# Midweek of Lent 4 - March 30, 2022 12:00 & 7:00 PM WITNESSES TO CHRIST

# ORDER OF VESPERS

#### BARABBAS

Barabbas was a heartless, brutal criminal with anger in his heart and blood on his hands. Custom dictated that Pontius Pilate should release one prisoner at the feast of Passover. Pilate knows Jesus is innocent and tries to get the crowd to ask for Jesus' release, but the crowd calls instead for Barabbas. The crowd condemns the innocent Jesus and demands that the guilty Barabbas receive a pardon. We are Barabbas. We are guilty and sinful and deserving of death. But we are also Barabbas in that Jesus takes our place, takes our punishment, and sets us free.

#### HYMN SING

#### WELCOME

Stand

#### **OPENING VERSICLES**

#### LSB 229

#### Psalm 57: antiphon: v.10 \* For Your steadfast love is great to the | heavens,\* P Your faithfulness | to the clouds. С Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes | refuge;\* in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction | pass by. P I cry out to | God Most High,\* to God who fulfills His pur- | pose for me. С He will send from heaven and save me; He will put to shame him who tramples | on me.\* God will send out His steadfast love and His | faithfulness

## **PSALM**

P My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid | fiery beasts-\* the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are | sharp swords. С Be exalted, O God, above the | heavens!\* Let Your glory be over | all the earth! P They set a net for my steps; my soul was | bowed down.\* They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it | themselves. My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is | steadfast!\* С I will sing and make | melody! Awake, my glory! Awake, O | harp and lyre!\* P I will a- | wake the dawn! С I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the | peoples;\* I will sing praises to You among the | nations. P For Your steadfast love is great to the | heavens,\* Your faithfulness | to the clouds. С Be exalted, O God, above the | heavens!\* Let Your glory be over | all the earth! A Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. | Amen. P For Your steadfast love is great to the | heavens,\*

#### **PSALM PRAYER**

Merciful Lord, You are our refuge in time of trouble and our hope in distress. Keep us in Your care that we may be raised from the death of sin to life in Christ and give faithful witness to Your mercy by proclaiming Your name and Your salvation to the nations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Your faithfulness | to the clouds.

C Amen.

Sit

#### 'Behold! The Lamb of God,' John Said

#### **SERIES HYMN**

- "Behold! The Lamb of God," John said, "Who takes all sin away." This Lamb is Christ, who in our stead For sin would mutely pay.
  "Behold your King!" by Pilate scourged; Sin's hellish sum on Him converged, While "Crucify!" the hateful urged, Their Savior to betray.
- The Way—of justice was deprived; The Truth—was overrun; The Life—was all from Christ derived; God glorifies His Son! "I am the Bread of Life," Christ said; "My sacred blood for all, I shed; Who eats and drinks of Me is fed." All death by Christ undone.
- Christ's glory is not seen by those Who view God's Word as dross, For worldly wisdom never knows How gain could come from loss. Yet, this the glory of the Christ: His perfect life He sacrificed, His finished work for all sufficed— Debt canceled on the cross.
- May we this holy Lententide Christ's Passion clearly see; This somber vision will provide The truth that sets us free. Hear John, who speaks of what he knows; Come, follow on the path Christ chose: The cross, the tomb from which He rose In joyous victory!

#### READING

**P** A reading from Zechariah, the nineth chapter.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

#### READING

#### 2 Corinthians 3:15-18

**P** A reading from Second Corinthians, the third chapter.

<sup>15</sup>Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup>But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

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

Stand

#### READING

#### John 18:33-40

P A reading from St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

<sup>33</sup>So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world." <sup>37</sup>Then Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." <sup>38</sup>Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup>They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **G** Praise to You, O Christ.



Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing LSB 528

SERMON

Barabbas John 18:33-40 Vicar Zach Roll

Stand

CANTICLE	<i>Sing Praise to the God of Israel</i> LSB 936
OFFERING	
PRAYERS	LSB 233
<b>BENEDICAMUS &amp; BENEDICTION</b>	LSB 234

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

My Song is Love Unknown LSB 430

#### POSTLUDE

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### Serving the Lord and Us This Evening:

Preaching	Vicar Zach Roll
Liturgist	Pastor Joel Schultz
Organist	Deb Miller
Acolytles	



#### Rev. Joel Schultz, Senior Pastor Rev. Michael Ada, Associate Pastor Vicar Zachary Roll, Student Pastor

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 13145 S. Blackbob Road, Olathe, KS 66062 Phone: (913) 780-6023 website: <u>www.bslcks.org</u>