The Lamb



"The Lamb That Takes Away Sin"

Midweek III

Midweek Lent III

Series Theme

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) That was John the Baptist's powerful witness to Jesus at the Jordan River when the Savior came to be baptized by him. The image of a lamb is used frequently in both the Old and New Testaments to describe the Messiah as well as the sinful people He came to save. This Lenten season we gather to examine and to meditate on some of these Biblical pictures of...

The Lamb

As We Gather "The Lamb That Takes Away Sin"

In our usage today, calling any man "a lamb" would imply he was soft and weak. But when John called Jesus "the Lamb of God," such an idea was far from his thinking. The image of an animal taking away sin was a familiar one to the Jews. The imagery is familiar to us Christians as well. It appears again and again in the words of our liturgies and hymns. But do we truly understand and appreciate the meaning behind that powerful image?

+ Service of Vespers+	
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Prelude

Bell

Welcome

We Greet Each Other

stand

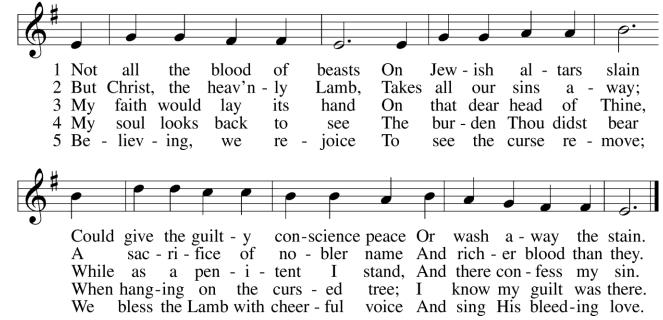


Psalm 121

- P I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
- C My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- P He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- C Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- P The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
- C The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
- P The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- C The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.
- P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn

431 Not All the Blood of Beasts



Text and tune: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 16:15-22

"Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses. No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

"And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness."

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

John 1:19-30

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

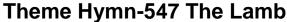
The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

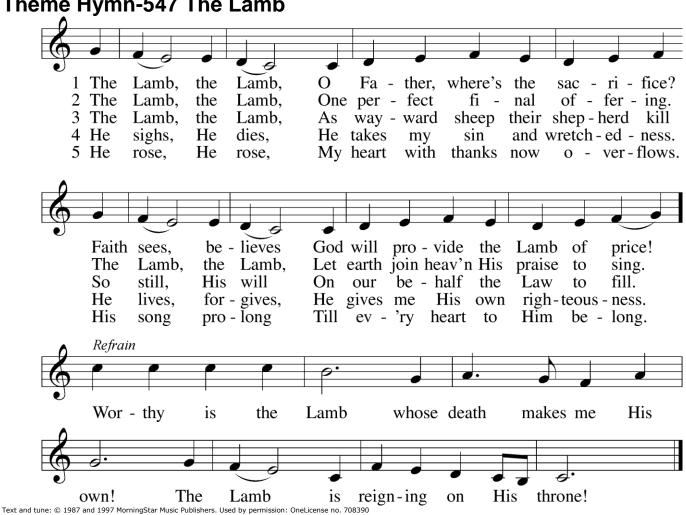
This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'"

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Responsory







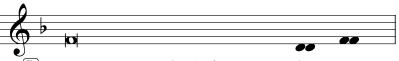
"The Lamb That Takes Away Sin" John 1:29

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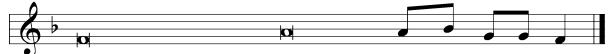
Children's Message

