



THE STRUGGLE WITH GUILT

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, NE

March 14, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assist devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything, please ask one of our ushers.

Connection cards: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

Organist

Mrs. Kathy Bremer

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHVTM) copyright © 2016 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org.

Divine Service II © 2008 Northwestern Publishing House, Gathering Rite on the Word of God © 2008 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Farewell to Alleluia Rite © 2004 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-713578.

Cover: www.corissanelsonart.com

DIVINE SERVICE II

Divine Service II is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.

OPENING HYMN

If Your Beloved Son, O God | 393

1 If your beloved Son, O God, Had not to earth descended
And in our mortal flesh and blood Had not sin's power ended,
Then this poor, wretched soul of mine In hell eternally would pine
Because of my transgression.

2 But now I find sweet peace and rest; Despair no more reigns o'er me.
No more am I by sin oppressed, For Christ has borne sin for me.
Upon the cross for me he died That, reconciled, I might abide
With you, my God, forever.

3 I trust in him with all my heart; Now all my sorrow ceases.
His words abiding peace impart; His blood from guilt releases.
Free grace through him I now obtain; He washes me from ev'ry stain,
And pure I stand before him.

4 All righteousness by works is vain; The law brings condemnation.
True righteousness by faith I gain; Christ's work is my salvation.
His death, that perfect sacrifice, Has paid the all-sufficient price;
In him my hope is anchored.

5 My guilt, O Father, you have laid On Christ, your Son, my Savior.
Lord Jesus, you my debt have paid And gained for me God's favor.
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace, The good in me to you I trace;
In faith and hope preserve me.

INVOCATION¹

please stand, if able

[M] In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

¹ *The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

C Amen.

CONFESSION

M 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.

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

ABSOLUTION²

M Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY³

M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C Christ, have mercy.

M For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as

² *The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners* [The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?]. See John 20:21-23.

³ *Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.*

we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD⁴

Tune | 102

**All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.**

**Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.**

**O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, your mercy share.**

**You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

M Let us pray.

⁴ Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century. (Lk 2:14)

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

⁶The Lord sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. ⁷The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord to take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸The Lord said to Moses, "Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live." ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

HYMN

CW 112

**There is a fountain filled with blood—
Immanuel was slain—
And sinners who are washed therein
Lose ev'ry guilty stain,
Lose ev'ry guilty stain.**

GOSPEL⁵

John 3:14-21

please stand, if able

M The Gospel according to John chapter 3.

C **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God.

¹⁹This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. ²¹But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.” (EHV)

⁵ *The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.*

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

God Loved the World So that He Gave | **391**

1 God loved the world so that he gave His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in him believe Should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ is the solid rock of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death.
All who confide in him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 God would not have the sinner die—His Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word does teach How we the blessed goal may reach.

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives the sins that you have done.
You're justified by Jesus' blood; Baptized, you are a child of God.

5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death—This is the anchor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

SERMON

¹LORD, do not rebuke me in anger.
Do not discipline me in wrath.

²Indeed, your arrows have stuck in me.
Your hand has come down on me.

³There is no health in my flesh because of your rage.
There is no wellness in my bones because of my sin,

⁴because my guilt has gone over my head.
Like a heavy burden, it is too heavy for me.

⁵My wounds stink and ooze because of my folly.

⁶I am drooping. I am completely bent over.
All day long I go around mourning.

⁷Even my back burns with pain.
My whole body is unhealthy.

⁸I have become numb. I am totally crushed.
I groan loudly because of my anxious thoughts.

⁹Lord, all my needs lie before you.
My sighs are not hidden from you.

¹⁰My heart beats quickly. My strength leaves me.
Even the light of my eyes is gone from me.

¹⁵Yet I wait for you, LORD.
You will answer, O Lord my God.

¹⁶So I said, "Do not let them celebrate because of me.
Do not let them gloat when my foot slips."

