



FIRST SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Of Beaufort

PCA

THE LORD'S DAY

September 20, 2026

Sunday School: 9:30AM (all ages)

Morning Worship Service: 10:40AM

Evening Worship Service: 5PM

www.firstscotsbeaufort.org

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Prayer of Preparation: “Before the Throne of God Above”

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea.
“A great High Priest whose name is
Love,”
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav’n He stands,
no tongue can bid me thence depart;
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there
who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me;
to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb!
My perfect spotless Righteousness;
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die;
my soul is purchased with His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Savior and my God;
with Christ me Savior and my God!

Words: Charitie Lees Bancroft, alternate lyrics by Vikki Cook; Music: Vikki Cook

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THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Parents, we are delighted for your little ones to join us in worship! If they need to stretch their legs or lungs during the service, please feel free to use the Worshippers in Training (WIT) room or the nursery.

WELCOME

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 98:4-9

[4]Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! [5]Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! [6]With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! [7]Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! [8]Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together [9]before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:**

Crown Him with Many Crowns
3rd stanza A capella

Trinity Hymnal #295

OLD TESTAMENT READING/CALL TO CONFESSION: MICAH 6:6-8

[6]"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? [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?" [8]He 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?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: ROMANS 5:6-9

[6]For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7]For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—[8]but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [9]Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Questions For the Parents

Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do your own?

Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Question For the Congregation:

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING:

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:**

Speak, O Lord

see page 7

SERMON:

“WHO IS REALLY ON TRIAL?”
John 18:28-38

Rev. Alex Mark

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING:** Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder Trinity Hymnal #172

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** Before the Throne of God Above, Stanza 2

*When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me;
to look on Him and pardon me.*

**Congregation Standing*

Speak, O Lord

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend



1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to re-
2. Teach us Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly
3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us



- ceive the food of Your Ho - ly Word. Take Your Truth, plant it
rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our
grasp the heights of Your plans for us. Truths un - changed from the



deep in us; shape and fash-ion us in Your like - ness; That the
at - ti - tudes; in the ra - di - ance of Your pur - i - ty. Cause our
dawn of time, that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to-day in our acts of love and our
faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic love and au-
grace we'll stand on Your prom-is-es; And by faith we'll walk as You



deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord and ful - fill in us all Your
- thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail; Let their
walk with us. Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built, and the



pur - pos - es for Your glo - ry.
truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
earth is filled with Your glo - ry

MORNING SERMON TEXT

[28]Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. [29]So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" [30]They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." [31]Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." [32]This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. [33]So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" [34]Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" [35]Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" [36]Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." [37]Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." [38]Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him."—John 18:28-38

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

JESUS:

I. UNMASKS THE HYPOCRISY OF EMPTY RELIGION

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

II. EXPOSES THE FUTILITY OF WORLDLY POWER

III. STANDS AS THE KING AND JUDGE BEFORE WHOM WE WILL ALL STAND

Defiled in Heart

(a devotional on John 18: 28-32 from www.ligonier.org)

John does not record Jesus' trial before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, telling us only that Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas and that Jesus was later taken "from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters" (John 18:24, 28). Matthew 26:57–68; 27:1–2 reports this trial in more detail, and it must have occurred after Jesus stood before Annas. In this trial, the Jewish leaders found Jesus guilty of blasphemy and declared Him deserving of death.

The problem for the Jewish leaders at this point was that they did not have the legal authority to execute Jesus. Although the Romans allowed the Jews to follow their traditions in many areas, in the vast majority of cases, only a Roman ruler could execute criminals. (The first-century Jewish historian Josephus notes that the Jewish authorities could put to death a gentile who entered the inner courts of the Jerusalem temple.) This explains why Jesus was brought to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate (John 18:28–29).

Pilate was a cruel leader, and he was especially hated by the Jews for the atrocities he sometimes committed in order to keep the peace in Judea (see, for example, Luke 13:1). Normally, Pilate was not based in Jerusalem, but he resided in that city during Jewish feasts such as Passover because the large numbers of Jewish pilgrims could easily be incited to riot. Pilate disdained the Jews and their law, but he was not stupid, and he would defer to their scruples as much as possible in order to keep the populace happy. So, when the Jewish authorities did not want to enter his headquarters because they feared ritual defilement, he respected their customs and went out to meet them (John 18:28–29). Still, something of his hostility to the Jews can be seen in his interchange with the Jewish authorities (vv. 29–31). Pilate would have approved the Roman soldiers' going to arrest Jesus in the first place, and he would have known that the Jewish leaders came to him only because they wanted Jesus dead and could not execute Him. By feigning ignorance, Pilate got the Jewish authorities to admit their impotence, thereby humiliating them.

