



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 Witness of the Criminals

Not recorded – Maurice Bueber

The Witnesses of Jesus' Arrest

Online at FAHope.org – Travis Fink

The Witnesses of Jesus' Trial

Online at FAHope.org – 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):

For our final Lenten supper, Hope will have a taco supper on March 20th.

First American Lutheran Church

Lenten Service

March 13, 2024

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

Invocation & Call to Worship

Psalm 51:1-6

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

* Opening Hymn – *Were You There?* Red #83

Lenten Reading

Mark 15:1-15

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. ² "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "You have said so," Jesus replied. ³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." ⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. ⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. ⁹ "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. ¹² "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. ¹³ "Crucify him!" they shouted. ¹⁴ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" ¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

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

2 Kings 2:9-14

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

¹⁰ "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not."

¹¹ As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

¹³ Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

New Testament Lesson

Acts 1:1-3

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

*** 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 – *The Old Rugged Cross* Red #78

* Gospel Lesson

John 19:25-27

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Sermon – *Witness, John, of the Apostles* Del Neumeister

* Closing Hymn – *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* Red #62

*** 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.**

