



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

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 a soup supper on March 13th. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex of each church for volunteers to help with these meals.

Hope Lutheran Church

Lenten Service

March 6, 2024

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

Invocation & Call to Worship

Psalm 103:6-12

⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.

⁷ **He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:**

⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

⁹ **He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;**

¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;**

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

* Opening Hymn – *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* Red **#61**

Lenten Reading

Mark 14:66-72

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

“You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

⁶⁸ But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.

⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” ⁷⁰ Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”

⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

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

Leviticus 16:20-22

²⁰ "When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. ²¹ He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. ²² The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.

Epistle Lesson

1 John 4:9-10

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

*** 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

Matthew 27:11-26

¹¹ Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. ¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor. ¹⁵ Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. ¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." ²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ²¹ "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. ²² "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" ²³ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" ²⁵ All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Sermon – *Crucify Him, Not Me!* Pastor Barry Nelson

* Closing Hymn – *What Will You Do with Jesus?* Red **#541**

*** 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.**