

2/23/2024 4:20 PM

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

GUIDED
to the
CROSS

Guided to Peace



March 13, 2024
7:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church
327 Avenue C, SE
Winter Haven, FL 33880
863-293-8447 www.glwh.org



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*For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.
Colossians 1:19-20*

*(*Indicates when congregation is to stand.)*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

*TOLLING OF THE BELL AND SILENT PROCESSIONAL

*INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: We live in a world where peace can be hard to find. We are surrounded by strife and quarrels. We are often filled with worry and fear. Jesus tells us, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (*John 14:27*)

People: **Jesus our Savior, when we are troubled and worried by the strife around us, grant us Your peace.**

Pastor: The world's peace depends on the absence of war and strife and trouble. The peace that Jesus brings to us is not like the world's peace. The peace of Jesus depends only on Jesus. The world's peace can be lost, but the peace that Jesus brings to us is our forever.

People: **Jesus our Savior, even in times of trouble or fear, grant us Your peace.**

Pastor: By God's grace, through faith in Jesus, we have peace even in the midst of trouble. Through faith in Jesus, we have peace with God through the forgiveness of our sins. It is peace that Jesus won for us through His death on the cross and His triumphant resurrection. It is peace that we

can share with others as we tell them of Jesus' love.

People: Jesus our Savior, grant us Your peace.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

(Please kneel or be seated.)

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, and ask His forgiveness.

People: **Almighty God, You have called us to peace, but so often we choose strife and anger. We do not seek to follow Your will and walk in love. Instead, we listen to the temptations of the world around us, and we are often the cause of strife. We live according to our own selfish desires. Have mercy on us, and forgive us. Lead us each day to follow our Savior.**

Pastor: God has had mercy on us. He sent His Son Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to suffer and die for our sins to bring peace with God and with one another. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: **Almighty God, set the cross of Jesus before us to guide us in the way of peace.**

***HYMN**

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

Hymn 440

(vv. 1, 4, 5 & 6)

**Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.**

**Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?**

**If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!**

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 53:4-5

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:44-46

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

***GOSPEL HYMN**

"Not What These Hands Have Done"

Hymn 567

(vv. 1-3)



1 Not what these hands have done Can save this guilt - y soul;
2 Not what I feel or do Can give me peace with God;
3 Thy work a - lone, O Christ, Can ease this weight of sin;
4 Thy love to me, O God, Not mine, O Lord, to Thee,



Not what this toil - ing flesh has borne Can makemy spir - it whole.
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears Can bear my aw - ful load.
Thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, Can give mepeacewith - in.
Can rid me of this dark un - rest And set my spir - it free.

HOMILY

"Guided to the Cross: Guided to Peace"

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Create in Me"



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*PRAYERS

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You suffered and died for our sins, and by Your wounds, we have received healing from our sins and we have peace with God. During this Lenten season, as we follow Your path to the cross, set Your cross always before us to guide us in the way of peace. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

People: **Hear our prayer, and grant us peace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the cross that You carried to Golgotha was not known as an instrument of peace, but as a terrible instrument of death. Yet through Your sacrifice, the cross has become for us a sign of love and peace. Through the blood You shed on the cross, God has reconciled all things to Himself, making peace through the blood of Your cross. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

People: **Hear our prayer, and grant us peace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the world around us is rarely at peace, and when it is, that worldly peace can be a fragile thing. We must deal with conflicts and quarrels, troubled times among our own friends and family members and the threat and reality of war among nations. Yet You have promised that when we bring our fears and worries to You in prayer, You will guard our hearts and minds with Your peace. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

People: **Hear our prayer, and grant us peace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we pray for people who are suffering through illness, grief and other difficult circumstances. Grant to them the peace that You alone can give. Comfort them through the promises of Your Word, and give us opportunities to serve them and to share Your love with them. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

People: **Hear our prayer, and grant us peace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, right now each day, we have forgiveness and peace through faith in Your name. We look forward to the day when we will live in Your presence, where we will enjoy peace forever. Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace,

People: **Hear our prayer, and grant us peace. Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

***BENEDICTION** (*Colossians 1:17-20; 2 Thessalonians 3:16*)

Pastor: Jesus is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

People: **For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.**

Pastor: Now, may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** **“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**
(vv. 1, 2 & 4)

Hymn 427

**In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o’ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.**

THE PARTICIPANTS

Preacher	The Rev. Bill Whitehead, Lake Wales
Liturgists	The Rev. Charles T. Reich, The Rev. Brendon T. Moore
Organist	Sandy Hulse
Sound Technician	Bruce Wales
Elder on Duty	Jon Peterson
Lector	Dr. Ken Rogers
Greeters	Rob & Bonnie Petersilge
Ushers	Janice Graydon, Steve Griffith, Douglas Hall, Carl Rod, Larry Walker

CREDITS

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Acknowledgments

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