

† LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE †
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

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| Service of Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. |
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PRELUDE

Glory Be to Jesus

Timothy Albrecht

INVOCATION and CALL TO WORSHIP (*Congregation rising*)

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to You all day long.

C You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to You.

P Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

C We will be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgives us.

CONFESSION

P Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father:

C Heavenly Father, we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to keep Your commandments. O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P Because of the perfect obedience, atoning death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus:

C O Christ, have mercy upon us.

P Strengthen and preserve us in the true faith, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C O Lord, let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us, that with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify You forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

OFFICE HYMN

In Adam We Have All Been One (v. 1-5)

LSB Hymn 569

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 4:3-16

³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." ⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶ So Cain went out from the Lord's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 3:11-18

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY (*Congregation rising*)

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus taught them, saying:] ²¹ "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you

may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CATECHISM REVIEW

P The Ten Commandments, as the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to the household. The Fifth Commandment:

C **You shall not murder.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbors in their bodies, but help and support them in every physical need.**

SERMON "The 5th Commandment: Murder, God Wrote" Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

HYMN OF THE DAY Glory Be to Jesus (v. 1-4) LSB Hymn 433

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.**

A 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.**

A 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.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.**

A 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.**

A For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, including those we lift up in the quiet of this moment...(pause), let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Thanks be to God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord, and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

P O God, You made us in Your own image and redeemed us through Your Son. Take away any arrogance or hatred which infects our hearts, and unite us in bonds of love, that we may work together to accomplish Your purposes on earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Son of God, Eternal Savior (v. 1 and 4)

LSB Hymn 842

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

In Babilone

Ewald Weiss

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Participants in the Service:

Officiant Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell
Senior Pastor

Asst. Minister Deacon Larry Cosentino

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School

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