

Behold

the Man

WHO THIRSTS



FOR YOUR

Salvation



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Maryville, MO 64468

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MIDWEEK OF LENT 5 – April 1, 2020 BEHOLD THE MAN: A God Who Thirsts

“Behold the man!” was Pontius Pilate’s short, yet most profound, sermon. Our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday is to behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. Each time together, we are meditating on and proclaiming His real, bodily suffering and death as well as His physical resurrection. He knew all that real bodies experience; He suffered, wept, bled, ate, and hoped.

Tonight, we recall that the man Jesus said on the cross, “I thirst.” As a true man, He had become dehydrated, though earlier in His life He had used water to save a wedding, He had promised eternally thirst-quenching water to the woman at the well, and He had even walked on the water of the sea. But as true God, He had another thirst: not for Himself but for the salvation of all people.

As we move through this season of Lent, it will become increasingly clear why God became man: He lived this physical life in order to be nailed to a cross. Thereby, we are truly preparing for the celebration of His real, bodily, flesh-and-blood resurrection. Without that, our faith and our preaching are all in vain. God the Son became the embodied, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like us. What could be more profound? Behold the man, who has led the way for us through death to our own physical resurrection!

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

People: **and the Word was God.** *John 1:1*

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

People: **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.** *John 1:14*

Pastor: Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood,

People: **He Himself likewise partook of the same things.** *Hebrews 2:14*

Pastor: Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

People: **He was manifested in the flesh,**

Pastor: vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations,

People: believed on in the world, taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

Pastor: For I know that my Redeemer lives,

People: and at the last He will stand upon the earth.

Pastor: And after my skin has been thus destroyed,

People: yet in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:25–26

CONFESSION

Pastor: As we consider the true humanity of our Lord, let us confess our human failings.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Pastor: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "When you fast,"

People: but we have avoided physical discomfort and preferred less physical "spiritual" disciplines.

Pastor: Jesus prayed, "I am praying for them,"

People: but we have spent more time praying for ourselves than interceding for others.

Pastor: Jesus "was despised and rejected by men,"

People: but we have avoided opposition whenever possible.

Pastor: Jesus' garments were stripped from Him,

People: but we have tried to hide our shame from God and one another.

Pastor: Jesus provided for His mother, who gave Him life, even while on the cross,

People: but we have neglected the Church, who gives us news of eternal life.

Pastor: Jesus, while dying to save us, admitted His physical need, saying, "I thirst,"

People: but we often make decisions based on our creature comforts instead of our faith.

Pastor: Jesus loved His disciples to the end and washed their feet,

People: but too often we have served because it was expected, not out of love.

Pastor: Jesus said of His life, "I lay it down of My own accord,"

People: but we have sought to save our own skins.

Pastor: Jesus was buried and rested in the tomb,

People: but we have looked for ways to avoid even talking about death.

Pastor: Jesus surprised everyone when He rose on Easter,

People: but we have failed to live as those who will also rise to live with Him forever. Have mercy and forgive us, O Lord Jesus Christ.

FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The man Jesus, the Word made flesh, endured hunger, rejection, shame, abuse, and death to pay for our sins and to open heaven to all who trust in His name. He physically rose and now gives us our daily bread, lets His kingdom come to us and through us, and moves us to do His will here on earth until we follow Him through death to eternity with Him. May He who began a good work in you bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ (*Philippians 1:6*).

People: Amen.

PSALMODY (*spoken responsively*) *Psalm 69:1–21, 29–36; antiphon: v.29*

Pastor: *At first, the psalmist seems to reflect the physical thirst that Jesus knew on the cross.*

Pastor: But I am afflicted and in pain;
let Your salvation, O God, set me on high!

Pastor: Save me, O God!
For the waters have come up to my neck.

**People: I sink in deep mire,
where there is no foothold;**

Pastor: I have come into deep waters,
People: and the flood sweeps over me.

Pastor: I am weary with my crying out;
my throat is parched.

People: My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.

Pastor: More in number than the hairs of my head
are those who hate me without cause;

**People: mighty are those who would destroy me,
those who attack me with lies.**

Pastor: What I did not steal
must I now restore?

**People: O God, You know my folly;
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from You.**

Pastor: Let not those who hope in You be put to shame through me,
O Lord God of hosts;

**People: let not those who seek You be brought to dishonor through me,
O God of Israel.**

Pastor: For it is for Your sake that I have borne reproach,
that dishonor has covered my face.

**People: I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my mother's sons.**

Pastor: For zeal for Your house has consumed me,

**People: and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on
me.**

Pastor: When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting,
it became my reproach.

**People: When I made sackcloth my clothing,
I became a byword to them.**

Pastor: I am the talk of those who sit in the gate,

People: and the drunkards make songs about me.

Pastor: But as for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord.

**People: At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of Your steadfast love answer me in
Your saving faithfulness.**

Pastor: Deliver me
from sinking in the mire;

**People: let me be delivered from my enemies
and from the deep waters.**

Pastor: Let not the flood sweep over me,

**People: or the deep swallow me up,
or the pit close its mouth over me.**

Pastor: Answer me, O Lord, for Your steadfast love is good;

People: according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

Pastor: Hide not Your face from Your servant,

People: for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.

Pastor: Draw near to my soul, redeem me;
People: ransom me because of my enemies!

