

The Third Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2009

GOD CALLS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* ROBERT BELOW

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

TO CALL ON THE NAME AND REMEMBER THE STORY

+CALL TO WORSHIP Melody: No. 534 RHOSYMEDRE

*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?
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?*

ONE: Pilate said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"
They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not
have handed him over to you."

PEOPLE: **By a perversion of justice he was taken away. He was
wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.**

*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;
who at my need his life did spend!*

ONE: Then Pilate summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King
of the Jews? What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My
kingdom is not from this world."

PEOPLE: **By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Upon him
was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises
we are healed.**

*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.
And for his death they thirst and cry.*

ONE: Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations
they make against you?" But Jesus gave him no answer, so that
the governor was greatly amazed.

PEOPLE: **Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep
that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.**

*Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.
That he his foes from thence might free.*

ONE: The high priest said to him, "Tell us if you are the Messiah, the
Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell
you, from now on you shall see the son of Man seated at the right
hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the
high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! What
is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death."

PEOPLE: **By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Yet it was the
will of the Lord to crush him with pain. Out of his anguish he
shall see light. The righteous one, my servant, shall make
many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.**

*In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;
but mine wherein the tomb he lay.
But mine wherein the tomb he lay.*

TO HEAR AND PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

READING FROM THE PSALMS PSALM 17:1-9

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PENNIES FOR HUNGER *Old Rugged Cross* ARR. ROGER WILSON
Supports the Heifer International Food Project for Developing Countries

GOSPEL READING JOHN 3:1-21

MESSAGE IN DRAMA *Christ on Trial Witnesses: Nicodemus*

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+PROCLAIMING WHAT WE BELIEVE (from the *Heidelberg Catechism*)

**I believe that the Son of God
through his Spirit and Word,**

out of the entire human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself
a community chosen for eternal life
and united in true faith.
And of this community I am and always will be
a living member.

+HYMN No. 85 *What Wondrous Love is This* WONDROUS LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY *God So Loved the World* JOHN STAINER

+DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S LEADING

+HYMN NO. 83 *O Love, How Deep, How Broad* DEO GRACIAS

+INVITATION, CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

ONE: In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. For Christ died for sins
once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

**PEOPLE: We testify to the truth of Christ in court: in the chambers of
our human hearts.**

ONE: So we say to all: Always be ready to make your defense to
anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in
you. And may the peace of Christ bless and keep you as you live your
life as a testimony to him.

PEOPLE: Amen

+RESPONSE

**Here might I stay and sing – no story so divine.
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.
I all my days could gladly spend.**

+POSTLUDE *Jesus, Still Lead On* PAUL MANZ