

Lenten Midweek Service 2

February 21, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Afton, Minnesota

Living Lent: The Donkey Reveals a Peaceful Savior

A Lenten OpeningMelody: “O Sacred Head” (*Stand.*)

Remember, earth-born mortal, the dust from which you came,
And know that life’s last portal returns you to the same!

Let ashes tell the story, from dust its lesson learn:
Beyond life’s fleeting glory to dust you shall return!

Like flow’rs cast in the furnace, our lives are quickly spent.

To dust, O God, You turn us and call us to repent:
“Turn back, O mortals, grieving o’er your iniquity,
That, steadfast love receiving, you may My mercy see.”

For you, O gracious Father, want not the sinner’s death,
But that we, turning, rather may breathe the Spirit’s breath.

Let true repentance holy our daily lives employ,
That we may trust You solely and find in You our joy.

O God, You once did fashion our lives from earth’s frail dust.
Through Jesus’ Cross and Passion help us Your grace to trust.

For Christ was born of Mary our mortal dust to share,
Our sin and guilt to carry, our ransom to prepare.

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

C Amen.

P “Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed season, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the Lord.”

C Because of our sin, “the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying.”

P *Let us therefore confess our sins to God, sincerely repent of them and seek His mercy.*

C **Holy God, Your Son entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, showing Himself to be a humble servant. Yet I have been arrogant, seeking to be served rather than serve. I am Your child in my baptism, but I have lived as though You and my neighbor did not matter. I have broken all Your laws in my heart, in my words, and in my actions. My sin is my fault and no one else's. God, be merciful to me, a sinner.**

P *“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.”*

Accomplish Your salvation in us, most gracious Lord,
Through Jesus' Cross and Passion, according to Your Word.
Let us show forth Your favor while in the world we live,
And with Your saints forever eternal life receive.

P *Lift up your hearts and rejoice! God has heard your cry for mercy and seen your sorrow for sin. His own word promises that “he who believes and is baptized shall be saved,” and that “if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ and in His stead, I therefore announce to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now, go, and bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance.*

C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 33:12-22Old Hundredth LM *(Be seated.)*

(In this styling, phrases of the hymn interrupt the reading of the Psalm. The tune is introduced before the reader's first line. The final chord of each phrase is held softly over the spoken words.)

P *Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage.*

God is our helper and our shield.
Let gladsome songs His praises yield.

P *The Lord looks down from heaven; He sees all humankind. From where He sits enthroned He watches all the inhabitants of the earth; He forms all their thoughts and sees all their deeds.*

The armies of the world must fall
Before the Lord, who rules them all.

P *Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.*

God is our helper and our shield.
Let gladsome songs His praises yield.

P *Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.*

Lord, bless us with Your mercy true.
Behold, we place our hope in You!

Holy GospelMatthew 21:1-3 (*Stand.*)

Pastor: ¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to Me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”

Theme HymnMelody: Erhalt uns, Herr (*Be seated.*)

It is no mighty steed of war who bears You, Christ, the crowds before.
But on a long-eared, lowly beast You show Yourself—the Prince of Peace.

You enter, Christ, the bloody fray, to end the war, to win the day,
Surrendering Your life to die, securing endless victory.

Grant us, O Christ, such humble hearts and gracious, as Your love imparts,
In all we think and say and do to serve as we were serving You.

Homily: The Donkey Tells of a Peaceful Savior

Offering

(Note to our visitors: You are our guests this evening! Please do not feel the need to make a contribution to our Offering. We would ask all visitors and members to sign the Register Pad as the Offering is being collected. Also, Prayer Cards are available in the pew racks for special intercessions during the time of congregational prayer.)

Offering PrayerMelody: Dunstan *(Stand.)*

Create in me a heart that's pure. Renew my spirit, steadfast, sure.

Deliver me from sin's allure. Accept the gifts I bring.

Forgive me all my shameful wrong. Restore to me salvation's song,
That I may join the grateful throng. Accept the gifts I bring.

Then I shall see Christ's glorious face, alive forever by His grace,
Dwelling in that most holy place. Accept the gifts I bring.

Prayers of God's People

Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

P Ask the animals, and they will teach you. Let every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them say,

C Which of these does not know that the Lord has done this?

P Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C Hosanna in the highest!

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing VerseMelody: Erhalt uns, Herr

The animals the story tell. Teach us, O Lord, to learn it well,
And lead us, as our days are spent, to live in love while living Lent.

(Be seated.)