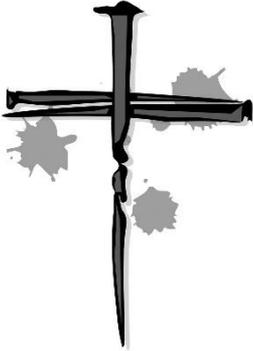


Midweek 2—Lent 2019

March 13th

Three Words



of
TRUTH

Throughout the season of Lent, we have these meditative midweek services that focus our thoughts on Law and Gospel before the close of the day. May these weeks around God's Word be a blessing to you as we journey again with our Lord to the cross.

Our evening worship is meant to be shorter and slower-paced than the chief service of the week on Sunday mornings. Because of the nature of the service, worshipers remain seated throughout.

The theme for the midweek services this year is "Three Words of Truth." Tonight we will focus on the three words "Take Him Away" from John 19:14-18.

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- P** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.
All Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from Your presence forever.**

**Like the fickle crowds of Jerusalem, I have praised You one day and,
by my sinful attitude and choices, followed the frenzy of this wicked
world the next. Have mercy on me for the times I have failed to fix
my mind and heart on You and Your gracious will for my life.**

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Congregation Sings:

♪ Oh, come, my soul, your Savior see
Nailed to your cross on Calvary.
Your pain He bears; your thorns He wears
That yours a crown of life might be.
(CW 99)

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

P God gave His Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Brothers and Sisters, because of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, “as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12). Your sins are forgiven!

Congregation Responds by Singing:

♪ Oh, sing, my soul, sing endlessly
The wondrous love that sets you free;
His dying breath brings life from death,
Makes heav’n your home eternally.
(CW 99)

P May this forgiveness that is yours right now through Jesus give you peace tonight and always.

G Amen.

PRAYER

P Let us pray:

P Lord God, You have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank You for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in Your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of Your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Throughout our midweek services we read portions of “the Passion History” – a compilation of the Gospel accounts that speak of Christ’s last hours as He went to the cross.

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to His disciples, “As you know, the Passover is two days away - and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Then the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the High Priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill Him. “But not during the Feast,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the Temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. Judas asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?” They counted out for him thirty silver coins. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus sent two of His disciples, Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

“Where do You want us to prepare for it?” they asked.

He replied, “Go into the city. As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters. Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher says, My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with My disciples at your house. Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

In the evening at the proper hour, Jesus and His Apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, “I have



eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them are given the title Benefactor. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater? The one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by Me in My trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as My Father conferred one on Me, so that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God, so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, “Lord, are You going to wash my feet?”



Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

“No,” said Peter, “You shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me.”

“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well.”

Jesus answered, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For He knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not every one was clean.

When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” He

asked them. "You call Me 'Teacher;' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Once you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine from now until that day when I drink it anew with you in My Father's kingdom. I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the Scripture; 'He who shares My bread has lifted up his heel against Me. I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts Me; and whoever accepts Me accepts the One who sent Me."

After Jesus had said this, He was deeply troubled and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray Me - one who is eating with Me. The hand of him who is going to betray Me is with Mine on the table."

His disciples were very sad. They stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them He meant, and began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. One after the other they began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "It is one of the Twelve. The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with Me will betray Me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."



The disciple whom Jesus loved was reclining next to Him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask Him which one He means."

Leaning back against Jesus, he asked Him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when

I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon.

Then Judas, the one who would betray Him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you." As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

"What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, but no one at

the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

P The Passion of our Lord.

After the Passion History:

P We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; *(Isaiah 53:6a)*

G **And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.** *(Isaiah 53:6b)*

P We have One who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. *(1 John 2:1b)*

G **He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.** *(1 John 2:2)*

P Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. *(Psalm 32:1)*

G **Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.** *(Psalm 32:2)*

P He humbled Himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! *(Philippians 2:8b)*

G **There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** *(Romans 8:1)*

JUNIOR CHOIR *“Isaiah Said”* by Linda Moeller

SERMON TEXT – John 19:14-18

¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

AII Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4,5)

OFFERING – Chimes “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” by Lowell Mason

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER

AII I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

AII 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.

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN CW 589 “*Now the Day Is Over*”

Thank you for serving us this evening:

- ✠ Ann Freese for using her God-given gifts in our service this evening,
- ✠ Pastor Ray Beckmann who is a retired WELS pastor living in Lincoln,
- ✠ Junior Choir for using their voices to glorify God and edify us,
- ✠ Chimes for using their talents to praise God and inspire us,
- ✠ and those who served tonight’s Lenten supper.

If you would like more information about St. Paul's Lutheran Church, feel free to speak with Pastor Fred Berger after the service or anytime during the week!

Call/Text: 402-239-4509

Email: pastorberger@gmail.com

If you think you might be interested in joining the St. Paul's church family, Pastor would be more than happy to take you through some Bible studies at whatever time or location is most convenient for you to learn more about what we teach.

If you would like more information about St. Paul's Lutheran School, feel free to speak with Mr. Andrew Danner!

Call/Text: 402-433-5349

Email: danner@stpaulsplymouth.org

Mr. Danner would love to give you a tour of the school and answer any questions you might have about the excellent Christ-centered education we offer students of our church and community.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School

In an ever-changing world, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to build Christ's kingdom in people's hearts with the un-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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