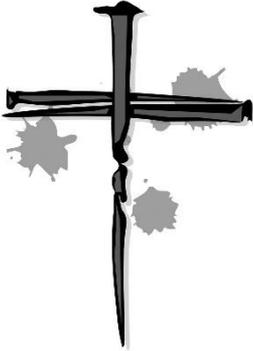


Midweek 3—Lent 2019

March 20th

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 "Is It I?" from Matthew 26:20-25.

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 disciples, I have boldly declared loyalty to You only to fail to
proclaim Your name; I have foolishly listened to the devil's lies only
to be crushed with guilt and shame.**

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.

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, then God will glorify the Son in Himself, and will glorify Him at once.”

While they were eating, Jesus took bread on the night He was betrayed, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take and eat: this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “This cup is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me. I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.” They all drank from it.



“My little children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for Me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another.”

Simon Peter asked Him, “Lord, where are You going?”

Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”

Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You.”

Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for Me? Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you all as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brothers.”

But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with You to prison and to death."



Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know Me."

Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered.

He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors;' and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in Me. Yes, what is written about Me is reaching its fulfillment."

The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords."

"That is enough," He replied.

When Jesus had finished praying, and they had sung a hymn, He went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him.

Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of Me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of You, I never will."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today, yes tonight, before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown Me three times."

But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You." And all the others said the same.

Then Jesus went with His disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, a place called Gethsemane. Jesus and His disciples went into it. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples.



On reaching the place, Jesus said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray. Pray so that you will not fall into temptation." He took

Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, along with Him and began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.” He withdrew about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and fell on the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from Him. “*Abba, Father,*” He said, “everything is possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will. Not My will, but Yours be done.”

When He rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, He found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. “Simon,” He said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you men not keep watch with Me for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done.”



When He came back, He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to Him. So He left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Returning to the disciples the third time, He said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes My betrayer!”

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

HYMN – CW 125 *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

SERMON TEXT – Matthew 26:20-25

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.”

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely not I, Lord?”

²³ Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ 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.”

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “Yes, it is you.”

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

AU 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

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

AU 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

AU 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 590 *“God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven”*

Thank you for serving us this evening:

- ✠ Angie Zulauf for using her God-given gifts in our service this evening,
- ✠ Pastor Steve Kahrs from Zion (WELS) in Clatonia St. John's (WELS) in Cortland,
- ✠ 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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