



February 21, 2024 - Second Midweek Lenten Service

Words That Last Forever

“Words That Last Forever” is the theme for our Midweek Lenten Services. We will listen to Jesus as He speaks from the cross 2000 years ago. And we will ponder the meaning of His words for our own lives in the 21st century.

Luke 23:34 “Forgive”

Welcome

Hymn: LSB 425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Responsive Litany

Pastor: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

People: **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

Pastor: The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.

People: **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

People: **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

Pastor: “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

People: **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

Pastor: “The word that goes forth from my mouth shall not return to me empty,” says the Lord.

“It shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

People: **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”**

Prayer of the Day,

Pastor: O God of forgiveness, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Create clean hearts in us, we pray. Cleanse us from our sin, that our joy may be complete. Then we will live in your light. Then these ashen souls will be ignited with your forgiving grace. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: *1 John 1:4-9,*

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 51:1-12

Pastor: Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins!

People: Wash away all my evil and make me clean from my sin!

Pastor: I recognize my faults; I am always conscious of my sins.

People: I have sinned against you—only you—and done what you consider evil.

Pastor: So you are right in judging me; you are justified in condemning me.

People: I have been evil from the day I was born; from the time I was conceived, I have been sinful.

Pastor: Sincerity and truth are what you require; fill my mind with your wisdom.

People: Remove my sin, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Pastor: Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness; and though you have crushed me and broken me, I will be happy once again.

People: Close your eyes to my sins and wipe out all my evil.

Pastor: Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me.

People: Do not banish me from your presence; do not take your holy spirit away from me.

Pastor: Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

Gospel Reading: *John 3:14-21*

Jesus continued: "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "With Words That Last Forever" (*Melody LSB 449*)

With words that last forever you speak in richest grace,
Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior, upon your cross disgraced.
With open ears I listen, with open mind believe,
With open heart embrace you: I, Lord, your words receive.

“Forgiveness” granted sinners, and “Paradise, today!”
“Behold your son, your mother!” to family you say.
The air is split with anguish in your “Forsaken” cry,
As “Thirsty,” work “Accomplished,” in “Father’s hands” you die.

Pray, sanctify the silence with which I contemplate
Your boundless love for sinners, your sacrifice so great,
Till at the tomb I waken to your new word for me:
These words, not last, but lasting, shall ring eternally!

Sermon: Luke 23:34 “Forgive”

Hymn: “Our Savior Speaks in Love” (*sung to LSB melody 431*)

**Our Savior speaks in love To sinners in their need.
Oh, hear the message from above; His gracious promise heed.**

**Our Savior speaks in grace With words of mercy true:
“Forgive them, Father,” thus he prays; “They know not what they do.”**

**Our Savior speaks; may we Give heed to ev’ry word,
And grace be given faithfully To trust what we have heard.**

Offerings

Prayer

Pastor: Since we have a High Priest who has gone before us, by whom we have access to the throne of grace, drawing near with full confidence let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Forgive us, Father, and show us what to do.**

Pastor: That the Church of Jesus Christ may be a place where the Gospel is both spoken and enacted, proclaimed in word and deed, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Forgive us, Father, and show us what to do.**

Pastor: That the citizens of our nations, and our leaders, may acknowledge wrong where it exists and may work diligently to remove its causes and correct the problems it has wrought, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Forgive us, Father, and show us what to do.**

Pastor: That God’s redeeming health may be made manifest, especially among those who have been abused or neglected, harmed or hindered, stricken or saddened, forbidden or forsaken, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Forgive us, Father, and show us what to do. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you his peace. Your Father has, indeed, forgiven you. Amen.

Hymn: LSB 887 "Now the Light Has Gone Away"

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