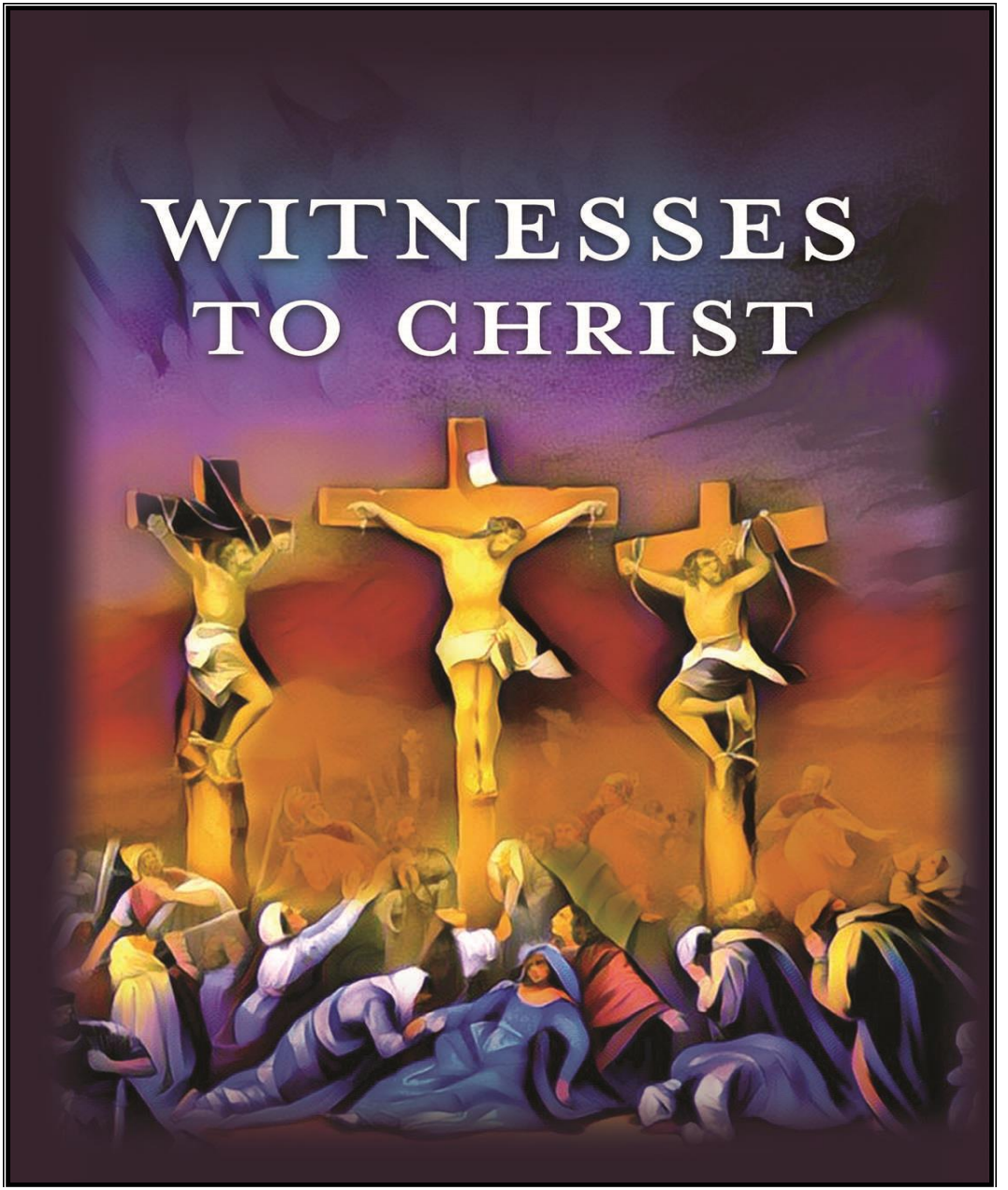


Pontius Pilate
Midweek Lenten Service V
Wednesday, April 6, 2022
6:30 pm

As We Gather

Pontius Pilate, a witness to Christ, consented to order Jesus' execution. Pilate may wash his hands and proclaim his own innocence in the death of Jesus, but Pilate is guilty. Pilate is caught between a rock and a hard place. Instead of doing what is right, Pilate has Jesus' flesh ripped, shredded, dressed in purple, and crowned with thorns. His hard heart is complicit in the death of Christ. While it may be an uncomfortable thought, Pilate's failures make us examine our own complicity in the evil of others. How have we deceived ourselves in proclaiming innocence? How have we been pressured into allowing evil to occur? Thanks be to God that our journey to the cross shows us Jesus' forgiveness.

