

Mid-Week
Lenten
Worship



Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Guided *to the* CROSS Services for Lent

'Guided to Hope'

He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 2 Corinthians 1:10

Opening Hymn... “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” LSB 435; vrs. 1-2, 4

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C: Amen.

P: When Jesus chased the money changers and merchants from the temple, the religious leaders who opposed him asked for a sign of his authority to do such things. Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). He spoke of the temple of his body. He would be killed and raised to life again on the third day after his death. The sign would be his death and resurrection. The sign would be the cross.

C: In a world of confusion and temptation and loss, we look for a sign to guide us.

P: As the time of his death drew near, Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). There he would take up his cross for the sake of our salvation. As we follow his path during this Lenten season, the cross stands before us as a marker, a signpost, to guide our steps.

C: As Jesus kept his focus on what lay ahead for him, we too look to his cross.

P: The cross signified a terrible death. Yet through faith in Jesus our Savior, for us the cross is a sign of triumph in the face of death. The cross is a sign of life and hope.

C: Lord Jesus, set your cross always before us to guide us to the hope of forgiveness and life that are ours through faith in your name! Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins to God, and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, we have the cross of our Lord before us to guide us, but we often turn away from following in his

steps. We listen to the temptations of the world instead of gladly hearing your Word. We turn from the hope we have in Jesus to follow our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.

P: God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus was nailed to the cross, suffering the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. 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: Lord God, set the cross always before us, and guide us in the way of hope.

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord Jesus, as we follow you on your path to the cross, guide our steps in the way of hope. By grace through faith in your holy name, we have forgiveness for our sins and the sure and certain hope of eternal life in your presence. When we are struggling with fear or loss, set your cross before us as a sign of the hope that we have. Lead us to be witnesses for you and to share the hope you bring with everyone we meet, so that they, too, in the power of the Holy Spirit, may come to believe in you and worship you as Lord. Hear our prayer, and accept our praise, dear Savior. Amen.

7:00 PM Children's Message

Hymn... "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" LSB 451; vrs. 1, 3-4

Old Testament Reading. . .Jeremiah 14:21-22

Epistle Reading. . .2 Corinthians 1:9-10

Gospel Reading. . .Luke 23:39-43

Sermon Hymn. . . "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" LSB 575

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

Offering & Attendance/Involvement Cards

(The Offering of Peace is exchanged during Offering)

Prayers

P: (after each petition)... O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C: In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

P: We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

C: But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn. . . "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" LSB 422