



Lent Mid-Week Six

March 20, 2024

St. John Passion: Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation

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. Baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we have God’s promise that the forgiveness and salvation accomplished by our Lord on the cross is for us and is all we need.

Opening Sentences

Psalms 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 19:28–42

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no

one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

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** O gracious and loving God, we give to You our greatest heartfelt thanks for the love You have shown to the world in the silent service of Your Son's death for us on the cross. Grant that Your saving love capture the heart of every sinner with saving faith. By the washing of regeneration of water and the Spirit, make us Your family of faith filled with Your love and life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
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.

Acknowledgments

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