

**THY WILL BE DONE**  
**“A Thorn in the Flesh: God’s Will and My Suffering”**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 11, 2018**  
**8:15 and 10:50 a.m.**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** .....Carla Barrows, Organ

**WORDS OF WELCOME** .....Lori Fischer

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** .....“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” ..... LSB 435

Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever; ’Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

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**INVOCATION**

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

**C** Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ..... Numbers 21:4-9

**R** The Old Testament Lesson is from the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter of Numbers.

**R** <sup>4</sup> From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup> And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup> And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE READING ..... 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

**R** The Epistle Reading is from the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians.

**R** <sup>1</sup> I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— <sup>4</sup> and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— <sup>6</sup> though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup> So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**LENTEN VERSE** . . . . . “Return to the Lord” . . . . . LSB 157

**C** **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** . . . . . John 3:14-21

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**P** <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** . . . . . Apostles’ Creed

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  $\text{✝}$  everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN** . . . . . “Children of the Heavenly Father” . . . . . LSB 725, vs. 1, 2

Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** . . . . . Matt Meier

**HYMN** . . . . . “Children of the Heavenly Father” . . . . . LSB 725, vs. 3, 4

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

**MESSAGE** . . . . . “A Thorn in the Flesh: God’s Will and My Suffering” . . . . Pastor Michael Dorn

**HYMN** . . . . . “God Moves in a Mysterious Way” . . . . . LSB 765

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea And rides upon the storm.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence Faith sees a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding ev’ry hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flow’r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.

You fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy and will break In blessings on your head.

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING** (8:15) . . . . . Carla Barrows

**MUSICAL OFFERING** (10:50) . . . “Teach Me Thy Way O Lord” by L. Larson. . . . . Sanctuary Choir

**OFFERTORY** . . . . . “Create in Me” . . . . . LSB 192

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

**PRAYERS**

**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** (8:15)

**BENEDICTION** (10:50) . . . . . “Choral Benediction” by Don Besig . . . . . Sanctuary Choir

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** . . . . . “Abide, O Dearest Jesus” . . . . . LSB 919, vs. 1, 2, 5, 6

Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace  
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word,  
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.

Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.

**POSTLUDE** . . . . . Carla Barrows