stand

Canticle



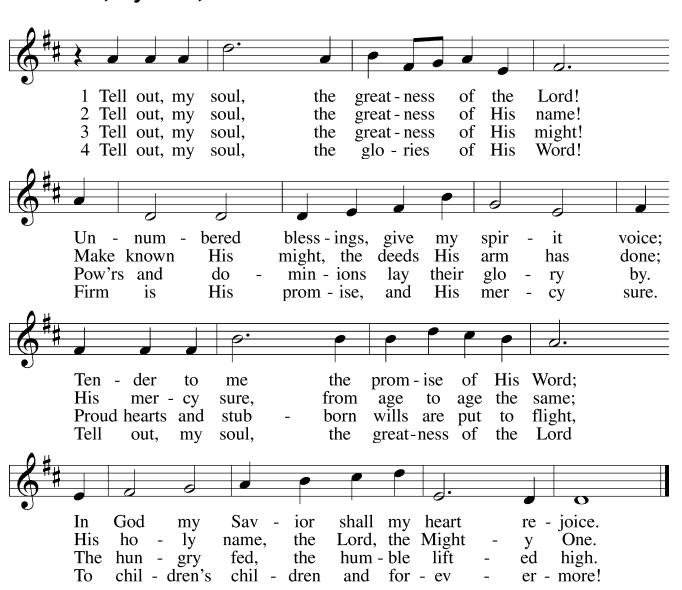
Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

"Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord"

LSB 935



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sit **Offering** stand

Kyrie



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

Collect for Hope of Eternal Life in Christ

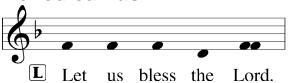
P Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen

Luther's Evening Prayer

All I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benedicamus

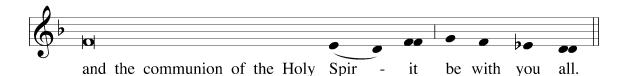




C Thanks be to God.

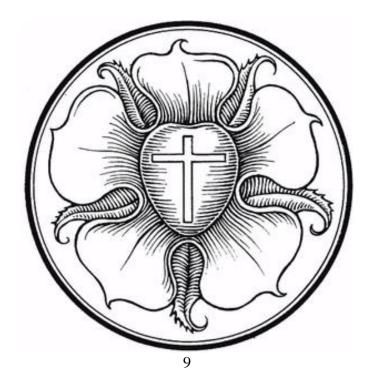
Benediction





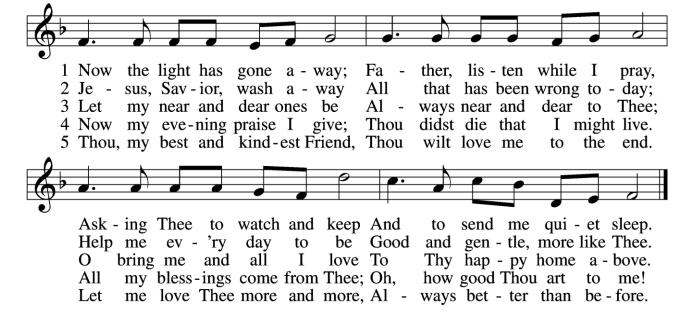


sit



Hymn

887 Now the Light Has Gone Away



Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Next Week "The Lambs That Are Lost"

None of us likes to admit it, but God insists that we all like sheep have gone astray. We are lost and vulnerable to the wolf. The Good News is that God's only-begotten Son became a sheep and laid down His life in order to bring us back into the fold. No wonder we call a Lamb such as that "The Good Shepherd."



February 14 Ash V	Vednesday	"The Lamb" Genesis 22:1-14	The Substitute Lamb
February 21 Midw	eek II	2 Samuel 12:1-7a	The Lamb We Have All Killed
February 28 Midw	eek III	Jn. 1:29; Lev.16:21-22	The Lamb That Takes Away Sin
March 6 Midw	eek IV	Isaiah 53:6	The Lambs That Are Lost
March 13 Midw	eek V	Isaiah 53:7	The Lamb Led to Slaughter
March 20 Midw	eek VI	Deuteronomy 17:1	The Unblemished Lamb
March 28 Maune	dy Thursday	Exodus 12:21	The Passover Lamb
March 29 Good	Friday	Exodus 29:38-39	The Lambs for Daily Sacrifice
March 31 Easter	Sunday	Revelation 5:1-14	The Lamb That Was Slain

MIDWEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, 12:00PM & 7:00PM Wednesdays, February 14- March 20 Light Supper 6:00PM Worship Service 7:00PM

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00PM Good Friday, March 29, 12:00 & 7:00PM Easter Sunday, March 31, 8:00 & 10:45 AM



Equipping • Engaging • Encouraging

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