

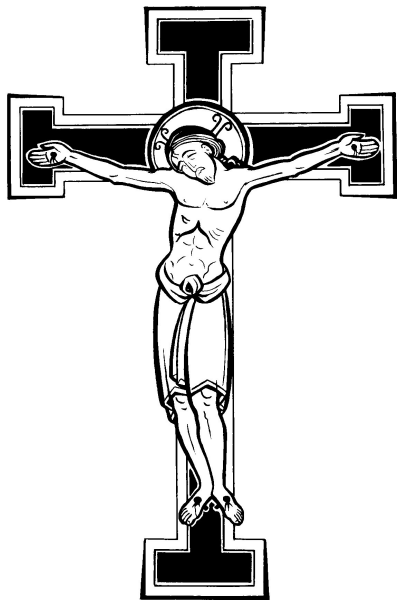
Benedicamus

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

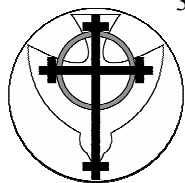
- P** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

325 E. Warwick Dr. ~ Alma, Michigan ~ 48801
463-5754 ~ www.peacealma.org
Email: contact@peacealma.org
Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor
Home: 463-3093 ~ Cell: (989) 388-2037
Email: pastor@peacealma.org



Holy Wednesday

8 April Anno † Domini 2009

The Order of Matins

(As you enter the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

Preparatory Prayer

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

Service Note

During Holy Week, the order of Matins will be spoken responsively, rather than sung. For your convenience, everything is printed in the bulletin.

(There are no bells this morning; all stand when the pastor stands to begin Service)

Opening Versicles

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** 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.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalmody

Antiphon for Holy Week

- P** Christ became obedient to death, even death on a cross.
- C** O come, let us worship Him.

Venite

- C** O come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods. The deep places of the earth are in His hand; the strength of the hills is His also.

C The sea is His, for He made it, and His hand formed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

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.

Antiphon for Holy Week

P Christ became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

C O come, let us worship Him.

Psalm 60 (antiphon: v. 5)

That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

**O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses;
you have been angry; oh, restore us.**

You have made your people see hard things;
you have give us wine to drink that made us stagger.

**You have set up a banner for those who fear you,
that they may flee to it from the bow.**

That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

**God has spoken in his holiness: "With exultation
I will divide up Shechem and portion out the Vale of Succoth.**

Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet; Judah is my scepter.

**Moab is my washbasin; upon Edom I cast my shoe;
over Philistia I shout in triumph."**

Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?

Have you not rejected us, O God?

You do not go forth, O God, with our armies.

Oh, grant us help against the foe,
for vain is the salvation of man!

**With God we shall do vailiantly;
it is he who will tread down our foes.**

**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.**

That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed by Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
They 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.**

Salutation and Collects

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us pray:

Collect of the Day

P Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins upon the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

presents such heartfelt encouragements and such rich promises.

P Now the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, unto life everlasting.

C Amen.

Stand

Canticle

Te Deum Laudamus ~ We Praise You, O God

C We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth now worships You, the Father everlasting. To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein. To You cherubim and seraphim continually do cry:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory. The glorious company of the apostles praise You. The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You.

The noble army of martyrs praise You. The holy Church throughout all the world does acknowledge You: The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and only Son; also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

You are the king of glory, O Christ; You are the everlasting Son of the Father.

When You took upon Yourself to deliver man, You humbles Yourself to be born of a virgin. When You had overcome the sharpness of death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that You will come to be our judge.

We therefore pray You to help Your servants, whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood. Make them to be numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting.

Prayer

Kyrie Eleison ~ Lord, have mercy

P Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.

P Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Office Hymn: 610 "Lord Jesus, Think on Me" (stanza 2)

Lord Jesus, think on me,

By anxious thoughts oppressed;

Let me Your loving servant be

And taste Your promised rest.

Readings

The Old Testament Reading

Lamentations 3:1-33

¹I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; ²he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; ³surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long. ⁴He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; ⁵he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; ⁶he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. ⁷He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy; ⁸though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; ⁹he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked. ¹⁰He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding; ¹¹he turned aside my steps and tore me to pieces; he has made me desolate; ¹²he bent his bow and set me as a target for his arrow. ¹³He drove into my kidneys the arrows of his quiver; ¹⁴I have become the laughing-stock of all peoples, the object of their taunts all day long. ¹⁵He has filled me with bitterness; he has sated me with wormwood. ¹⁶He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; ¹⁷my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; ¹⁸so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD."

¹⁹Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! ²⁰My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. ²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

²⁴"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." ²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ²⁷It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. ²⁸Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him; ²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust- there may yet be hope; ³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults. ³¹For the LORD will not cast off forever, ³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; ³³for he does not will-

ingly afflict or grieve the children of men.

Silence for meditation upon God's Word

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading

Hebrews 4:1-16

¹Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ²For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. ³For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." ⁵And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." ⁶Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." ⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Silence for meditation upon God's Word

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Responsory

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

The Writing (instruction)

Large Catechism I 37-40

P In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Such hard heads imagine that God overlooks and allows them to rest in security, or that He is entirely ignorant or cares nothing about such matters. Therefore, God must deal a smashing blow and punish them, so that He cannot forget their sin unto their children's children. In that way, everyone may take note and see that this is no joke to Him. These are the people He means when He says, "those who hate Me" [Exodus 20:5]; i.e., those who persist in their defiance and pride. Whatever is preached or said to them, they will not listen. When they are rebuked, in order that they may learn to know themselves and make amends before the punishment begins, they become mad and foolish. They rightly deserve wrath, as we see daily in bishops and princes now.

But as terrible as these threatenings are, so much more powerful is the consolation in the promise. For those who cling to God alone should be sure that he will show them pure goodness and blessing, not only for themselves, but also to their children and their children's children, even to the thousandth generation and beyond that. This ought certainly to move and impel us to risk our hearts in all confidence with God [Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-23], if we wish all temporal and eternal good. For the supreme Majesty makes such outstanding offers and