

Midweek Lenten Series: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Week of Lent 1: *Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand*

Opening Dialogue

(Mark 14:18-19, 27-31, 38; 15:34, 39)

Keep awake, and pray with me.

My spirit is willing, but my flesh is weak.

One of you this night will betray me.

Lord, is it I?

Before the cock crows, you will all desert me.

Lord, I will never deny you!

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Truly, this man was God's Son!

Gathering Song

Beneath the cross of Jesus ELW 338, LBW 107

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noon-tide heat and burdens of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let
the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross

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 hope, we journey with you to the foot of the cross. Stay with us when difficulty comes. Grant us courage and peace in the face of persecution. Turn our pain into joy, our mourning into dancing. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Reading: *Philippians 2:1-11*

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: *John 16:16-33*

Reflection

Hymn of the Day

Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross ELW 335

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

Refrain

3. Near the cross! O lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.

Refrain

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.

Refrain

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

In The Cross Of Christ I Glory ELW 324, LBW 104

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.

- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.

- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

Dismissal

Go in peace, led by the cross of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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