¹⁷Look! I am about to fall,
and I am always in pain,

¹⁸so I declare my guilt,
and I am troubled by my sin.

¹⁹My aggressive enemies are numerous.
Those who hate me for no reason are many.

²⁰Those who repay evil for good
slander me because I pursue what is good.

²¹Do not forsake me, O LORD.
My God, do not be far from me.

²²Hurry to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

please stand, if able.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

be seated

OFFERING: *Please place your offering in the plate in the entry.*

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money
in keeping with his income. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- [M]** Lord God most holy, without whom there is no help, and with whom there is no reason to fear.
- [C]** **Be the guardian and defender of all who lift their souls to you, and who in their desolation and affliction seek your mercy.**
- [M]** We thank you for the love of Jesus, that he freely gave himself as the sacrifice for our sins, yielding up his perfect life as a fragrant offering for our salvation.
- [C]** **Help us in faith to imitate the example of Christ and walk in his love.**

M Grant that as children of the heavenly light we may earnestly repent of our sins, forsake the ways of darkness and error, and follow in the paths of goodness, righteousness and truth. With your finger cast out all demons of sin and wickedness that assault us.

C **Fill our souls with holiness, love for your Word, and every pure grace and virtue.**

M We pray for all who are in any want of body or soul, for all of our loved ones who are in distant places, for all who have strayed from your truth, for all who are in temptation, for all who are suffering sickness and pain, for all who mourn.

C **Pour down your blessings upon them according to their need. Hear their prayers. Comfort them with your presence.**

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

M Finally, Lord, let not your good Spirit forsake us, but grant your Church to see days of peace and unity. Hear us, O Father, in the name of your Son Jesus. Amen.

The Sacrament

Those who have prepared themselves and who have declared their fellowship with us through membership in this or another WELS or ELS congregation are invited to receive the Lord's Supper.

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light

of God's blessing. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Tune | 105

**O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus took bread and gave thanks [Matthew 26:26]

M Blessed are you, O Lord, because you have brought us from death to life.

With humble and repentant hearts, we praise and thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who became our substitute under your holy law, who destroyed the works of the devil by his perfect obedience to your will, who willingly carried a cross to pay the debt of the world's sin, who lives and reigns to give us life.

Through his body and blood, once given and poured out for us, forgive our sins and strengthen us for our journey heavenward. Unite us to our crucified and risen Lord, that we may believe in him, confess him, call on his name, and finally be delivered from this world to the feast of the Lamb, whose kingdom has no end.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION ⁶

Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he 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."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✝ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

⁶ As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death

LAMB OF GOD⁷

John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Jesus Sinners Does Receive | 304

1 Jesus sinners does receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve—Jesus sinners does receive.

⁷ In, with and under the bread and wine we behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

2 We deserve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe—Jesus sinners does receive.

3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the Lord forsaken;
Weary souls who lost their way Are by Christ, the shepherd, taken
In his arms that they may live—Jesus sinners does receive.

4 Come, O sinners, one and all, Come, accept his invitation.
Come, obey his gracious call; Come and take his free salvation!
Firmly in these words believe—Jesus sinners does receive.

5 I, a sinner, come to you With a penitent confession.
Savior, show me mercy, too; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve—Jesus sinners does receive.

6 Oh, how blest is it to know, Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow By your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe—Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive. Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave—Jesus sinners does receive.

SONG OF SIMEON (Luke 2:29-32)

Tune | **388**

please stand

**O Lord, now let your servant
Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised
incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever three in one;
For as in the beginning,**

**Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

M 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.**

HYMN

Not All the Blood of Beasts | **128**

- 1 Not all the blood of beasts On Israel's altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.
- 2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away,
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.
- 3 In faith I place my hand On that dear head divine,
As penitently here I stand And lay on him my sin.
- 4 My soul looks back to see The burden you did bear
When hanging on the cursed tree—I know my guilt was there!
- 5 Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing his bleeding love.