

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

“Cross” Questions PAX Worship Service March 5, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Many of our hymns begin with a simple declaration, such as “A mighty fortress is our God” (*LSB* 656/657) or “Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure” (*LSB* 654). A few include an exclamation and so have an exclamation point or two in them, including “Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you” (*LSB* 668) and “Jesus loves me!” (*LSB* 588). Even fewer actually ask a question. Among these are “What child is this?” (*LSB* 370) and “Who are you who walk in sorrow?” (*LSB* 476). Finding answers to questions is a great way of making discoveries. The refrain to the African hymn “When I Behold Jesus Christ” (*LSB* 542) asks plainly, “What kind of love is this?” as the hymnwriter reflects on the sacrificial love of Jesus. We may ask ourselves the same question as we reflect on all our Lord has done for us.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG

"God So Loved"

Verse: Come all you weary, come all you thirsty. Come to the well
that never runs dry
more. Drink of the water, come and thirst no

Verse: Come all you sinners, come find His mercy. Come to the
table;

Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only
Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever.
Whoa, whoa. Whoa. whoa.

Verse: Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them
down at the foot of the cross. Jesus is waiting there with
open arms.

Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only
Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

The power of walking in freedom, for world. hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm God so loved, God so loved the world.

Bridge: Praise God, praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.
Praise God, praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love. His love.

amazing

Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever. The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom, for God so loved, God so loved the world.

Tag: Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the cross. Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: That we may enter into the holy presence of Christ, let us confess our sins that we may be made the righteousness of God.

People: We confess to You, almighty God, our blindness to Your glory and our reluctance to seek Your grace. We have sinned against You and our neighbors by our own fault in both our thoughtless actions as well as the good we have failed to do. For the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, forgive us. Renew our hearts, enliven us in spirit, and let us see Your glorious mercy.

Pastor: "We have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1–9

Now the Lord said to Abraham, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. So Abraham went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him, Abraham was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abraham took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abraham passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abraham and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

"Abide With Me"

Verse: I have a home, eternal home. But for now I walk this broken world. You walked it first, You know our pain. But You show hope can rise again up from the grave.

Chorus: Abide with me. Abide with me Don't let me fall and don't let go. Walk with me and never leave. Ever close, God abide with me.

Verse: There in the night, Gethsemane, before the cross, before the nails, overwhelmed, alone You prayed. You met us in our suffering and bore our shame.

Chorus: Abide with me. Abide with me. Don't let me fall and don't let go. Walk with me and never leave. Ever close, God abide with me.

Bridge: Oh, love that will not ever let me go. Love that will not ever let me go. You never let me go. Love that will not ever let me go.

Tag: And up ahead, eternity. We'll weep no more, we'll sing for joy. Abide with me.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him," Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Aare you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED (found inside back cover of the hymnal)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY

"Goodness of God"

Verse: I love You, Lord. Oh, Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands. From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Chorus: And all my life You have been faithful. And all my life You have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able. Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Verse: I love your voice. You have led me through the fire and in darkest nights. You are close like no other I've known You as a father. I've known YOU as a friend. And I have lived in the goodness of God.

Chorus: And all my life You have been faithful. And all my life You have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able. Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Bridge: 'Cause Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me. Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me. With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now. I give You everything. 'Cause Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me. 'Cause Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me. Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me. With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now. I give You everything. 'Cause Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me.

**Chorus: And all my life You have been faithful. And all my life You
 have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able. Oh,
I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.'Cause all my life YOU
have been faithful. And all my life You have been so, so good.
 With every breath that I am able. Oh, I will sing of the
goodness of God. Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.**

SERMON

“Jesus The Way Out”

John 3:14-17

Vicar Justin Brockman

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING SONG

"Here's My Heart"

**Chorus: Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my
 heart, Lord; Speak what is true.**

**Chorus: Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my
 heart, Lord; Speak what is true.**

**Verse: I am found, I am Yours; I am loved, I'm made pure; I have
 live, I can breathe; I am healed, I am free.**

**Chorus: Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my
 heart Lord; Speak what is true.**

**Verse: I am found, I am Yours; I am loved, I'm made pure; I have
 life, I can breathe; I am healed, I am free.**

**Verse: 'Cause You are strong, You are sure; You are life, You
 endure; You are good, always true; You are light breaking
through.**

**Chorus: Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my
 heart, Lord; Speak what is true. Here's my life, Lord; Here's
my life, Lord; Here's my life, Lord; Speak what is true; Speak
what is true.**

**Bridge: 'Cause You are more than enough; You are here, You are
 love; You are hope, You are grace; You're all I have, You're
everything.**

Chorus: Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my heart, Lord; Here's my heart, Lord; Speak what is true; Here's my life, Lord; Here's my life, Lord; Here's my life, Lord; speak what is true; speak what is true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Vicar: Petitions heard... *(ending with...)* Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER *(found inside back cover of the hymnal)*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
People: Amen, Amen, Amen.

CLOSING SONG "Alive and Breathing"

Verse: What holds your heart? What stirs your soul? What matters come to mind? The cares you keep, the thoughts you think; it's not all wasted time. Seek and you will find.

Chorus: Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting. If you're still alive and breathing, praise the Lord! Don't stop dancing and dreaming. There's still good news worth repeating. So lift your head and keep sinning, "Praise the Lord!"

Verse: The years roll by. We wonder why we lost our way from home. Our Father finds the child inside we left for growing old. Awake, awake, awake my soul!

Chorus: Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting. If you're still alive and breathing, praise the Lord! Don't stop dancing and dreaming. There's still good news

Worth repeating. So lift your head and keep singing, "Praise the Lord!"

**Bridge: Let everything, let everything, let everything praise the Lord.
In the working, in the waiting, let it praise the Lord.
In the blessing, in the breaking, come on, praise the Lord.
In the dying, the rising, let it praise the Lord. Let it praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.**

Chorus: Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting. If you're still alive and breathing, praise the Lord! Don't stop dancing and dreaming. There's still good news worth repeating. So lift your head and keep singing, "Praise the Lord!"

Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting. If you're still alive and breathing, praise the Lord! Don't stop dancing and dreaming. There's still good news worth repeating. So lift your head and keep singing, "Praise the Lord!"

SILENT PRAYER