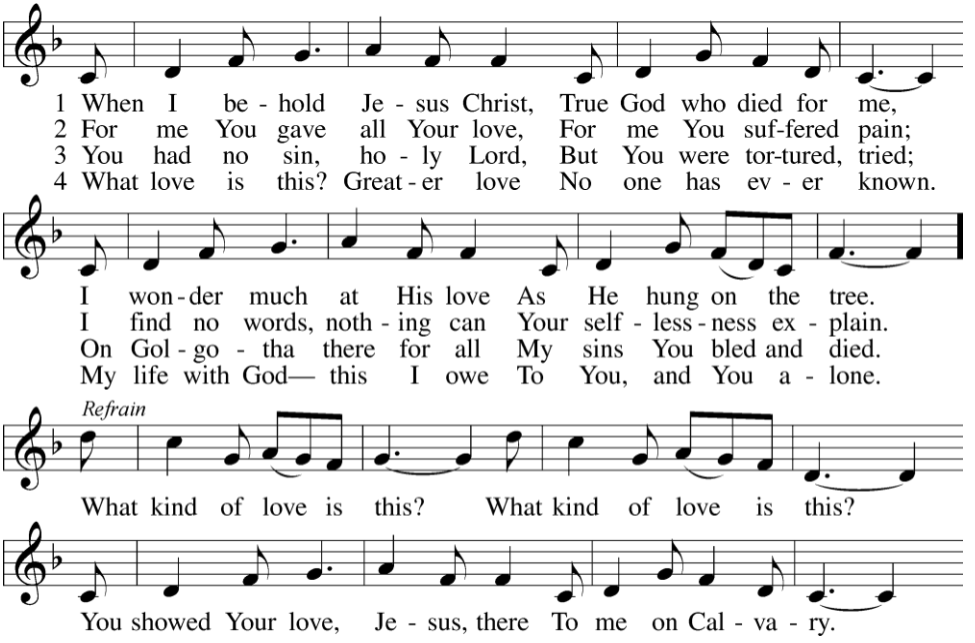
Preservice Music

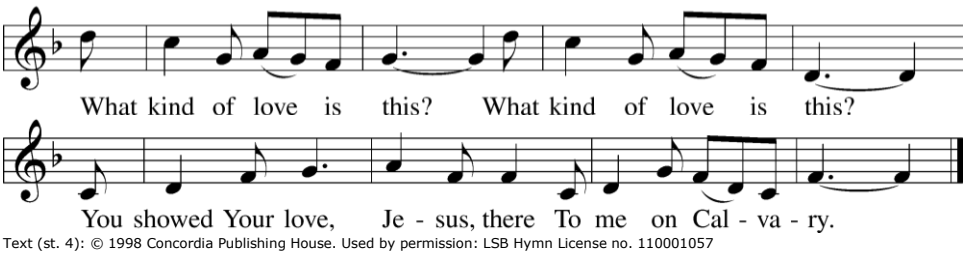
Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Please stand

When I Behold Jesus Christ *LSB 542*





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Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Opening Sentences

P: As we continue our Lenten journey, we meet the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.
C: Pilate condemns Jesus to death by crucifixion.
P: Pilate tries to release Jesus,
C: **but the crowds demand Barabbas.**
P: Pilate washes his hands of Jesus' blood,
C: but Pilate is still guilty. Pilate caves to blackmail.
P: Pilate cares more about keeping his position
C: than he does about executing an innocent man.

Confession and Absolution

P: Pilate can proclaim his own innocence and justify himself all he wants. He is still guilty. He is still a selfish sinner with a hardened heart who is complicit in the death of not only an innocent man, but of the sinless Son of God. We might be tempted to point a finger at Pilate to justify ourselves, but truth be told, we, too, struggle with hardened hearts. Still, our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him with repentant hearts and seek His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P: Together we confess:
C: **Heavenly Father, we have sinned against You in what we have done and in all that we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. We do not seek to wash our hands of these sins, Lord, but we seek Your forgiveness. We seek Your washing and renewal through the blood of Christ.**

P: Almighty God, in His grace and mercy, has given His only Son, Jesus, to die and rise for our forgiveness and our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of our crucified and risen Lord, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. We are washed clean and forgiven by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ!**

Psalmody

Ps. 26

P: Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

**C: Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.**

P: For Your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in Your faithfulness.

