

PLACES *of the* PASSION



Pilate's Judgment Hall

APRIL 9TH, 2025

WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK LENT 5

7PM SERVICE

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Week 5 of Lent, as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, contemplating the places where Jesus stood on his path to salvation.

✠ Divine Service: Places of Passion

Midweek 5: Pilate's Judgement Hall ✠

Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" Matthew 27: 22

In this service, we go to Pilate's Judgment Hall, where Pilate is positioned here to set Jesus free, but turns him over to be crucified instead. We are called to remember that the judgment that should have been placed on us was placed on him that we might free.

Prelude and Pastoral Greeting

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. ✠

C Amen.

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C To see the depths of His love.

P To behold the gift of His forgiveness.

C To gaze upon the heights of His grace.

P To marvel at the magnitude of His mercy.

C We walk with Jesus to Pilate's judgment hall.

P To hear about Jewish leaders, a prisoner named Barabbas and even Pilate's wife.

C It all boils down to three words— innocent, guilty and free.

P Faithful Lord, with me abide.

C I shall follow where you guide!

Opening Hymn "Let us Ever Walk with Jesus" (verses 1 & 2 only) #685

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

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✠ Confession and Forgiveness ✠

P Forgiving Father, though I don't like to admit it, I am a sinner much like Barabbas—

C A rebel and a wretch.

P Born dead in transgressions and sins.

C Lost and without hope.

- P** Doomed to perish.
- C** **Blinded by the god of this age.**
- P** My finest deeds are still soiled with sin.
- C** **And all my righteous acts are like unclean rags.**
- P** I am Barabbas.
- C** **Lord, have mercy! Christ have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.)

- P** Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death— for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha— for you. That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!
- C** **I shall follow where you guide!**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, you set Israel free from the chains of Egyptian bondage and you set Barabbas free from Roman execution; so set us free from every prison that shackles and binds us; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 14:22-29

²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 6: 1-11

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 27:11-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus Before Pilate

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²²Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn *(Sit)*

"My Song is Love Unknown" *(verses 1-3, & 5)*

#430

1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,

Who at my need
His life did spend!

- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

- 5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

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Sermon

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Offerings may also be dropped off at the office or mailed, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please call the church office.*

Prayers

- P** Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above. Full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray, Dear Lord Jesus, you've freed us from the delusion of trying to earn and maintain a relationship with you; from the anxiety of wondering what you think about us; from the chains of condemnation and from the fear of death. That's why we rejoice to say, "If the Son sets you free," —
- C** **You will be free, indeed!**
- P** Dear Lord Jesus, only your mercy can help us see, receive and trust our Gospel freedoms. Send us your Word and Spirit so that we live by the truth, "If the Son sets you free," —
- C** **You will be free, indeed!**
- P** Dear Lord Jesus, free us from being arrogant, aggravated and annoyed with people. Turn our angry reactions into slower and kinder responses. Help us use fewer words and listen more. Send us your Word and Spirit so that we share this truth with the world, "If the Son sets you free," —
- C** **You will be free, indeed!**
- P** Dear Lord Jesus, unshackle the chains of our lingering doubts and insecurities. Emplower us to throw off the grave-clothes of shame and feelings of failure. Heal our wounds and free us from bitterness. Send us your Word and Spirit so that we reflect this truth, "If the Son sets you free,"—
- C** **You will be free, indeed!**
- P** Dear Lord Jesus, free us for larger hearts toward the lost, more mercy for doubters and lavish love for all people. May our spouses feel cherished and appreciated, our children secure and our loved ones treasured and valued.
- C** **Jesus let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

P Jesus invites us to walk with him to Pilate's judgment hall, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb— and resurrection victory.

C Let us ever walk with Jesus!

Closing Hymn

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

#437

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I? | When God, the mighty maker, died
For His own creatures' sin. |
| 2 | Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree! | 4 Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears. |
| 3 | Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in | 5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do. |

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