Midweek of Lent 5 – April 6, 2022 12:00 & 7:00 PM WITNESSES TO CHRIST

ORDER OF VESPERS

PONTIUS PILATE

Pontius Pilate, a witness to Christ, consented to order Jesus' execution. Pilate may wash his hands and proclaim his own innocence in the death of Jesus, but Pilate is guilty. Pilate is caught between a rock and a hard place. Instead of doing what is right, Pilate has Jesus' flesh ripped, shredded, dressed in purple, and crowned with thorns. His hard heart is complicit in the death of Christ. While it may be an uncomfortable thought, Pilate's failures make us examine our own complicity in the evil of others. How have we deceived ourselves in proclaiming innocence? How have we been pressured into allowing evil to occur? Thanks be to God that our journey to the cross shows us Jesus' forgiveness.

HYMN SING

WELCOME

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

LSB 229



P	So they reward me e- vil for good,* and hatred for my love.
C	Appoint a wicked man a- gainst him;* let an accuser stand at his right hand.
P	When he is tried, let him come forth guilty;* let his prayer be count- ed as sin! May this be the reward of my accusers from the LORD,* of those who speak evil a- gainst my life!
P	But You, O GOD my Lord, deal on my behalf for Your name's sake;* because Your steadfast love is good, de- liver me! For I am poor and needy,* and my heart is stricken with- in me.
P	I am gone like a shadow at evening;* I am shaken off like a locust. My knees are weak through fasting;* my body has become gaunt, with no fat.
P	I am an object of scorn to my ac- cusers;* when they see me, they wag their heads. Help me, O LORD my God!* Save me according to Your steadfast love!
P	Let them know that this is Your hand;* You, O LORD, have done it! Let them curse, but You will bless!* They arise and are put to shame, but Your servant will be glad!
P	May my accusers be clothed with dis- honor;* may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a cloak! With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD;* I will praise Him in the midst of the throng.
P	For He stands at the right hand of the needy,* to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.

- 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.
- Help me, O | LORD my God!* Save me according to Your | steadfast love!

PSALM PRAYER

O God of steadfast love and mercy, on the cross Your Son forgave His enemies. Turn our hearts from hatred and evil that we may forgive the offenses of those who seek our harm and forgive as we have been forgiven. Rescue us in our time of peril and deliver us from bitterness and resentment; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

SERIES HYMN

'Behold! The Lamb of God,' John Said

- "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.
- 4. 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

Ezekiel 11:17-21

P A reading from Ezekiel, the eleventh chapter.

¹⁷"Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' ¹⁸And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. ¹⁹And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰that they may walk in My statutes and keep My rules and obey them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God. ²¹But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD."

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

READING

P A reading from Second Corinthians, the fourth chapter.

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

READING

John 19:1-16

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

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. ³They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to Him, "You will not speak to me?

Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.



OFFICE HYMN

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted LSB 451

> Pontius Pilate John 19:1-16 Pastor Joel Schultz

SERMON

Stand

CANTICLE	Sing Praise to the God of Israel
	LSB 936
OFFERING	
PRAYERS	LSB 233
BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION	LSB 234

CLOSING HYMN

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Serving the Lord and Us This Evening:

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



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

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When I Behold Jesus Christ

LSB 542