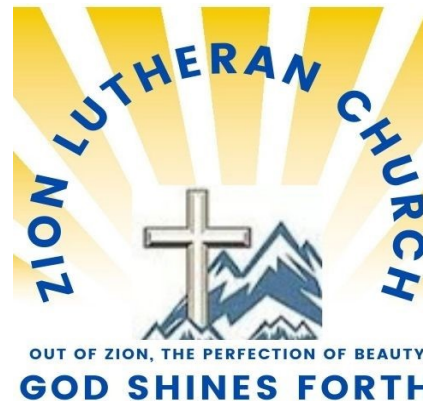
**See, the grave no more can hold Him,
Sin and death resign their claim;
Christ, the Risen Judge and Savior,
Lives and ever rules the same.
Hail, the Lord whom men rejected!
Praise the Christ who sinners saved!
Mercy reigns, and love has triumphed
Through the stroke that justice gave.**

THE BENEDICTION

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gra-
cious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and
give you peace.*

Cong: Amen.

SILENT PRAYER



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A member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

The Order of Worship

OPENING PRAYER: *We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.*

HYMN: #151.....“*Christ, the Life of All the Living*”

**Christ, the Life of all the living,
Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe,--
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit:
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee,--
Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,**

people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered Him to be crucified.

3: Jesus Unjustly Remanded

THE PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER: *We offer our petitions to the Lord and join in the prayer our Lord taught us.*

HYMN.....“*The Stroke that Justice Gave*”

**See the Lamb despised, rejected,
Bound, and beaten for our gain;
Righteous One by law convicted,
All to bear our guilt and shame.
Falsely charged, yet rightly sentenced:
Sin's full weight upon Him laid.
Deep the stroke by which He suffered –
God's own justice there displayed.**

**See the Head of our salvation
Mocked and scorned, yet crowned as King;
Breath that formed the world's foundation
Cried beneath affliction's sting;
Hands that oft' were raised in blessing
Pierced to nail Him to the tree,
Yet what held Him there was justice
And love for humanity.**

**See God high on curs'ed timber
While no help came from above;
Heaven's sword, in righteous anger,
Struck the Lamb in wondrous love!**

**Peace of conscience give me.
Grant that I may trust in Thee
And Thy holy Passion.
If His Son so loveth me,
God must have compassion.**

**For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high. Amen.**

LENTEN SERMON SERIES:

“The Stroke that Justice Gave”

(Matthew 27:15-26)

(ESV) Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered Him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of Him today in a dream.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let Him be crucified!” And he said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let Him be crucified!” So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” And all the

INVOCATION

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

Cong: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

P: O Lord, open my mouth,

Cong: And my mouth shall declare Your praise.

P: Come quickly, O God, to deliver me.

Cong: Come quickly to help me, O Lord.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

Cong: A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

P: Since we have come to draw near to worship the only true God, who dwells in inapproachable light and whose ways are just and true, yet we do so as those who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, let us first acknowledge our unworthiness to Him and seek His forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cong: Almighty God, Heavenly Father, I confess to You that I have sinned against You in many ways, not only by outward transgres-

sion but also by secret thoughts and desires, which I cannot fully understand, but which are all known to You. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my offences, and I pray, of Your great goodness, to have mercy upon me, and for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord, to forgive my sins, and graciously to help my infirmities. Amen.

P: On the basis of your confession, I declare to you the righteousness of God, which is revealed apart from the Law, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. You are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cong: Amen.

Cong:

**O Christ, the Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us.
O Christ, the Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us,
O Christ, the Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sin of the world,
Grant us Your peace. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and most merciful God, You did not spare Your own Son, but delivered Him up into the hands of sinners, that through His unjust condemnation we

**The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN: #140.....“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

**Jesus, I will ponder now
On Thy holy Passion;
With Thy Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Thy suffering, pain, and death
That I may not perish.**

**Make me see Thy great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Thy crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails, did wound Thee,
How for man Thou diedst, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned Thee.**

**Grant that I Thy Passion view
With repentant grieving
Nor Thee crucify anew
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?**

**If my sins give me alarm
And my conscience grieve me,
Let Thy cross my fear disarm,**

When he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man. I find no fault in Him at all." The chief priests accused Him of many things. While He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? Do You not hear how many things they testify against You? See how many things they testify against You!"

But Jesus still answered nothing. He answered him not one word, so that Pilate, the governor, marveled greatly.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

Born of the virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

might receive the justice of Your forgiving grace. As He stood silent before the crowd and bore the sentence meant for us, grant that we may ever cling to Him in true repentance and faith. Strengthen us by His innocent suffering and death, that we may boldly confess Him before the world and walk steadfastly in His righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

THE PASSION READING

Immediately in the morning, as soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together.

They took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. They held a consultation with the elders and the scribes and the whole council.

They led Jesus into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us." He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe; and if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."

Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." They said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth." Then the whole multitude of them arose, bound Jesus, and led Him away from Caiaphas to the Praetorium and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate, the governor. It was early morning.

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

The chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." They took counsel and bought with them the Potter's Field to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

The Jews themselves did not enter into the Praetorium lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.

Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

They answered him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him, and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is

not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

They began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this Fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, and called Jesus. Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself on this, or did others tell you this about me?"

Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me; what have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered and said to him, "It is as you say. You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"