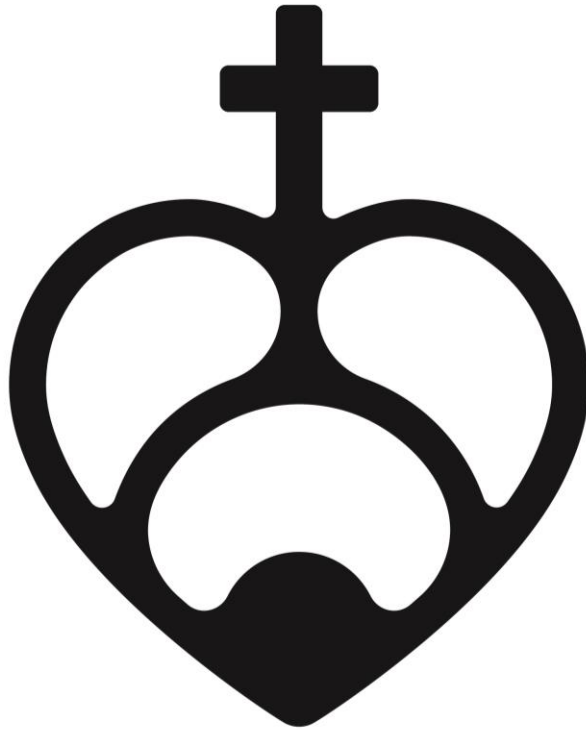


Grace Lutheran Church
Lent 2023



BEHOLD THE
HIDDEN GLORY
OF THE CROSS

Behold the Hidden Glory of the Cross

Order of Midweek Lenten Worship

Opening Prayer & Hymn:

Confession & Absolution:..... With Selected Passages and TLH 390

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

Congregation: Amen.

Sing [♪]: Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast blest
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ Crucified, I come.

C: Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,

P: And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

C: Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith,

P: Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

C: And has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Sing [♪]: Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ Crucified, I come.

P: And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ...

C: Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

P: The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.

C: God's Son has made peace through the blood of His cross.

Sing [♪]: Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ Crucified, I come.

P: God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

C: By whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

P: The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,

C: But to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Sing [♪]: And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ Crucified, I come.

Passion Reading:..... A Harmony of the Gospels

Confession of Faith:..... Luther's Explanation to the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Response:.....TLH 171:1

Sing [♪]: Upon the cross extended,
See, world, thy Lord suspended,
Thy Savior yields His breath.
The Prince of Life from heaven
Himself hath freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.

Sermon: **Behold the Hidden Glory of the Cross**

Response:..... TLH 144:4

Sing [♪]: Every wound that pains or grieves me,
By Thy stripes, Lord is made whole;
When I'm faint, Thy Cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yea, Thy comfort renders sweet
Every bitter cup I meet;
For Thy all-atoning Passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.

Hymn:

Offering, Prayer, Lord's Prayer (Lord's Supper on Ash Wednesday):

Benediction:

Closing Hymn:

NOTE: Please return bulletins for continued use during the Lenten season.

Behold the Hidden Glory of the Cross

It is Hidden in the Savior's Solitude: Luke 18:31-34

³¹ Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. ³² "For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. ³³ "They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." ³⁴ But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.

Hymns: TLH 140; TLH 142:1-4; TLH 653:1-4

Rev. Daniel Fleischer – February 22, 2023 (Ash Wednesday)

It is Hidden in the Savior's Rejection of His Own: Matthew 26:57-68

⁵⁷ And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, ⁶⁰ but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" ⁶² And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" ⁶³ But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!" ⁶⁶ "What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." ⁶⁷ Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

Hymns: TLH 153; TLH 151:4-6; TLH 552:1,8

Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer – March 1, 2023

It is Hidden in Powerful Words: Luke 23:32-43

³² There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. ³³ And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. ³⁵ And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." ³⁸ And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Hymns: TLH 141; WS 775; WS 724

Pastor Luke Willitz – March 8, 2023

It is Hidden in Our Savior's Stumbling: Mark 15:17-21

¹⁷ And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, ¹⁸ and began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him. ²¹ Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.

Hymns: TLH 159; TLH 178; TLH 554:5-6

Rev. Daniel Fleischer – March 15, 2023

It is Hidden in Our Savior's Rejection by the World: John 18:33-19:1

³³ Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. ³⁹ "But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. ^{19:1} So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.

Hymns: TLH 149, WS 721, TLH 179

Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer – March 22, 2023

It is Hidden in Our Savior's Sighs: Luke 22:39-46

³⁹ Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. ⁴⁰ When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." ⁴¹ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. ⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

Hymns: TLH 145, WS 723, TLH 401

Rev. David Schierenbeck – March 29, 2023