

**By My Hand - For My Sake
Lent 4 • Pilate**

OPENING LITANY The opening litany features responses from Lamentations 1 and 3, and Isaiah 53, and is interspersed with verses sung by the congregation to the tune “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed.”

HYMN No. 437 Alas! And did my Savior bleed (vs 1)

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

- L** 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 Alas! And did my Savior bleed (vs 2)

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

- P** He was painfully abused, but he did not complain.
- C** He was silent like a lamb being led to the butcher, as quiet as a sheep having its wool cut off.
- P** He was condemned to death without a fair trial. Who could have imagined what would happen to him?
- C** His life was taken away because of the sinful things my people had done.
- P** He wasn’t dishonest or violent, but he was buried in a tomb of cruel and rich people.

HYMN No. 437

Alas! And did my Savior bleed (vs 3)

**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: O God, You declare Your Almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity.
Mercifully grant us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious
promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; 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

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (vs 4)

**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 Vern

HYMN No. 440 “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (vss. 1, 2, 5, 6)

**Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy Passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of your suff’ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.**

**Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.**

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm, Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy Passion;
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion.

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from you, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 2:2-5

L It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

RESPONSORY from Psalm 46

L God of shelter, God of strength, saving God: Even if the earth shudders, even if mountains tumble into sea depths, making the waters churn and seethe, we shall not be afraid.

C You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!

L Joy streams through your city, through your sacred dwelling.

C You are with us, God; the city cannot fall.

L At dawn you scatter the enemy; kingdoms topple, earth crumbles at the sound of your voice.

C You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!

L Come, let us see God's wonders, God's saving deeds!

C He breaks the bow, snaps the spear, burns the shield, stamps out war.

L "Be still," says God. "Know that I hold power over all peoples."

C You are with us, God our stronghold, God of Jacob!

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 8:1-4, 12-18

L There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Monologue “Pilate” Dave Reynolds

HYMN No. 649 (Tune Only) “Our Savior Speaks in Grace”

**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: 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.**

SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!