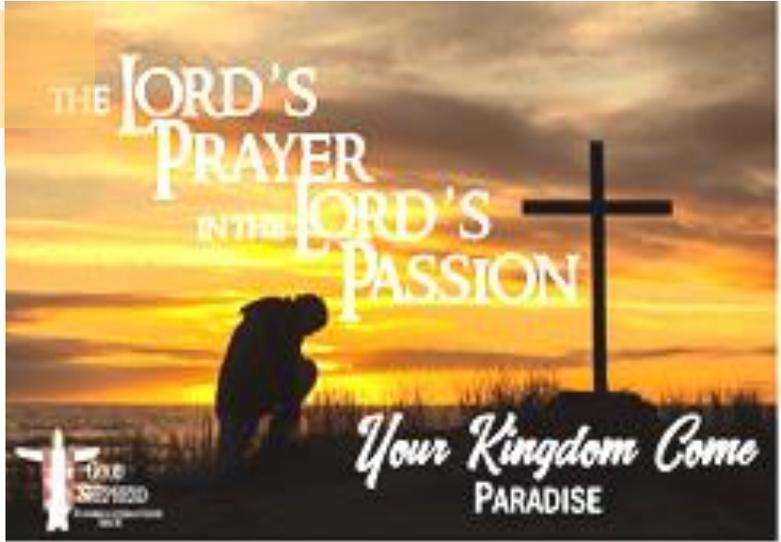


**Worship Guide
February 28, 2021**

Only one man can give you Paradise and that is the Man who is also the eternal Son of the eternal Father. Only one man can lead the sinner into God's kingdom, and that is the one Man who suffered for our sins. He is the One whose prayer for forgiveness was answered as surely as he rose from the dead. He is the one who heard the prayer of that penitent robber and gave him the promise of eternal life.



Pastor: We call on the name of our Triune God to be present in our worship. So we begin in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Thank the Lord with all your heart, in the gathered assembly of God's people.

Congregation: Amen

HYMN

O Worship the King

CW 243

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!



CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We join together in confessing our sinfulness to our God of loving compassion and grace.

All: Holy God, help us to see ourselves in honesty and truth. By nature we are sinful, by action we are sinners. Every thought, word and deed is evil, corrupted by our sinfulness. Yet through baptism you have recreated us. By grace we are holy and perfect in your sight. Forgive us when we listen to the voices around us tearing down the image of you within us. Cleanse us with the holy and precious blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to your Spirit's working.

P: Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. The Almighty Father has given His Son to live, die and rise for us. For his sake, He forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 40:27-31

²⁷Why do you speak, O Jacob? O Israel, why do you say, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and justice for me is ignored by my God"? ²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the eternal God. He is the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired, and he will not become

weary. No one can find a limit to his understanding. ²⁹ He is the one who gives strength to the weak, and he increases the strength of those who lack power. ³⁰ Young men grow tired and become weary. Even strong men stumble and fall. ³¹ But those who wait for the LORD will receive new strength. They will lift up their wings and soar like eagles. They will run and not become weary. They will walk and not become tired.

PSALM: Isaiah 51

P: The LORD is certain to comfort Zion.

C: He will comfort all her ruins.

P: Certainly, he will make her wilderness like Eden,

C: and her wasteland like the garden of the LORD.

P: Joy and gladness will be found in her,

C: thanksgiving and the sound of music.

P: Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look closely at the earth beneath,

C: because the heavens will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment,

P: But my salvation will remain forever,

C: and my righteousness will never be abolished.

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

Therefore, beyond this, brothers, just as you received instruction from us about how you are to walk so as to please God (as indeed you are doing), we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that you do so even more. ² To be sure, you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ Indeed, this is God's will: that you be sanctified, namely, that you keep yourselves away from sexual immorality. ⁴ He wants each of you to learn to obtain a wife for yourself in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in lustful passion like the heathen, who do not know God. ⁶ No one is to overstep and take advantage of his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we said previously and solemnly testified to it. ⁷ For God did not call us for uncleanness, but in sanctification.

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8b)

SUNG RESPONSE:

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

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

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the

ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me in his pre - cious

blood. My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God. _____

GOSPEL LESSON AND SERMON TEXTS: John 18:33-40

³³ Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ “You are a king then?” Pilate asked. Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ “What is truth?” Pilate said to him. After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So do you want me to release the King of the Jews for you?” ⁴⁰ Then they shouted back, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” (Now Barabbas was a rebel.)

Luke 23:40-43

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.”

YOUR KINGDOM COME/PARADISE



CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

HYMN

Alas and Did My Savior Bleed

CW 129

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

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away-'tis all that I can do.

SPECIAL PRAYERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS