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GUIDED *to the* CROSS

Guided to Perseverance

Welcome to God's house! Here we meet Jesus, right where He promises to be, in Word and Sacrament. We are so glad you came!

We love children at Christ Our Savior. Parents are encouraged to sit in the front pews so young children can see what is happening during worship. A nursery and a family lounge off the Advent Lobby are available for those who prefer these areas. Ask an usher for directions.

AS WE GATHER

In this service of Lent as we are drawn to Calvary to grow in perseverance. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of perseverance in the midst of strife in the name of Jesus, who endured the cross to the very end for us all.

Order of Worship

A TIME FOR MUSIC AND MEDITATION

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might ... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance. Ephesians 6:10, 18

✠ Preparation ✠

OPENING HYMN

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

LSB 685

- 1. Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.**
- 2. Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.**
- 3. Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.**

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INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P** Jesus repeatedly told his disciples what lay ahead for him. It was the purpose for which he had come. Calling himself the Son of Man, a title for the Messiah from the prophet Daniel, Jesus said, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day" (*Matthew 17:22-23*).
- C** **Teach us, Lord, to follow you in faithfulness.**
- P** As the time drew near for Jesus to finish his earthly ministry and to be taken up to heaven, he turned to Jerusalem and to the cross: "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." (*Luke 9:51*)
- C** **When our days are difficult and challenging, Lord Jesus, help us to keep our focus on you.**
- P** As Jesus began to take his final steps toward the cross, he said, "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name" (*John 12:27-28*).
- C** **Jesus, in faithfulness, you took up the cross for the sake of our salvation. Set your cross before us to guide us to persevere in faith.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, and ask his forgiveness.
- C** **Almighty God, we are called to persevere in our obedience to your will and your ways, but instead we sin against you. We do not walk in your ways or love others as we should. We are more interested in fulfilling our own desires than serving others and being faithful to your Word. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.**
- P** God, in his mercy, sent his Son to deliver us. Jesus faithfully obeyed his Father's will and suffered and died to save us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. Lord, lead us to walk faithfully in your ways.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Lord Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem as the time of your death drew near. You did not turn away from what lay ahead. In Gethsemane, you prayed that your Father's will, not yours, would be done. You were faithful to your purpose and obedient to your heavenly Father, obedient to the point of death on a cross. Lead us by your Spirit to be faithful to you in our thoughts, words and actions, so that our lives bear witness to your steadfast love.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN

"Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus"

LSB 531

- 1. Hail, Thou once despised Jesus! Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us; Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior, Bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merit we find favor: Life is given through Thy name.**
- 2. Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed, Thou hast full atonement made.
All Thy people are forgiven Through the virtue of Thy blood;
Opened is the gate of heaven, Reconciled are we with God.**
- 3. Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory, There forever to abide;
All the heav'nly hosts adore Thee, Seated at Thy Father's side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading; There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding Till in glory we appear.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 6:7–8

⁷"Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 6:13–20

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 19:16–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN

"Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed"

LSB 560

- 1. Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.**
- 2. Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.**
- 3. Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.**
- 4. And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.**

SERMON

"Guided to Perseverance"

*John 19:16–22***THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVE**

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

OFFERING**PRAYER AT OFFERING**

P Heavenly Father, receive these gifts joyfully brought to you this day for Your use in Your kingdom. Bless them and all the gifts which you have entrusted to us so that with them, the kingdom is strengthened to Your glory. Strengthened to sustain the saints and for their witness to those who have not yet awakened to know Jesus, Your Son, as their Lord and Savior.

C **All that I have is Yours, Lord Jesus Christ. All that I have is You.**

P Use then these and all of our gifts unto the increase of Your glory.

C **Amen.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS

- P** Lord Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem, where you would take up your cross for the sake of our salvation. In faithful obedience to your heavenly Father, you suffered and died to save us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,
- C** **Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**
- P** Lord Jesus, when we face difficult days in life, when we are filled with doubt or fear, strengthen us to persevere in faith and to hold fast to the hope and peace that you have brought us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,
- C** **Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**
- P** Lord Jesus, be present with those who face illness, pain and grief, especially those we name in our hearts. Comfort them through the promises of your Word, and keep them strong in faith. Guide us as we serve them in love. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,
- C** **Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**
- P** Lord Jesus, keep us steadfast in the study of your Word so that we will grow in faith, ready to defend the hope that is ours and to be your witnesses each day. Give us opportunities to speak to others about your redeeming death and triumphant resurrection, so that in the power of the Spirit, they, too, may come to follow you in faith. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,
- C** **Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**
- P** Lord Jesus, faithful to your purpose and to your Father's will, you suffered and died to save us. Keep us steadfast in faith, walking in your footsteps, until we live in your presence forever. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,
- C** **Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**

THE BLESSING

Psalm 31:5; Numbers 6:24-26

- P** Into your hand I commit my spirit;
C **You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.**
P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and † give you peace.
C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Come, Follow Me,' the Savior Spake"

LSB 688

1. **"Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take My example for your guide.**
2. **"I am the light, I light the way, A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below.**
4. **"I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your soul's salvation,
Your heart from ev'ry guile to free, From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav'nly goal."**
5. **Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain The crown of heav'nly life obtain.**

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS –

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Acknowledgements

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