

2021 MIDWEEK LENTEN MEDITATIONS  
IT'S ALL ABOUT REDEMPTION  
March 17, 2021



my  
**GOD,**  
why have you  
forsaken me?

Psalm 22:1

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2100 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Austin, MN 55912

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**THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

**HYMN 145: Jesus, Refuge of the Weary**

1 Jesus, Refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above,  
Oh, how oft Thine eyes, offended,  
Gaze upon the sinner's fall!  
Yet, upon the cross extended,  
Thou didst bear the pain of all.

2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
Breathing no repentant vow,  
Tho' we see Thee wounded, bleeding,  
See Thy thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Thy sinless death hath bro't us  
Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Thy grace hath taught us  
Calms the sinner's stormy breast.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
With more fervent love for Thee!  
May our eyes be ever turning  
To Thy cross of agony  
Till in glory, parted never  
From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever  
Dwell the cross, the Crucified!

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

Congr.: **Amen.**

Pastor: Make haste, O God to deliver me.

Congr.: **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

Congr.: **A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

**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.**

## **The Responsive Reading Psalm 2**

<sup>1</sup>Why do the nations rage,

**And the people plot a vain thing?**

<sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves,

And the rulers take counsel together,

**Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,**

<sup>3</sup>“Let us break Their bonds in pieces

**And cast away Their cords from us.”**

<sup>4</sup>He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;

**The Lord shall hold them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup>Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,

**And distress them in His deep displeasure:**

<sup>6</sup>“Yet I have set My King

**On My holy hill of Zion.”**

<sup>7</sup>“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me,

**‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.**

<sup>8</sup>Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance,

**And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.**

<sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron;

**You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”**

<sup>10</sup>Now therefore, be wise, O kings;

**Be instructed, you judges of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear,

**And rejoice with trembling.**

<sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,

**And you perish *in* the way,**

When His wrath is kindled but a little.

**Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congr.: And also with you.

Pastor: The Collect Congr.: **Amen.**

THE PASSION HISTORY: Jesus before Herod; Barabbas released

(p. 192-194)

Pastor: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH:  
Luther's Explanation to The Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, Begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.

**HYMN 141: Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains**

1 Enslaved by sin and bound in chains,  
Beneath its dreadful tyrant sway,  
And doomed to everlasting pains,  
We wretched, guilty captives lay.

2 Nor gold nor gems could buy our peace,  
Nor all the world's collected store  
Suffice to purchase our release;  
A thousand worlds were all too poor.

3 Jesus, the Lord, the mighty God,  
An all-sufficient ransom paid.  
O matchless price! His precious blood  
For vile, rebellious traitors shed.

4 Jesus the Sacrifice became  
To rescue guilty souls from hell;  
The spotless, bleeding, dying Lamb  
Beneath avenging Justice fell.

5 Amazing goodness! Love divine!  
Oh, may our grateful hearts adore  
The matchless grace nor yield to sin  
Nor wear its cruel fetters more!

**SERMON: IT'S ALL ABOUT REDEMPTION!**

**Theme: He Rescued Me from the Devil's Power!**

Text: Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise your head,  
And you shall bruise His heel.”. (NKJV)

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER

**HYMN 159 Go to Dark Gethsemane**

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,  
Ye that feel the Tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see,  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away,  
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

2 Follow to the judgment-hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn of Him to bear the cross.

3 Calvary's mournful mountain climb;  
There, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

4 Early hasten to the tomb  
Where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom,--  
Who hath taken Him away?  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes.  
Savior, teach us so to rise.

THE BENEDICTION: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy  
Spirit be with you all.

Congr.: **Amen**

**HYMN 552:1,6,8 Abide with Me! Fast Falls the Eventide**

1 Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide'  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

6 I need Thy presence every passing hour.  
What but Thy grace can foil the Tempter's power?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!

8 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

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February 17: Text: Romans 5:12, 18  
Theme: He has Redeemed Me, a Lost and Condemned Person  
Responsive Reading: Psalm 51:1-12  
Passion Lesson: The Passover (p. 170-172)  
Hymns: 140:1,4,5; 369:1,4,5; 163:1-4; 313:1

February 24: Text: Titus 2:13,14  
Theme: He Purchased and Won Me  
Responsive Reading: Psalm 130  
Passion Lesson: Lord's Supper Instituted (p. 174-175, 183)  
Hymns 351; 153; 158; 558:1-4

March 3: Text: 1 John 1:7-9  
Theme: He Set Me Free from All Sin  
Responsive Reading: Psalm, 103:1-14  
Passion Lesson: Judas Betrays Jesus (p.185-186)  
Hymns: 156; 342; 157; 653

March 10: Text: Romans 6:23  
Theme: He Saved Me from Death  
Responsive Reading: Psalm 73:21-26  
Passion Lesson: Peter's Denial (p.189-190)  
Hymns: 149; 143:1-5; 151:1,2,6,7; 551:1,2

March 17: Text: Genesis 3:15  
Theme: He Saved Me from the Devil's Power  
Responsive Reading: Psalm 2  
Passion Lesson: Trial Before Herod, Barabbas (p.192-194)  
Hymns: 145; 141; 159; 552: 1,6,8

March 24: Text: 1 John 3:1  
Theme: He Made Me His Own Forever  
Responsive Reading: Psalm 23  
Passion Lesson: Jesus Is Crucified (p.196-197)

April 1: Text: 1 Corinthians 11:23-29  
Theme: He Gave His Body and Blood for Me  
Responsive Reading: Psalm 32  
Passion Lesson: Dying Thief, Three Dark Hours (p. 198-199)

April 2: Text: 1 Peter 1:18-21a  
Theme: He Redeemed Me Through His Innocent Sufferings and Death!  
Responsive Reading: Psalm 22:1-19  
Passion Lesson: Jesus' Death and Burial (p.199-201)