



## Lent Mid-Week Three

February 28, 2024

St. John Passion: What Kind of King Is This?

### As We Gather

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. As He testified before Pilate that His kingdom is not of this world so are we, by our Baptism, “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

### Opening Sentences

*Psalm 118:24; 113:3; Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5*

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
  - C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
  - P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
  - C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
  - P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
  - C** **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**
  - P** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,
  - C** **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**
  - P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.
  - C** **He was bruised for our iniquities.**
  - P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
  - C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**  
**Amen.**

### Second Reading

*John 18:28–40*

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” 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.” 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.” 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. 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?” They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory

1 John 2:1; Psalm 32:1

**P** We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

## Catechism

Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

## Sermon

## Offering

## Prayer

**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

### Prayer of the Day

- P** Thy kingdom come. O Lord, rule our minds, hearts, and lives that we may know and believe Your Word of truth and that we may live our lives as forgiven sinners in true freedom serving others as You have served us. Hear us for the sake of Your love.
- C** Amen.

### Collect for the Word

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

### Luther's Evening Prayer

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### Blessing

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** Amen.

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