

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

Lenten Service - March 4, 2020

It is better for you that one man should die for the people. John 11:50

In our Lenten worship we will hear in God's Word the prophecy of Israel's high priest: It is better than one man should die than the whole nation perish. That one man is the God-man, Jesus Christ, who died, not just for one nation, but for all the people of the world. He died for you and for me, to free us from our sins.

The Hymn Sing

Lev Ryabinin

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

C: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,

P: "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

C: He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

P: Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

C: "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of Jesus.

C: Almighty God, we are citizens of your kingdom through faith in Jesus our Lord, but we do not live as your subjects should live. We do not always follow your will and your Word. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

P: God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to suffer and die in our place, to suffer the penalty of death that we earned through our sin. Jesus died and rose from the dead for us, and for his sake I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the

✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, earthly kings and rulers joined forces with the powers of darkness in the effort to destroy your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. But your plan for our salvation was in place before we were born, before our Lord's enemies were born, before the creation of the world. Our Lord's birth, life, suffering, death and resurrection unfolded according to your will. Help us to trust you through all the circumstances of our lives, knowing that your mighty will is our shield and defense at all times. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:11-15

[The Lord God] said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

The Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

The Gospel Reading

John 11:45-53

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what [Jesus] did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

The Hymn "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" # 439 v 1-2, 5

O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,
What dark transgression?

They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;
They crucify Thee.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;
God is committed.

Public domain

The Message

The Prayers

P: Jesus, Lamb of God,

C: You ransomed us and set us free.

P: Promised Savior, you were known before the foundation of the world and at the right time you were born among us. According to God's foreknowledge and plan, you were delivered into the hands of your

enemies. You suffered, died and rose from the dead for the sake of our salvation. Jesus, Lamb of God,

C: You ransomed us and set us free.

P: Promised Savior, help us always to trust in the plans and purposes of God our Father, knowing that all things work together for our good. Give us opportunities to share comfort and hope in your name with those who are suffering from illness, grief or loss. Jesus, Lamb of God,

C: You ransomed us and set us free.

P: Promised Savior, we look forward to the day of your return, when all things will be restored and we will live in your presence forever. Jesus, Lamb of God,

C: You ransomed us and set us free.

P: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction (Romans 6:4-5; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

P: You were ransomed ... not with perishable things such as silver or gold,

C: But with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

P: [Caiaphas] prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only,

C: But also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" #422

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!