

On the
WAY
to the
CROSS



Repent

Repent On The Way To The Cross

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins (from Psalm 32 and CW #383)

P: Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,

C: whose sins are covered.

P: Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him

C: and in whose spirit is no deceit.

C: (sing) Blessed are they, forever blest,

Whose guilt is pardoned by their God,

Whose sins with sorrow are confessed

And covered with their Savior's blood. (CW #383)

P: When I kept silent,

C: my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

P: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

C: my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

C: (sing) No peace have they who guilt deny,

And who their sins will not admit

Against them conscience' voice shall cry

And God their sins will not remit. (CW #383)

P: Then I acknowledged my sin to you

C: and did not cover up my iniquity.

P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" —

C: and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

C: (sing) Blessed are they to whom the Lord

Imputes not their iniquity.

They plead no merit or reward

And not on works but grace rely. (CW #383)

P: Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you

C: while you may be found;

P: surely when the mighty waters rise,

C: they will not reach him.

P: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble

C: and surround me with songs of deliverance.

P: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

C: I will counsel you and watch over you.

P: Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding

C: but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

C: (sing) From guile their hearts and lips are free;

Their humble joy, their holy fear

With deep repentance will agree

And join to prove their faith sincere. (CW #383)

P: Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love

C: surrounds the man who trusts in him.

P: Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;

C: sing, all you who are upright in heart!

C: (sing) How glorious is that righteousness

That hides and cancels all our sins,

While bright the evidence of grace

Through all their lives appears and shines! (CW #383)

THE PRAYER

P: O Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and until we live with you forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Part 4 of the Passion History: Jesus before Pontius Pilate

As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law. They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, "If you are the Christ, tell us."

But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe. And if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He said to them, "I am what you are saying."

Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!" Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away,

and handed him over to Pilate, the Roman governor.

Then, when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? That is your problem."

He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money." They reached a decision. They met and decided to buy the potter's field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. So that field has been called "The Field of Blood" to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord commanded me."

Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially defiled. (They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal). So Pilate went out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered him, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."

The Jews said, "It's not legal for us to put anyone to death." This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "It is as you say."

The chief priests accused him of many things. When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

Pilate questioned him again, "Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!"

But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

Then Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate answered, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

"My kingdom is not of this world," Jesus answered. "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." "You are a king then?" Pilate asked.

Jesus answered, "I am, as you say, a king. I was born for this, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

"What is truth?" Pilate said to him. After he said this, he went out again to the Jews, and told the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man.

But they kept insisting, "He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here."

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time, he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him.

Herod and his soldiers treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, they sent him back to Pilate.

Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies with each other.

Hymn: #109 "When O'er My Sins I Sorrow"

Sermon Text: Matthew 27:3, 4

³Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders ⁴and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

Repent On The Way To The Cross

- I. Look at Judas to see the first important part of repentance*
- II. Look to Jesus to find the most important part of repentance*

Offering

The Kyrie

P: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:

C: Thanks be to God.

P: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

C: (sing) Amen.

Closing Hymn: #389 "Rock of Ages"