

For Passiontide + A Service of Humiliation and Prayer

Not held publicly due to the snow storm of 22 January 2016

Marking the 43rd Anniversary of the Legalization of Abortion-on-demand in the United States and
the Willful Destruction of nearly 55 Million Innocent Unborn Children

+ In Nomine Jesu +

THE LITANY page 288

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|--|-------------------------|
| L: O Lord, | C: have mercy. |
| L: O Christ, | C: have mercy. |
| L: O Lord, | C: have mercy. |
| L: O Christ, | C: hear us. |
| L: God the Father in heaven, | C: have mercy. |
| L: God the Son, Redeemer of the world, | C: have mercy. |
| L: God the Holy Spirit, | C: have mercy. |
| L: Be gracious to us. | C: Spare us, good Lord. |
| L: Be gracious to us. | C: Help us, good Lord. |
- L: From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- L: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat;
By Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
- C: Help us, good Lord.**
- L: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- C: Help us, good Lord.**
- L: We poor sinners implore You
- C: to hear us, O Lord.**
- L: To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest;
and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
- C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L: To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weak-hearted and the distressed:
- C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L: To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife;
To give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our president and all in authority;
To bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children,
increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage;
and to have mercy on us all:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L: To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts;
To give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

L: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

L: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

L: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

L: O Christ,

C: hear us.

L: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

L: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

L: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, of whose compassion there is no end, You are long-suffering, gracious, and plenteous in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, against Whom we have sinned and done perversely, we have forsaken and grievously offended You; against You, You only, have we sinned and done evil in Your sight. But we beseech You, O Lord, remember not against us former iniquities; let Your tender mercies speedily come to us, for we are brought very low; help us, O God of our salvation, and purge away our sins for the glory of Your holy name and for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PSALMODY Psalm 94 (The Gloria Patri is omitted on this day)

O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs--O God, to whom vengeance belongs,
shine forth!

Rise up, O Judge of the earth; Render punishment to the proud.

LORD, how long will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph?

They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves.

They break in pieces Your people, O LORD, And afflict Your heritage.

They slay the widow and the stranger, And murder the fatherless.

Yet they say, "The LORD does not see, Nor does the God of Jacob understand."

Understand, you senseless among the people; And you fools, when will you be wise?

He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?

He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge?

The LORD knows the thoughts of man, That they are futile.

Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O LORD, And teach out of Your law,

That You may give him rest from the days of adversity, Until the pit is dug for the wicked.

For the LORD will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance.

But judgment will return to righteousness, And all the upright in heart will follow it.

Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?

Unless the LORD had been my help, My soul would soon have settled in silence.

If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up.

In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.

Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, Have fellowship with You?

They gather together against the life of the righteous And condemn innocent blood.
But the LORD has been my defense, And my God the rock of my refuge.

He has brought on them their own iniquity, And shall cut them off in their own wickedness;

The LORD our God shall cut them off.

OFFICE HYMN "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee" LSB #607 (vv. 1-3, 5)

1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee.
Lord, hear me, I implore Thee.
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,
My prayer let come before Thee.
If Thou rememb'rest each misdeed,
If each should have its rightful meed,
Who may abide Thy presence?
2. Thy love and grace alone prevail
To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail
To break sin's dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.
3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord
And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word
To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just;
This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.
4. Though great our sins and sore our woes,
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our utmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

I Samuel 7:3-12

³ And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, ^a"If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then ^bput away the foreign gods and the ^cAshtaroth from among you and ^ddirect your heart to the LORD ^eand serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." ⁴ So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only. ⁵ Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at ^aMizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." ⁶ So they gathered at ^aMizpah ^band drew water and poured it out before the LORD ^cand fasted on that day and said there, ^d"We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. ⁷ Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. ⁸ And the people of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines." ⁹ So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And ^aSamuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. ¹⁰ As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. ^aBut the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel. ¹¹ And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car. ¹² Then Samuel ^atook a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen¹ and called its name Ebenezer;² for he said, "Till now the LORD has helped us."

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Acts 3:12-19

¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ ^aThe God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, ^bthe God of our fathers, ^cglorified his servant¹ Jesus, whom ^dyou delivered over and ^edenied in the presence of Pilate, ^fwhen he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you denied ^athe Holy and ^bRighteous One, and ^casked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed ^athe Author of life, ^bwhom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And ^ahis name-- by ^bfaith in his name-- has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is ^cthrough Jesus¹ has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that ^ayou acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God ^aforetold ^bby the mouth of all the prophets, that ^chis Christ would ^dsuffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ ^aRepent therefore, and ^bturn back, that ^cyour sins may be blotted out, . . ."

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way; and the unrighteous man his thoughts.
And let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him.
And to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Matthew 7:6-12

⁶ ^a"Do not give ^bdogs what is holy, and do not throw your ^cpearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you. ⁷ ^{ab}"Ask, ^band it will be given to you; ^cseek, and you will find; ^dknock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for ^abread, will give him ^aa stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, ^awho are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will ^wyour Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! ¹² "So ^awhatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is ^bthe Law and the Prophets."

O Lord, have mercy on us.
Thanks be to God.

A HYMN "Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide" #585

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| 1. Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide
For round us falls the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heav'nly light,
For us be ever veiled in night. | 3. Oh, keep us in Thy Word, we pray;
The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may Thy mercy never cease!
Give concord, patience, courage, peace. |
| 2. O God, how sin's dread works abound!
Throughout the earth no rest is found,
And falsehood's spirit wide has spread,
And error boldly rears its head. | 4. Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there. |

THE SERMON

In this our day it is vitally important for us to recognize that we are at war. But the war is not with the murderers of unborn children – though this is the very matter that brings us to consider God's Word on this day. Neither is it a war against government that has legalized such acts, even as it is not against government for what it has done in the area of homosexual relationships. St. Paul in Ephesians 6 tells us about the great war in which we Christians are all soldiers:

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (vv11-13)

In the United States of America, in the year of our Lord 2016, we live in days of shame. Since January 22, 1973, there is no protection in law for the most helpless and harmless of all human beings: the unborn. Let no one kid themselves. This terrible ruling was even worse than the Dred-Scott Decision—adult slaves were at least capable of some measure of self-defense. What the Supreme Court doctrine of 1973 means is that abortion clinics incorporated for the sole purpose of making money in the baby-killing business are “persons” in the eyes of the law—with all the rights and privileges thereunto pertaining. Meanwhile real, live human babies, one minute before birth, are nothing more than sausage meat in law. The Court not only fails to treat them as persons but actually prohibits giving these unborn babies the status of persons before the law.

This horror has been institutionalized in our land. We must face the fact that if mass murder is politically respectable in our society, then it is so only because we, who as Christians form a large part of the populace, have failed to exercise our citizenship in such a way as to protect these defenceless babies. That failure is not simply a political problem. It is a moral and a spiritual problem. And the church has not only the right but the duty to tell us that; unless its ministers wish to be dumb dogs (Isaiah 56:10). Wake up, Christians. Wake up, America. To oppose the slaughter of the unborn is not to impose “sectarian” morality, but simply to insist on common human decency.

After World War II, the Allied soldiers marched the German citizens through the concentration camps to show them what had been taking place among them throughout the war. Thanks to videos of conversations with Planned Parenthood workers, what has been going on behind closed doors since the 1980’s at least—the harvesting and sale of baby parts—has been brought to the light of day. That the slaughter of innocence continues among us even after we all know and have seen what is being done and that the U. S. government continues to sponsor it (using the tax dollars of all citizens) is inexcusable.

The public has, by Satan’s deception, been lulled to sleep with the lie that human embryos are nothing but cells, shapeless masses, growths, and the like. What is being wantonly destroyed in every abortion is a human life—a recognizable human life. Ultrasounds show their pictures to any who will look, but even before them the scientific data paints the picture of God’s creation whole.

Thou shalt not shed innocent human blood. God’s Word and universal justice both say the same. Not only outward murderers are condemned by this truth, but our own cowardly acquiescence and indifference. Lord, have mercy. Let us all flee, then, to the Gospel of forgiveness in Jesus Christ, whose shed blood cleanses us from all sin. Let this Gospel be so preached that every last abortionist knows that for his crimes too the Son of

God has died and is risen, who is the very Fountain of Life. And let us go, and sin no more. The time is now. Let us speak on behalf of those who cannot speak and so love and serve our neighbor. Let us guard and shield our young from growing up in a society where human life is disposable when inconvenient or when touched by disease, deformity or disability. God grant that we may live as Christians:

“We are the Lord’s;
Then let us gladly tender
Our souls to Him in deeds, not empty words.
Let heart and tongue and life combine to render
No doubtful witness that we are the Lord’s.”

[For the above sermon I have used extensively a sermon of Prof. Kurt Marquart preached at CTS in 1980.]

RESPONSORY HYMN “Now Are the Days Fulfilled” (tune LSB #730)

Now are the days fulfilled, God’s Son is manifested,
Now His great majesty In human flesh is vested.
Behold the mighty God, By whom all wrath is stilled,
The woman’s promised Seed—Now are the days fulfilled.

Now are the days fulfilled, Lo, Jacob’s Star is shining;
The gloomy night has fled Wherein the world lay pining.
Now, Israel, look on Him Who long thy heart hath thrilled;
Hear Zion’s watchmen cry: Now are the days fulfilled.

Now are the days fulfilled, The child of God rejoices;
No bondage of the Law, No curses that it voices,
Can fill our hearts with fear; On Christ our hope we build.
Behold the Prince of Peace—Now are the days fulfilled.

THE PRAYERS

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

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.**

The Apostles’ Creed

**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 the 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 everlasting. Amen.**

Collect for the Unborn

Gracious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and Father of the human race, we implore You to look mercifully upon all unborn babies, to deliver them speedily from the injustice of evil men that is rampant in the abortion holocaust which continues unabated among us against our will. Have mercy, we pray, for the viciousness and brutality, the callousness, and the total disdain for human life continue in our land, despite the revelations of all manner of murderous acts against the defenseless unborn. Arise, O God, and defend Your holy Name and all who bear it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Collect for those Pained by the Awful Act of Abortion

Blessed and gentle Jesus, the Life of all the dying, the Comfort of those who mourn, the Holy Refuge and Final Relief of those whose consciences have been stained with human blood, be our Strength and our Salvation, O God, who deigned to walk among us. Lift our hearts to trust in Your forgiveness and Your ever-cleansing love, that our souls may be restored and our spirits renewed by Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Collect for Peace

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works, 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 by You from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION The Eternal God and Father deliver us from all evil. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "Zion Stands by Hills Surrounded" (tune LSB #506 "Glory Be to God the Father")

Zion stands by hills surrounded,
Zion, kept by pow'r divine,
All her foes shall be confounded
Tho' the world in arms combine.
Happy Zion, What a favored lot is thine!

Ev'ry human tie may perish,
Friend to friend unfaithful prove,
Mothers cease their own to cherish,
Heav'n and earth at last remove;
But no changes can attend Jehovah's love.

In the furnace God may prove thee,
Thence to bring thee forth more bright,
But can never cease to love thee;
Thou art precious in His sight.
God is with thee, God, thine everlasting Light.

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

May the Lord hear our prayers, grant us His mercy and forgiveness,
and give us courage to speak on behalf of those in need.

An offering may be sent to Lutherans for Life.