



“PLACES OF THE PASSION: BETHANY”

Sunday, February 21, 2021 9:00AM

Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

In this service for Week 1 of Lent, the place of the Passion is Bethany, as we remember that Jesus is anointed for burial by his friend Mary, at her home in this small town. We are called to prepare our hearts for Christ’s death as well, while still looking toward the fragrant surprise of the empty tomb. The meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with Bethany help us to grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us.

Sit

OPENING HYMN

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

LSB 430 sts. 1, 2, 4 & 7

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!

- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And ’gainst Him rise.

- 7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Stand

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C To see the depths of his love.

P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C We walk with Jesus to Bethany.

P And into the house of Simon the leper.

C Mary prepares Christ for his burial by anointing him with perfume.

P Faithful Lord, with me abide.

C I shall follow where you guide!

RESPONSIVE VERSE

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

LSB 685 st. 1

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Our Gospel reading states that, “Mary came up to Jesus with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table.” Forgive us, kind Father—

C For too often, our giving is nothing like this.

P Our sinful nature prefers another word—

C Get.

P Get even, get back and get revenge.

C Get more, get ahead and get on top.

P We are consumed with consuming.

C Driven by selfish desires.

P Passionate about more possessions.

C We are too much like the disciples.

P And too little like Mary.

C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ’s love is greater.)

P Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That’s why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C I shall follow where you guide!

RESPONSIVE VERSE**“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”****LSB 685 st. 2**

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
 And with patience bear our cross.
 Joy will follow all our sadness;
 Where He is, there is no loss.
 Though today we sow no laughter,
 We shall reap celestial joy;
 All discomforts that annoy
 Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
 Jesus, here I share Your woe;
 Help me there Your joy to know.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank you for Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, for through her generosity we catch a glimpse of your joyful and generous kingdom. By your Spirit’s power enable us to live and give like her; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING**Exodus 36:1–7**

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, chapter 36.

¹“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.”

²And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. ³And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, ⁴so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, ⁵and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do.” ⁶So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, “Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing, ⁷for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING**2 Corinthians 8:1–5**

P The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 8.

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:6–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁶Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? ⁹For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” ¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED

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.**

Sit

SERMON HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LSB 425

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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SERMON

Places of the Passion: Bethany

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Friends in Christ, I urge you to lift up your souls to our God in whom we trust, as Christ, our Lord, promises to hear us.

Lord Jesus, You are the Lord of the Church.

C **Bless the work of our congregation and all who bear Your name.**

P Remember Your mercy, O Lord,

C **and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P Lord Jesus, the government is on Your shoulders.

C **Watch over all in this world. Guide the world's leaders with Your wisdom, as well as our elected officials. Our president, our governor, and our local authorities. That we may live peaceful and quiet lives.**

P Remember Your mercy, O Lord,

C **and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P Lord Jesus, You are our Teacher.

C **Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your paths. Lead us in Your truth and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation; for You we wait all the day long.**

P Remember Your mercy, O Lord,

C **and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P Lord Jesus, You are the God of our salvation.

C Guide us, Lord, in living lives that bear witness to Your truth. Lead us to connect with those who are wandering or who do not know You.

P Remember Your mercy, O Lord,

C and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P Lord Jesus, You are the Great Physician.

C Bind up the brokenhearted, give sight to the blind, make the lame to walk and the deaf to hear.

P We name before You those who are struggling in body, mind, and spirit and ask You to heal them: [names]. Remember Your mercy, O Lord,

C and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your great mercy to hear and answer us.

C Amen.

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.

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, for You have been faithful to Your promises through the ages.

In Your faithfulness, You promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. You have fulfilled that promise through his descendants and us who are heirs according to that same promise, through Your Son, Jesus.

We thank You for Your faithfulness and the forgiveness You offer us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your

Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the fruits of His cross and the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood, given and shed for us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

AGNUS DEI

P Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb.”

C Lord, have mercy.

P John said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

C Christ, have mercy.

P John saw “the Lamb in the midst of the throne.”

C Lord, have mercy and grant us Your peace. Amen.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

LSB 636

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight’s splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav’nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,
And with loving rev’rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him,
Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,
That I nevermore will leave You.
- 3 He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ’s true body, for you riven,
And His blood, for you once given.

- 4 Now in faith I humbly ponder
 Over this surpassing wonder
 That the bread of life is boundless
 Though the souls it feeds are countless:
 With the choicest wine of heaven
 Christ's own blood to us is given.
 Oh, most glorious consolation,
 Pledge and seal of my salvation!
- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
 Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
 Peace beyond all understanding,
 Joy into all life expanding:
 Humbly now, I bow before You;
 Love incarnate, I adore You;
 Worthily let me receive You
 And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
 Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
 At Your feet I cry, my maker,
 Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven,
 For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You once left Your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forego all joy and gladness
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love requited;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace You give me
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

LSB 643

- 1 Sent forth by God’s blessing,
 Our true faith confessing,
 The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
 The Supper is ended.
 O now be extended

The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

- 2 With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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Stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God, our Father, the One who fulfills His promises and gives the crown of life to those who believe, we thank You for keeping Your promises, even when it meant the death of Your one and only Son, Jesus. We thank You that in spite of all of our wrongs, You give us forgiveness freely in this sacred Meal. Guide us on our pilgrimage through this life to the life You have promised, so that together with all of Your saints we may celebrate the feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Jesus invites us to walk with him to Bethany, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

C Let us ever walk with Jesus!

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”

LSB 918

- 1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

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