Note the irony in the Jewish authorities' concern for their ritual purity. They believed they could not go into Pilate's headquarters, for contact with gentiles would defile them according to their traditions. Yet, these same authorities were not concerned with the inner defilement that led them to seek the execution of an innocent man. Clearly, their hearts were far from God.

John Calvin notes that during Jesus' trial, the religious authorities carried "to excess their care about smaller matters, and [neglected] what is of the highest importance." Sinners are perpetually tempted to be concerned only with external righteousness, but we must seek purity of the heart. Let us ask the Lord to help us rely on Him so that we will be concerned with inner purity.

Blind to the Truth

(a devotional on John 18:28 – 19:5 from www.ligonier.org)

Both the Old Testament and Jesus Himself had predicted that He would be handed over to the Gentiles for execution. When those prophecies were fulfilled, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, found himself face to face with Jesus. He was given the opportunity to examine and pass judgment on Jesus, and the statements he made concerning Christ have long been regarded by the church as divinely inspired. Pilate spoke the truth about Jesus—but he did not see it.

Pilate opened his interview with Jesus by asking, “ ‘Are You the King of the Jews?’ ” Jesus affirmed that He was a king, but of a kingdom not of the earth. In fact, He added, if His kingdom were of the earth, He could call on His servants and they would instantly save Him, despite all the might of the Roman Empire (Matt. 26:53). He then went on to tell Pilate that His purpose in coming into the earth was “ ‘that I should bear witness to the truth.’ ” Pilate responded with a cynical query, “ ‘What is truth?’ ” failing to see that he was face to face with the one who had said, “ ‘I am ... the truth’ ” (John 14:6).

Pilate then broke off his questioning and went out to tell the crowd his conclusion. Here is the *publica persona*, the “public person,” the personification of the Roman Empire, speaking of Jesus. And the conclusion? “ ‘I find no fault in Him at all.’ ” Pilate found no fault in Jesus because there was no fault in Jesus. The governor certainly did not intend to say that Jesus was sinless, but his words held meaning far beyond his intent. Despite his lackadaisical attitude and desire to be finished with the case, he was absolutely right in his judgment. But he did not submit to the truth his eyes beheld and his tongue confessed.

In response to the crowd’s demand that Barabbas be released instead of Jesus, Pilate ordered Jesus scourged. The soldiers then put on him a purple robe and a crown of thorns, and Pilate brought Him out. As he appeared, Pilate said, “ ‘Behold the Man!’ ” Again Pilate was speaking beyond his own comprehension, for here was the true Man, the new Man, the perfect Man, the Second Adam who would restore the fullness of dignity God originally intended for His creatures.

Pilate’s only desire was to dispense with this Man. But in his spiritual blindness, he was used of God to testify of Christ and to send Him on His God-ordained journey to Calvary.

What acute spiritual blindness afflicted Pilate! He spoke with Jesus face to face and never grasped the truth about Him. Scripture affirms that all people are naturally blind to the truth. Our most reasoned arguments will not avail to convert anyone. Our only option is to plead with God to open the eyes of those we would see saved.

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

September 20, 2026

Hymn Sing

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

Call to Worship

Psalm 59:16-17

[16]But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.
[17]O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.

**Opening Hymn:*

Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right

Trinity Hymnal #108

Scripture Reading:

Acts 16:1-10

Evening Prayer

Scripture Reading & Sermon: "TRUSTING GOD WHEN PAIN PERSISTS" Rev. Tom Brown
Psalm 13 Assistant Pastor

**Hymn of Preparation:*

Be Still, My Soul
Stanzas 1 and 2

Trinity Hymnal #689

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**Hymn of Gratitude:*

Be Still, My Soul
Stanzas 3 and 4

Trinity Hymnal #689

**Benediction*

**Congregation Standing*

PSALM 13

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID. [1]How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? [2]How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? [3]Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, [4]lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,” lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. [5]But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. [6]I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

EVENING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

I. PAIN EXPRESSED (v. 1-2)

II. HELP REQUESTED (v. 3-4)

EVENING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

III. THE HEART SUSTAINED (v. 5-6)