

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lent Three – March 19, 2017

Pastor Mark Voss

Christ at the Crossroads

OPENING HYMN – *“Christ Is the World’s Light”*

CW 343

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me a sinner.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD HAVE MERCY

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

MUSICAL SELECTION – COR Students

“You Are My All In All”

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P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C: Amen.

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD



O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.



Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life with your love.



You take a - way our sin; you com - fort our spir - it;



you make us pure and ho - ly in your sight.



You did not spare your on - ly Son, but gave him up for us all.



O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us;



you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glo - ry; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

Faith gives us Spiritual Sight

EPISTLE – Ephesians 5:8-14

Seeing changes everything

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Live as children of light

(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

and find out what pleases the Lord.

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness,
but rather expose them.

For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

"Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

VERSE OF THE DAY – Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. John 3:14, 15

GOSPEL – John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Jesus opens the eyes of the blind



P: ¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

C: ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. ¹⁷Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."

P: ³⁴To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." ³⁸Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

HYMN OF THE DAY – *“Amazing Grace”*

CW 379

SERMON: CHRIST AT THE CROSSROADS

The Crossroads of Shame

Based on the Gospel Lesson

CONFESSION OF FAITH

We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host,
By whose mighty power alone All is made and wrought and done.

We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from his throne And for us salvation won,
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both fore'er proceeds,
Who upholds and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessed, holy Trinity, Hear our praise eternally!



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OFFERING AND SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

Our church practices membership communion.

*We ask that only members of our church body, the Wisconsin Synod,
partake of the sacrament.*

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your



glo-ry. You are my God, and I will ex-alt you. I will give you thanks, for



you have be-come my sal-va-tion. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION AND MEDITATION

THANKSGIVING

Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”*

CW 323