



Three Crosses

One man died in his sins

One man died with his sins forgiven

One man died for the sins of the world

Good Friday – April 19, 2019

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church - P.O. Box 86, Helenville, WI

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Beth Schumacher

We Welcome You!

Darkness descended on the world that day as God draped Creation in the darkness of mourning. For the Light of the world was flickering out; the great Prince of the heavenly kingdom was dying. Though guiltless, he was tortured and cursed; though innocent, he died among criminals. Who could ever call this day "good?" Only those who know the truth of the cross.

Hymn: 114 "Christ, the Life of All the Living" vs. 1, 6, 7

L: In this holy hour of meditation, when in humility we contemplate how great a salvation You have prepared for us in mercy, we thank You for giving this sinful world Your Son and for revealing Your will and grace through Him.

C: We thank You for the eternal words of spirit and life He gave us; for His fulfillment of the law and the prophets;

L: for our deliverance from condemnation;

C: for His perfect obedience and sacrificial love;

L: for His mercies of healing and His patience in suffering;

C: for His willingness to endure the cross and submit to death.

L: For all that He has done, for all that He has suffered, for all that He have given us,

C: for all that He has promised, we thank You, heavenly Father.

L: By His suffering show us that we must enter Your kingdom through much tribulation.

C: By His crucifixion teach us to crucify the desires of our sinful nature.

L: By His death and burial remind us of our baptism

C: and of the fact that just as Christ was raised from the dead with the glory of the Father, we too have new life in Him.

L: Now as we have received Your mercy and seen Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ,

C: grant to us, O God, the comfort of Your grace through Him who died, but who rose again and evermore reigns as King in heaven and on earth.

L: Holy and righteous God we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts, words, and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

L: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.

L: Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world - therefore I declare to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

First Lesson - Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his

appearance that we should desire him.³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Anthem: Senior Choir “Old Rugged Cross”

Second Lesson: Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Psalm 22 Pg. 71

Gospel Lesson: John 19:17-30

¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).¹⁸ Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”²² Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.²⁴ “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, “They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.” So this is what the soldiers did.²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,”²⁷ and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.²⁸ Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Offering

Words of Institution

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 748 “Lamb of God”

Prayer of the Church

L: Lord Jesus Christ, in humble awe, in reverent silence, and in solemn trembling, your people have gathered around your cross to remember your death.

C: O Christ, friend of sinners, have mercy on us

L: At your cross let us see all the ugliness, horror, and misery that sin, death, and Satan brought into the world and that you willingly took on yourself. Open our eyes to see that we deserved the death and torments of hell that you suffered for us.

C: O Christ, only hope of a lost world, have mercy on us.

L: But open our eyes also to see that by your death you destroyed death, by your sacrifice you reconciled us with your Father, and by the blood you shed you purchased us to belong to you forever.

C: O Christ, Savior and Redeemer, have mercy on us

L: Help us believe that we are worth that much to you. Fill us with joy and peace in believing that we are truly free from condemnation and forgiven by your Father. Help us dedicate our lives in thankful love to you, who gave yourself for us.

C: Hear us, O Lamb of God, who bore all sin for us. Amen.

Hymn: 140 "God Was there on Calvary"

In this service seven candles are used. They represent the seven statements (or words) which Jesus spoke from the cross. One candle will be extinguished after each "word" of the Lord is heard and the sanctuary lights will be gradually dimmed. After each word from the cross we will hear a devotion focused on the significance of that particular word.

The First Word:

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

The Second Word:

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise."

The Third Word:

"Here is your son. Here is your mother."

The Fourth Word:

"My God, My God, Why have You forsaken Me?"

The Fifth Word:

"I am thirsty."

The Sixth Word:

"It is finished."

The Seventh Word:

"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."

The strepitus is sounded (This recalls the sealing of the tomb). Parents with small children may want to inform their children that there will be a sudden, loud crash. Following a brief moment of meditation, please dismiss yourself in silence.

Ushers: Good Friday – Please volunteer to help.
Easter – Paul Milbrath & Lucas Zuehlke
Next Week – Jim Lichtenberg & Jeremy Wagie

Greeters: Good Friday – Please volunteer to help.