

Calvary Lutheran Church
Midweek Home Worship
Wednesday, March 18, 2020

“Drawn
to the
Cross”



An Order of Service for Evening Devotion

Due to the precautions involving the spreading of COVID-19, midweek Lent services at Calvary have been suspended. In place of these services, you are encouraged to use this bulletin for having an evening devotion tonight at home.



Reader: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.

Group: A light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us, for it is evening.

And the day is almost over.

Let your light scatter the darkness.

Let it shine in our hearts and lives.



PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of all threats to both body and soul, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.



READING

Read the following selection from the Passion History of Christ:

As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law. They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, "If you are the Christ, tell us."

But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the righthand of the power of God."

They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?" He said to them, "I am what you are saying." Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!" Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? That's your problem."

He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money." They reached a decision to buy the potter's field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord commanded me.



THE PSALM

Read the following Psalm as a group.

Psalm 25. To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

LENTEN MEDITATION

Drawn to the Cross

Jesus' Cross Is My Obedience before God

At this time, play the audio recording that was attached to Pastor Schaller's email.

We thank Pastor David Schaller of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sister Lakes, MI for proclaiming the Gospel message tonight.

Luke 22:41-46 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." ⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Philippians 2:8 And being found in human form he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.



PRAYERS

Lord God, give us strength and willingness to say with Your Son, “Not my will but Your will be done.” Make us cheerful and trusting to bear whatever You let happen to us. From Your hand we are willing to take the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Keep us from sin, gracious Father, and comfort us with Your kind Word.

[Here insert petitions specific to your family. Pray also for the Lord’s end to the current pandemic and for strength and wisdom as we endure these uncertain times.]

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.

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.



BLESSING

May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us: His light to guide us, His presence to shelter us, His peace to unite us. Amen.



HYMN 644 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;



Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.