



# Questioned For Christ

Mid Week Lenten Service  
March 25, 7:30 PM

“A Question of Sacrifice”

*“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*Romans 5:8*

## Opening Hymn      “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”    LSB 423 Verses 1



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior  
from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,  
Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the  
cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.

## Opening Verses

- P** *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—*
- C** **But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- P** *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you*
- C** **That you should go and bear much fruit and that your fruit should abide.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** *Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of Christ.*
- C** **Heavenly Father, you have called me to live for you, to bear the fruit of good works in Jesus' name, but I often turn away from your will and follow my own selfish desires. I sin against you in my thoughts, words and actions, and I do not live as a witness to your love. For the sake of Jesus, who sacrificed himself for me, forgive my sins and help me to bear fruit in his name.**
- P** *While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For the sake of Jesus and by his command, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*
- C** **Jesus has chosen us to be his own. By the power of his Spirit, we bear the fruit of works of love in his name.**

## Prayer of the Day

- P** *Gracious God, keep us from self-righteous attitudes. We often compare our behavior with others. We condemn the sins of others and excuse our own sinful behavior. In mercy you sent your Son to suffer for us, to be wounded for our transgressions. He chose to lay down his life, to suffer for our sins, for deeds we have done. He was numbered with the transgressors that we might be set free. Although we are guilty, although we deserve eternal chains, for the sake of Jesus our Savior, we are forgiven. With the help of the Holy Spirit, let us make the choice made by your servant Joshua: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*



Hymn "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" LSB 423 verse 2



2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -  
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your  
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us  
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your  
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.

First Reading

Romans 5:6-10

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

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks Be to God.

## Second Reading

Mark 15:1-15

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" And they cried out again, "Crucify him." And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks Be to God.

**Drama**        *"The Interrogation of Barabbas"*

**Sermon**      *"A Question of Sacrifice"*

*Pastor Scott Henze*

Hymn of Response "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" *LSB 423 verse 3*



3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.



## Prayers

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

**P** *Jesus, while we were still sinners,*

**C** **You died for us.**

**P** *Lord Jesus, you, the innocent Lamb of God, went to the cross while the criminal Barabbas was set free. You went to the cross for us and through faith in your name we are set free. Jesus, while we were still sinners,*

**C** **You died for us.**

**P** Lord Jesus, help us to reflect your saving love in our lives. By your Spirit make us willing to lay aside our own needs in order to serve others in your name. Jesus, while we were still sinners,

**C** **You died for us.**

**P** *Lord Jesus, we did not choose you. You chose us. Help us now to be faithful witnesses to your loving sacrifice, so that others might come to know and worship you as Lord. Jesus, while we were still sinners,*

**C** **You died for us.**

**P** *Amen.*

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Benediction

- P** You leave tonight with a choice, to serve the Lord in your thoughts, words and actions, or to serve yourselves.
- C** We choose to serve the Lord, who chose to lay down his life for us.
- P** Go, then, in the power of the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord.
- C** We are encouraged and empowered to witness to Jesus as Lord.
- P** Go in the name of the Father and the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn      “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”      LSB 826 Verses 1 & 2



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus cry - ing, “Who will go and work to - day?  
2 If you can-not speak like an - gels, If you can - not preach like Paul,



Fields are white and har-vests wait-ing— Who will bear the sheaves a-way?”  
You can tell the love of Je - sus, You can say He died for all.



Loud and long the Mas-ter call-eth; Rich re-ward He of - fers thee.  
If you can - not rouse the wick-ed With the judg-ment’s dread a - larms,



Who will an-swer, glad-ly say-ing, “Here am I, send me, send me”?  
You can lead the lit - tle chil-dren To the Sav-ior’s wait - ing arms.