

Who Can Condemn Me?

Isaiah 50:8-9a (ESV) *“He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?”*

Imagine you are on trial before God. The devil serves as prosecuting attorney, and all your friends and family are court-ordered to testify against you. What is their testimony? They are to present what they know of your sinful tendencies, your fleshly weaknesses, your shortcomings, your darkest secrets. How could you possibly escape with an innocent verdict?

As He hung on the cross, the sins of all mankind were presented before the Father as evidence against Jesus. Christ's adversary the devil thought he had finally won. And yet as Jesus speaks through the prophet Isaiah, He announces that He was ready to face the devil in His Father's court. Why? Because His Father was there to help. He would clear His Son of blame; no charges would stick.

The Apostle Paul quotes from these verses, but instead of speaking about Jesus, he applies it to you and me: *“Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-- more than that, who was raised-- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”* (Romans 8:33-34) Like Christ, you may stand ready for trial before the Lord. Though the devil may accuse you and all your sins brought as evidence against you, your Savior is near. He clears you of all blame. No charges can stick.

*Who can condemn me now? For surely
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely,
With Jesus I to heaven rise.*

(TLH 315:13)

✠ 8 ✠

April 7, 2023
Good Friday



“HE SAVED
OTHERS...”


Faith

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #159

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Ps. 53; 51; 1 Jn 2; Micah 7; 2 Sam. 12; 1 Pet. 5; Ps. 103

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, no, not one.

G **Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight— Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.**

P But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

G **Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy.**

P The LORD also has put away your sin. Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.

G **Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.**

Response: WS #724

“Jesus, Remember Me”

G ♪ **Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (2x)**

Note: Following the next hymn, the lights will be turned off while the final Scripture passages are read. At the end of each reading a candle will be put out. This is to show the increasing agony and darkness that our Savior suffered for us, until finally, He willingly gave up His life for us.

Our service will conclude with the Lord's Prayer, followed by the tolling of the bells 33 times. After this, you are asked to exit the service silently, greeting one another only after you have exited the building. If you wish to stay and meditate, you are invited to do so. As you leave, it would be fitting to think of those events that occurred on that first Good Friday and of the victory that our Savior won for us by His death.

Hymn: TLH #172:1-4, 8

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

The Good Friday Tenebrae Readings

Taking the Place of Barabbas: *Matthew 27:24-26*

The Soldiers Mock Jesus: *Matthew 27:27-31*

The King on the Cross: *Matthew 27:32-37*

Crucified Between Two Robbers: *Matthew 27:38-44*

Forsaken by the Father: *Matthew 27:45-49*

God Dies on the Cross: *Matthew 27:50-56*

Buried in Joseph’s Tomb: *Matthew 27:57-60*

The Benediction

P Go now into the darkness of evening. Though we walk in darkness, we are not forsaken. We are led by the hand of God. May the love of the Father calm your fears. May the grace of the Lord Jesus keep you through the night. May the presence of the Holy Spirit sustain you throughout life. The Lord be with you. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Tolling of the bell 33 times.

Our worship will resume on Sunday morning as the tomb is opened to reveal Christ’s victory over death!

8:30-9:30 am Easter Brunch | 10:00 am Easter Victory Service

there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome, through the death of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver us and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

✠ Reading from the Passion History of Our Lord ✠

Duet

"Were You There"

Confession of Faith

Smalcald Articles, Part II, Article I

We boldly confess what we believe.

C **The first and chief article is this, that Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins, and was raised again for our justification. And He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. And God has laid upon Him the iniquities of us all. Likewise: All have sinned and are justified without merit (freely, and without their own works or merits) by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood. Now, since it is necessary to believe this, and it cannot be otherwise acquired or apprehended by any work, law, or merit, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us as St. Paul says, "For we conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the Law. That He might be just, and the Justifier of him who believes in Christ." Of this article nothing can be yielded or surrendered nor can anything be granted or permitted contrary to it, even though heaven and earth and whatever will not abide, should sink to ruin. "For there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved," says Peter. And with His stripes we are healed.**

HYMN: TLH #153

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

✠ The Sermon ✠

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴ As many were astonished at you-- his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind-- ¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. ¹ Who has believed

what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-- every one-- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Singing with the Exiles:

“All”

✠ 4 ✠

The Offertory

C *Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Hymn: Below

“O Lamb of God”

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have

sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and

Refrain
sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me
in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, Who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose,

The Order of Holy
Communion



✠ 5 ✠