



Our Lenten theme this year is entitled, “Witnesses.” Each of our round-robin speakers will focus on a different group of witnesses to the passion of Jesus Christ. Our round-robin series will conclude with our Good Friday service.

Lenten Services (7:30 pm):

The Witnesses of Jesus’ Arrest

First American: February 28 – Travis Fink

The Witnesses of Jesus’ Trial

Hope: March 6 – Pastor Barry Nelson

The Witness of the Apostles

First American: March 13 – Del Neumeister

The Witness of the Soldiers

Hope: March 20 – Pastor Kevin Czymbor

Maundy Thursday

First American: March 28 – Pastor Barry Nelson

The Witness of the Religious Leaders

Hope: March 29 (Good Friday) – Rod Goldammer

Lenten Offerings:

First American – All Nations Family Center on the Rosebud Reservation. This is the ministry served by Johnny and Heidi Wade. Heidi is the daughter of Jan Jerke.

Hope – Southeastern South Dakota Lutherans for Life ultrasound fund which supports the ultrasound ministry of the Alpha Center in Sioux Falls.

Lenten Suppers (6-7pm):

Hope will have a baked potato supper on March 6th, and a taco supper on March 20th. First American will have soup suppers on February 28th and March 13th. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex of each church for volunteers to help with these meals.

First American Lutheran Church

Lenten Service

February 28, 2024

Please stand as you are able **Bold Items are read in unison*

Invocation & Call to Worship

Psalm 37:1-22

- ¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;
- ² **for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.**
- ³ Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:
- ⁶ **He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people
succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.
- ¹⁰ **A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.**
- ¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity.
- ¹² **The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them;**
- ¹³ but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming.
- ¹⁴ **The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor
and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.**
- ¹⁵ But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.
- ¹⁶ **Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;**
- ¹⁷ for the power of the wicked will be broken,
but the LORD upholds the righteous.
- ¹⁸ **The blameless spend their days under the LORD’s care,
and their inheritance will endure forever.**
- ¹⁹ In times of disaster they will not wither;
in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.
- ²⁰ **But the wicked will perish: Though the LORD’s enemies are like the
flowers of the field, they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke.**
- ²¹ The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;
- ²² **those the LORD blesses will inherit the land,
but those he curses will be destroyed.**

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. ⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” ⁶² “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. ⁶⁴ “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

Confession of Sin: Merciful God and Heavenly Father, whose grace endures to all generations, You are patient and longsuffering and have promised to forgive the sins of those who truly repent. We have sinned against You and are unworthy of Your goodness and love. Look with compassion upon us, and hear our cries for mercy. Forgive us of all our sins, and help us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling we have received. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Grace & Prayers of the Church

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 51:1-16

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; ² look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many. ³ The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. ⁴ “Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. ⁵ My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands

will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail. ⁷ “Hear me, you who know what is right, you people who have taken my instruction to heart: Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals or be terrified by their insults. ⁸ For the moth will eat them up like a garment; the worm will devour them like wool. But my righteousness will last forever, my salvation through all generations.” ⁹ Awake, awake, arm of the LORD, clothe yourself with strength! Awake, as in days gone by, as in generations of old. Was it not you who cut Rahab to pieces, who pierced that monster through? ¹⁰ Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made a road in the depths of the sea so that the redeemed might cross over? ¹¹ Those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. ¹² “I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mere mortals, human beings who are but grass, ¹³ that you forget the LORD your Maker, who stretches out the heavens and who lays the foundations of the earth, that you live in constant terror every day because of the wrath of the oppressor, who is bent on destruction? For where is the wrath of the oppressor? ¹⁴ The cowering prisoners will soon be set free; they will not die in their dungeon, nor will they lack bread. ¹⁵ For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD Almighty is his name. ¹⁶ I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand—I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, ‘You are my people.’”

Epistle Lesson Philippians 2:5-18

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. ¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or

arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

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

*** Confession of Faith** **Augsburg Confession, Article IV on Justification**

It is taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ’s sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness. Amen.

Hymn – Just As I Am **Red #417**

*** Gospel Lesson** **Luke 22:47-55**

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” ⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him. ⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.” ⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them.

Sermon – Why the Scare? Travis Fink

*** Closing Hymn – The Old Rugged Cross** **Red #78**

*** 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 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 & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody): Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*** Dismissal: L: Go in Peace, and Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.**