Pastor: You know my reproach,
**People: and my shame and my dishonor;
my foes are all known to You.**

Pastor: Reproaches have broken my heart,
People: so that I am in despair.

Pastor: I looked for pity, but there was none,
People: and for comforters, but I found none.

Pastor: They gave me poison for food,
People: and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

Pastor: *But then His thirst turns to God's sure salvation.*

**All: But I am afflicted and in pain;
let Your salvation, O God, set me on high!**

Pastor: I will praise the name of God with a song;
People: I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Pastor: This will please the Lord more than an ox
People: or a bull with horns and hoofs.

Pastor: When the humble see it they will be glad;
People: you who seek God, let your hearts revive.

Pastor: For the Lord hears the needy
People: and does not despise His own people who are prisoners.

Pastor: Let heaven and earth praise Him,
People: the seas and everything that moves in them.

Pastor: For God will save Zion
and build up the cities of Judah,
People: and people shall dwell there and possess it;

Pastor: the offspring of His servants shall inherit it,
People: and those who love His name shall dwell in it.

**All: But I am afflicted and in pain;
let Your salvation, O God, set me on high!**



READING

Psalm 22:12-18

(The psalm prophetically anticipates Jesus' thirst on the cross)

¹² Many bulls encompass Me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround Me;
¹³ they open wide their mouths at Me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
and all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
it is melted within My breast;
¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and My tongue sticks to My jaws;
you lay Me in the dust of death.
¹⁶ For dogs encompass Me;
a company of evildoers encircles Me;
they have pierced My hands and feet—
¹⁷ I can count all My bones—
they stare and gloat over Me;
¹⁸ they divide My garments among them,
and for My clothing they cast lots.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 19:28-30

(Jesus cries out in thirst on the cross.)

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORY

1 John 2:1; [Mark 10:33]; Psalm 32:1

Pastor: We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**People: He was delivered up to death;
He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**People: He was delivered up to death;
He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Pastor: We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**People: He was delivered up to death;
He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

SERMON

“A God Who Thirsts”

CANTICLE

“Behold the Man Before You”

Tune *LSB* 453

Behold the man before you:
The One who would restore you
Stands silent in your stead.
He waits for His conviction—
Your rightful crucifixion.
He bows His holy, weary head.

Hands, feet, and shoulders bleeding,
To God the Father pleading
For your own heart and soul.
Come, sinner, watch in wonder:
His body laden under
The ransom of your sin in whole.

Exposed and bare, He covers
Your shame with grace that hovers
Upon you night and day.
His final breath expended—
The reign of death upended.
His verdict kills the devil’s sway.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us use the experiences of the man Jesus as we pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

Lector: The man Jesus experienced severe hunger.

Pastor: For all who are denied basic food, clothing, or shelter, that God would provide whatever they need to support this body and life, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: The man Jesus prayed for His circle of friends and those who believed in Him.

Pastor: For the Body of Christ around the world, that God would protect and guide clergy and lay leaders so that the Gospel may be proclaimed freely and many may come to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: The man Jesus was beaten, abused, and ridiculed.

Pastor: For all who are unjustly imprisoned, persecuted, and denied human rights, that God would strengthen them to remain strong under their circumstances until they find freedom, justice, and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: The man Jesus was physically exposed on the cross.

Pastor: For all who try to hide their sins and failings, fearing God's wrath and people's scorn, that the Holy Spirit would grant them faith to know and trust the forgiveness Christ won for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: The man Jesus cared for His human mother.

Pastor: For all parents and children, especially those in fractured families and those dealing with daily turmoil, that our heavenly Father would surround them with caring friends and counselors to renew the love that they have lost, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: The man Jesus experienced thirst.

Pastor: For all whose lives are focused on relief from pain and suffering, from illness or addiction, that according to His gracious plans God would bring about healing, relief, and health to body and mind, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: The man Jesus loved His followers to the end by serving even as their physical servant.

Pastor: For all who serve in homes and hospitals; all in armed forces deployed and in police, emergency, and fire departments at home; and all public servants in government, that God would protect, strengthen, and guide them for the good of the whole society, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: The man Jesus bled and died.

Pastor: For all who understand Jesus only as a moral teacher or example of pious living, that the Holy Spirit would open their hearts to see that Jesus' death is the reason He became man and to trust that in dying He did everything necessary for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: The man Jesus was buried.

Pastor: For all who fear death and all who are in mourning, that the Holy Spirit grant them faith to see the death of all who trust in Christ as a sleep from which they shall awaken, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: The man Jesus physically rose triumphant over death.

Pastor: For all artists and musicians, poets and writers who express Christian hope and encourage our joyful celebrating, anticipating the day when faith gives way to sight, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son and our Brother, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

PRAYER FROM SUNDAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people

People: that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

People: **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29–32; antiphon: liturgical text

Pastor: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping
That awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in
peace.

People: **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has
been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have
prepared in the sight of every people, a light to reveal You to
the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.**

**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.**

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping

**That awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest
in peace.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of almighty God—the Father, who sent His Son into the flesh, the † Son, who lived a truly human life in our stead, and the Holy Spirit, who has given us faith to trust our Savior—be upon you now and forever.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

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Join us for
Holy Week Worship
On Facebook

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Worship at 10:00 am