

# Midweek Lenten Series: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

## Week of Lent 4: From my contrite heart, with tears

### Opening Dialogue (from Psalm 32)

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven.

**Happy are those in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away.

**My strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I confessed my transgressions to the Lord,  
**who forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous.

**Shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

### Gathering Song: On Eagle's Wings

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
my rock in whom I trust!"

#### *Refrain*

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear;  
under God's wings your refuge,  
with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

### *Final refrain*

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand;  
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

### **Greeting**

God who created all, who bore the cross, and who dwells in us, be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **Prayers:**

Together we pray,

**God of our joy, you cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits. Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love, that we may sing aloud of your goodness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **Reading:** *1 John 1:5-10*

### **Gospel Acclamation**      Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE (LBW 93, st. 3)

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you; may our eyes be ever turning to behold your cross anew; till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side, graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

### **Gospel:** *Luke 7:36-50*

### **Reflection**

Hymn of the Day: **Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed his blood for me,  
died that I might live on high,  
lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am his, and he is mine.
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love!  
Higher than the heav'ns above,  
deeper than the depths of sea,  
lasting as eternity.  
Love that found me—wondrous thought—  
found me when I sought him not.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart  
balm to heal the wounded heart,  
peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,  
joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
faith and hope to walk with God  
in the way that Enoch trod.

## **Prayers**

Beneath the cross of Jesus, we lift up our joys and our sorrows to God.

*A brief silence.*

O Lord, amid the shifting sands of this world,

**be our rock and our foundation.**

In the fears and uncertainties of our lives,

**be our home and our resting place.**

When we lay our sins before you,

**be our comfort and our guide.**

As we gaze upon the cross of Christ,

**be our hope and our salvation.**

*Here other prayers may be offered.*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Offering is Received**

### **Offering Prayer**

Together we pray,

**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Blessing** *Based on Galatians 2:19-20*

People of God, you have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer you who live, but it is Christ who lives in you. The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

## **Sending Song: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days**

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin,  
and free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and you won;  
your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust  
in God's eternal word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed  
and fixed your mind above;  
so teach us to deny ourselves  
that we may know God's love.

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace, led by the cross of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**