**C: I do not sit with men of falsehood,
nor do I consort with hypocrites.**

P: I hate the assembly of evildoers,
and I will not sit with the wicked.

**C: I wash my hands in innocence
and go around Your altar, O LORD,**

P: proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,
and telling all Your wondrous deeds.

**C: O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P: Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,
nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

**C: in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.**

P: But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.

**C: My foot stands on level ground;
in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.**

**All: 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.**

Please be seated

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus



Old Testament *Ezekiel 11:17-21*

17"Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' 18And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. 19And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20that they may walk in My statutes and keep My rules and obey them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God. 21But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD."

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle *2 Corinthians 4:1-6*

1Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. 4In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Holy Gospel *John 19:1-16*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[1]Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. [2]And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. [3]They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. [4]Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." [5]So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" [6]When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." [7]The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God." [8]When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. [9]He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. [10]So Pilate said to Him, "You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?" [11]Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin."

[12]From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." [13]So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. [14]Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" [15]They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." [16]So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross *LSB 425*



Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Jesus, Our Hope (Our Heart's Desire)

Becky and Dan Schnitzius, Margo and Dan Wolf, vocals

Jesus, our hope, our heart's desire, Your work of grace we sing.
You are the Savior of the world, its Maker and its King.
How vast the love and mercy displayed upon the tree;
They led You to a cruel death, to set Your people free!
O may Your mighty love prevail, our sinful souls to spare,
And may we gather 'round Your throne, to bask in Your glory there.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame nor can the mem'ry find
A sweeter sound than Your blest name O Savior good and kind.
O hope of ev'ry contrite heart, O joy of all the meek;
To those who fall You lift them up, give help to those who seek.
O may Your mighty love prevail, our sinful souls to spare,
And may we gather 'round Your throne to bask in Your glory there.
Jesus, our hope, our hearts' desire, Your work of grace we sing.

Please stand

Versicles and Collects

Psalm 102:1; Psalm 17:8; Psalm 17:15

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C: listen to my cry.

P: Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
C: hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

P: In righteousness I shall see You;
C: when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

P: O God of steadfast love and mercy, on the cross Your Son forgave His enemies. Turn our hearts from hatred and evil that we may forgive the offenses of those who seek our harm and forgive as we have been forgiven. Rescue us in our time of peril and deliver us from bitterness and resentment; Lord, in Your mercy.
C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, though ruthless Pontius Pilate declared Your innocence before the crowds, You who knew no sin became sin for us. Grant that the shame You bore for us on the cross give us the greatest honor so that we might always see that only in suffering can we behold who You truly are, our glorious King and Savior; Lord in Your mercy;

C: Hear our prayer

P: O Lord, our dwelling place and our peace, You have compassion on our weakness. Put far from us all worry and fearfulness that, having confessed our sins and commending ourselves to Your gracious mercy, we may, when night shall come, commit ourselves, our work, and all we love into Your keeping, receiving from You the gift of quiet sleep; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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.**

Benedicamus

P: Let us bless the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C: Amen.

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise *LSB 917*



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WITNESSES TO CHRIST: PEOPLE FROM HIS PASSION

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those in John's Gospel who journeyed to the cross. Along the way, we'll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate, as well as sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus *three* times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by *seven* demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for *thirty* pieces of silver).

Please join us for worship as we hear the witness of these people in John's Gospel:

Sunday, April 10, Palm Sunday, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m.

Judas Iscariot, John 13:21–30

Good Friday April 15, 12 Noon with communion and Tenebrae, 7 p.m.

John, the Gospel Writer, John 19:25–37

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 17, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Mary Magdalene, John 20:1–18

Worship Leaders:	Pastor Chris A. Spelbring
Organist:	Dawn E. Tayon, Director of Music
Elder on Duty:	Matt Berry
Sound/Video/Camera:	Bob Kienitz/Chris Spear/Yvonne Goerger
Acolytes:	Lily Spelbring, Isobel Stuhlsatz

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