

A stylized illustration of a landscape. In the upper left, three crosses are silhouetted against a dark blue background. Below them, a jagged, dark blue mountain range is depicted with sharp peaks and valleys. The overall style is graphic and minimalist, using shades of blue and black.

AT THAT MOMENT THE
CURTAIN OF THE TEMPLE
WAS TORN IN TWO FROM
TOP TO BOTTOM.
THE EARTH SHOOK
AND THE ROCKS
SPLIT.

LENT MIDWEEK - MARCH 25TH, 2020

MATTHEW 27:51

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please sign the guest register in the entry
as you leave the church today.

TODAY'S SERVICE

March 25th, 2020

Speaker:

Pastor Rob Sauers

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 38

O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! ² For Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down. ³ *There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin.* ⁴ For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. ⁵ My wounds are foul *and* festering Because of my foolishness. ⁶ I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. ⁷ For my loins are full of inflammation, And *there is no soundness in my flesh.* ⁸ I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. ⁹ Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You. ¹⁰ My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. ¹¹ My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, And my relatives stand afar off. ¹² Those also who seek my life lay snares *for me*; Those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, And plan deception all the day long. ¹³ But I, like a deaf *man*, do not hear; And *I am* like a mute *who* does not open his mouth. ¹⁴ Thus I am like a man who does not hear, And in whose mouth is no response. ¹⁵ For in You, O LORD, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. ¹⁶ For I said, "*Hear me*, lest they rejoice over me, Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt *themselves* against me." ¹⁷ For *I am* ready to fall, And my sorrow is continually before me. ¹⁸ For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. ¹⁹ But my enemies *are* vigorous, *and* they are strong; And those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. ²⁰ Those also who render evil for good, They are my adversaries, because I follow *what is* good. ²¹ Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me! ²² Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Hymn 143:1-5 - O Dearest Jesus

INVOCATION

p In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

c Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS

p God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

c If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin.

p If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

c If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

all Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen

p Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

c **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

PRAYER

p Let us pray . . . Gracious Father in heaven, in countless ways we have transgressed against you. But you have been merciful to us and have forgiven

the guilt of our sin. Surround us with your unfailing love that we may rejoice in your great goodness now and forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

PASSION READING #5

Matthew 27:11-26 ¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

Jesus said to him, “*It is as you say.*” ¹² And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

¹³ Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” ¹⁴ But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished.

¹⁶ And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷ Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸ For he

knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, “Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.”

²⁰ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

²¹ The governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

They said, “Barabbas!”

²² Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!”

²³ Then the governor said, “Why, what evil has He done?”

But they cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!”

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.^[m] You see *to it*.”

²⁵ And all the people answered and said, “His blood *be* on

us and on our children.”

²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified.

Hymn 143:7,13-15 - O Dearest Jesus

SERMON

John 11:45-53 ⁴⁵ Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. ⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. ⁴⁸ "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." ⁴⁹ And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, ⁵⁰ "nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ Now this he did not say on his own *authority*;

but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. ⁵³ Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.

**IT IS BETTER THAT ONE MAN DIE
FOR THE PEOPLE**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

all In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me today, and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, wher-

ever I have done wrong, and graciously protect me tonight. Into Your hands I entrust my body and soul and everything else. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the devil may have no power over me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

all 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.

THE BENEDICTION

p The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Hymn 552 - Abide With Me



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

N1529 State Road 73 Markesan, WI 53946

www.MarkesanLutheran.org

CHURCH & SCHOOL DIRECTORY

CHURCH OFFICE

church@markesanlutheran.com

(920) 398-0260

ANN SPRENGELER

Grades K-2

(920) 295-2667

SCHOOL OFFICE

principal@markesanlutheran.com

(920) 398-3171

MARIE MUEHLENHAUPT

Grades 3-8

(920) 572-4509

PASTOR MATTHEW UDE

pastor@markesanlutheran.com

(920) 398-0260

MIRIAM BERNTHAL

Pre-School

(920) 539-7138