

Christ on Trial  
 A Series of Services for  
 Lent, Holy Week and Easter  
 Grace in the Desert  
 Week 3:  
 Nicodemus  
 March 2, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song "O Come to the Altar"

Invocation

Come to Order

P Pilate said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

C By a perversion of justice he was taken away. He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.

P Then Pilate summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews? What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world."

C By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

P Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But Jesus gave him no answer, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

C Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

P The high priest said to him, "Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death."

C By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. Out of his anguish he shall see light. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

First Reading	Numbers 21:6-9
Second Reading	1 John 1:5—2:2
Gospel Reading	John 3:1-21
Message Song	“Our God”
Message	“Christ on Trial: Witness of A Woman Healed and Nicodemus”
Confession of Faith:	“We Believe”

### Prayers

Each petition will end with, “Lord, in Your mercy,”

Your response will be, “Hear our Prayer.”

### Confession and Absolution

***C Forgive Lord, we have fallen short time and time again. You have given us your word, both in scripture and in Son, you have promised us your presence, both in Spirit and in community, and you have graced us with your kingdom, both in teaching and in service. Even so, we neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us. We do not love what you love. We do not embrace what you embrace. We do not defend what you have called us to defend. Have mercy on us, O God of all ages past and all hope for years to come. Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do. And with your gifts, promises, and grace, continue working in our lives that we might receive full life in Jesus Christ, now and forevermore. Amen.*** (retrieved from

<https://www.faithward.org/six-lent-prayer-of-confession-ideas/>)

### P Absolution

#### Communion

Prayer/Consecration of Elements

Lord’s Prayer

Distribution

Communion Blessing

Offering Prayer

Lord, let our congregation be a witness to you:

Immersed in scripture; Constant in prayer

Joyful in worship; Generous in giving

A loving, supportive community

Reaching out to those in need.

Accept these gifts we offer,  
in Jesus' name

Amen

(retrieved from <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/prayers-offering>)

Benediction (based on 1 Peter 3) (response)

P In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

C We testify to the truth of Christ in court: in the chambers of our human hearts.

P Benediction

C Amen.

Sending Song

“All the People Said Amen”

Sending Out