



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Lenten Worship

April 2, 2025

7:00 pm

The Joy of Lent



Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

### OPENING HYMN TLH 354 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

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.

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.

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.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the Cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that thro' all time abide. Amen.

### OPENING RESPONSE

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

**C: Amen.**

*P: Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,*

**C: Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.**

*P: For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.*

**C: Therefore we give glory to God who raised him up and gave us the promise of salvation. Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*P: Jesus sent us as his witnesses, to proclaim His gospel in all that we do and say.*

**C: Lord, we confess that we are often tongue-tied and silent when we should speak, we are often bound up in ourselves when we should act in your name. Forgive us, Lord, for our reluctance to proclaim the Good News that we treasure. Forgive our selfish clinging to what we need for ourselves and our unwillingness to offer your gifts freely to those around us. Forgive our empty promises, our silent passing by, our blindness to others, Lord. Equip and empower us. Send us mightily into your world. Fill us so full of your gracious love and forgiveness in Jesus that we cannot but shout his name and overflow with his gifts of grace.**

*P: I have the honor and privilege, by the grace of God, of announcing to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and free—free to share the steadfast love of God with all.*

## Passion Reading

**HYMN - *Praise to Thee, and Adoration* TLH 401**

Praise to Thee and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God,  
Who, to serve Thine own creation, Didst partake of flesh and blood.  
Teach me that I never may From Thy fold or pastures stray,  
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where Thy steps are leading.

Let me never, Lord, forsake Thee, E'en though bitter pain and strife  
On my way shall overtake me; But may I through all my life  
Walk in fervent love to Thee, In all woes for comfort flee  
To Thy birth, Thy death, and Passion, Till I see Thy full salvation. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 6:1-8*

P: *This is the Word of the Lord.* C: **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING** *Ephesians 2:12-22*

P: *This is the Word of the Lord.* C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING** *John 15:1-9*

**Hymn of the Day** *Were You There?*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?...  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?...  
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?...

Message: **Were You There?** – Ephesians 2:12-14

**Offering (brought forward during the hymn)**

**HYMN – *Today Thy Mercy Calls Us* TLH 279**

Today Thy mercy calls us To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can cleanse us And make us white today.

Today Thy gate is open, And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.

Today our Father calls us; The Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without Thee When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer. Amen.

## **Reading & Response – Galatians 2:20**

- I have been crucified with Christ;

**C - I was there when they crucified my Lord!**

- it is no longer I who live,

**C - I was there when they crucified my Lord!**

- but Christ lives in me;

**C - I was there when they crucified my Lord!**

- and the life I now have I live by faith

**C - I was there when they crucified my Lord!**

- faith in the Son of God – Jesus!

**C - I was there when they crucified my Lord!**

- who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**C - I was there when they crucified my Lord!**

## **Silence for Reflection & Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

*P: Let us bring our prayers and petitions to God who hears and answers the pleas of our hearts... Turn, Lord, and deliver us.*

**C: Save us because of your unfailing love.**

(After each petition)

*P: ... Turn, Lord, and deliver us.*

**C: Save us because of your unfailing love.**

*P: These and all other petitions and requests we bring before you in the name of Jesus.*

**C: Amen.**

**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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

*P: We are in Christ and Christ is in us –*

*C: We are called to be faithful to Christ; we equip His flock; we share His love, we proclaim His Word!*

## **CLOSING HYMN**

### **Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow**

TLH 554 vs. 1; 5-6

**Now rest beneath night's shadow The woodland, field, and meadow,  
The world in slumber lies; But, thou, my heart, awake thee,  
To prayer and song betake thee; Let praise to thy Creator rise.**

**Lord Jesus, who dost love me, Oh, spread Thy wings above me  
And shield me from alarm! Though evil would assail me,  
Thy mercy will not fail me: I rest in Thy protecting arm.**

**My loved ones, rest securely, For God this night will surely  
From peril guard your heads. Sweet slumbers may He send you  
And bid His hosts attend you And through the night watch o'er your beds. Amen.**

**Next Lenten Worship – Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 pm**