

By My Hand - For My Sake

Lent 3 • Barabbas

WE GATHER AT THE CROSS... AS SINNERS FORGIVEN

LITANY

P: The opening litany features responses from Lamentations 1 and 3, and Isaiah 53, and is interspersed with verses hymn "Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed" (LSB 437)

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?**

P: Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

C: My transgressions are like a yoke about my neck, fastened by the hand of the Lord. They weigh so heavily upon me that my strength is gone.

P: When we lift our hands in prayer to God in heaven, we should offer him our hearts and say, "We have sinned! We have rebelled against you!"

HYMN No. 437

**Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!**

P He suffered and endured great pain for us, but we thought his suffering was punishment from God.

C He was wounded and crushed because of our sins; by taking our punishment, he made us completely well.

P All of us were like sheep that had wandered off.

C We had each gone our own way,

P but the Lord gave him the punishment we deserved.

HYMN No. 437

**We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN No. 437

**O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O Joy of all the meek,
How kind you are to those who fall,
How good to those who seek!**

HOMILY Pastor Matt

HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" (vss 2 & 3)

**Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me:
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess,
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

The Old Testament Lesson, Isaiah 12:1-6

P: You will say in that day:"I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

RESPONSORY Psalm 38

P: God, in your great anger do not chastise or punish me.

C: Your arrows have struck deep; your hand weighs heavily upon me.

P: Because of your rage, my flesh wastes away.

C: Because of my sin, my bones grow brittle.

P: I am bent by guilt, burdened by the load; my wounds reek and fester.

C: Broken by folly, I walk in sorrow, grieving all the day long.

P: My flesh burns, consumed by fever.

C: Bruised and stamped upon, I cry out, groaning from the heart.

P: Lord, you see all secrets, you hear my sighs.

C: My heart breaks, all my strength has fled, even my eyes grow dim.

P: God, do not leave me alone. Do not abandon me.

C: Come, quickly save me, O God, my God.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 5:6-11, 18-19

P: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

- **DRAMATIC READING: “Barabbas” Pastor Vern**

HYMN "Our Savior Speaks in Grace"

Tune: *St Thomas SM* (LSB 331)

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

**Now hear the awful cry,
Sin's dreadful burden see.
"My God, my God," the Son shouts, "why
Have you forsaken me?"**

**Beneath the cross may I,
For whom all this was done,
Repentant and believing cry,
"This truly is God's Son!"**

PRAYERS

P For our sakes, O God, and in our place, your holy Son stood trial. For our sakes his hands were harshly tied. For our sakes he was condemned to death and took our punishment. He died for us. For his sake, we are free!

What shall we do with the freedom you have given us in Jesus Christ, O God? How shall we use our hands? Show us the work you would have us to do, the challenges you place before us, the needs that can be met by the raising of our hands

- to help undo the wrongs which we behold on every hand,**
 - to work for peace and justice in the world, and in our families and community,**
 - to reach out our hands to comfort the grieving, heal the sick, strengthen the weak, restore the wandering, and welcome those whom your Holy Spirit places in our care**
- ...

Until we stand, forgiven and unshackled, at the judgment seat of him who took our place in death that we might live, to make all who believe in him children of the Father—Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

P: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

BLESSING OF THE LORD

**P The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN No. 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (vs. 4)

**Peace, to soothe our bitter woes,
God in Christ on us bestows;
Jesus bought our peace with God
With his holy, precious blood;
Peace in him for sinners found
Is the Gospel's joyful sound.**