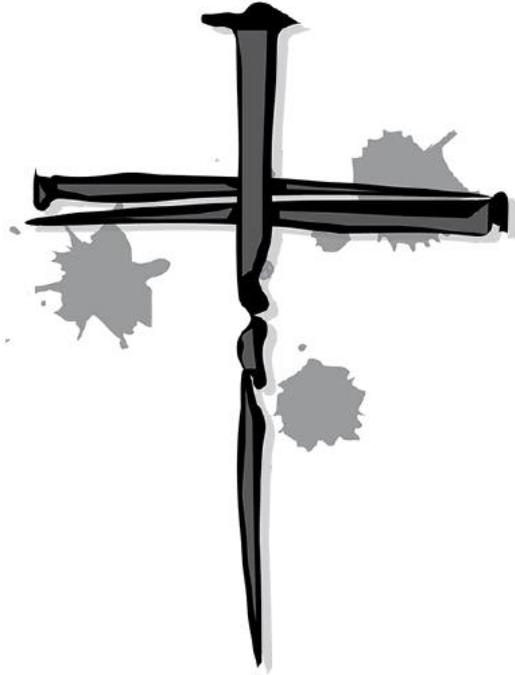


Three Words



of

TRUTH

Is It I?

March 6th, 2019

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



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Ash Wednesday

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March 6th, 2019

Processional: Psalm 51

Instruction for the Beginning of Lent

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Confession of Sins

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father,

Cong.: **We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

P: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

P: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

P: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

P: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
C: **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Imposition of Ashes

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation
C: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**
P: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,
C: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Absolution

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Psalm 130



Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O Lord, / hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for / mercy.

If you, O LORD, kept a rec- / ord of sins,
O Lord, / who could stand?

Refrain

But with you there is for- / givenness;
therefore / you are feared.

I wait for the LORD, my / soul waits,
and in his word I / put my hope.

Refrain

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

O Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel
from / all their sins.

Refrain

Passion History – Lesson One

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples, “You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted together how to arrest Jesus in some deceitful way and kill him. But they said, “Not during the feast, or else there might be a riot among the people.”

Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve. He went and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. He made a promise and was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them when the crowd was not present.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare so that you may eat the Passover?” Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’” He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Then a dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest. But he told them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’ But not so with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn’t

it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have remained with me in my trials. And I grant to you a kingdom, even as my Father granted to me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

By the time the supper took place, the devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him.

Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going back to God. So he got up from supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter who asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus answered him, “You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand.”

Peter told him, “You will never – ever – wash my feet!”

Jesus answered, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with me.”

“Lord, not just my feet,” Simon Peter replied, “but also my hands and my head!”

Jesus told him, “A person who has had a bath does not need to wash anything except his feet to be completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you.” For he knew who was betraying him. This is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” He asked them. “You call me, ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord.’ You are right because I am. Now if I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. Yes, I have given you an example, so that you also would do just as I have done for you. Amen, Amen, I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

He took a cup, gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

Seasonal Response for Lent

P: Here ends the Passion Lesson.

C: **All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.**

Hymn 124: Savior, When in Dust to You

Sermon: **Three Words of Truth: Is It I?**

Sermon Text: Matthew 26:20-25

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

"Song of Mary" (p. 57)

Offering

If you are a guest visiting us this evening, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. We understand that you may want to know more about our ministry before supporting it with your gifts. If, however, you desire to give, you are welcome to do so.

During the gathering of the offering, please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Lord, Have Mercy (p. 59)

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.

Prayer for Peace

P: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies

that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Distribution

At the direction of the ushers, the communicant members of our fellowship may come forward. If you are not yet a member of our fellowship or if you are unsure what this means, please speak with Pastor Willitz after the service. We would like to give you more information about our church before asking you to commune with us. Thank you for respecting our teaching and practice.

Distribution Hymns

Hymn 303: With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh

Hymn 376: Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

Song of Simeon (p. 61)

Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Hymn 116:

In the Hour of Trial

