



Christ Our Redeemer Church

Pastor Mark Voss

Lent 4 - March 2, 2008

Opening - "Come, Oh, Come - Let Us Sing To the Lord"

Venite



Come oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us shout with joy to our sav-ing Rock;



come, en-ter in with our songs of praise, come, en-ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



You are a great and a won-drous God, cup-ping in your hands all the depths of earth,
Come, let us wor-ship and, bow - ing low, kneel be-fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the moun-tains high, you made the seas and the dry land.
You are the God whom we call our own, we are the flock that you shep - herd.

Confession and Absolution

P: O God our Father, since you have set forth the way of life for us in your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

C: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

P: Forgive us the poverty of our worship, our neglect of the Means of Grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in your service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

C: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

P: Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, that we have been more concerned about temporal matters than spiritual matters, that we have done the important but not always the most important work that you have set before us.

C: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

**Sing: Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in you my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.**

**Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing through your cross and pain, Christ crucified, I come.**

P: God promises forgiveness to those who repent and turn to him. May he keep you in his grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you to stronger faith and obedience, and bring you to live with him forever in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Sing: To pledge my labor willingly, Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.**

CW387 vv 1, 3 & 4 Text and Tune: public domain. Setting: c 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Prayer of the Day C: (sing) Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Hosea 5:15-6:3 – “God Wounds and Heals” ¹⁵“Then I will go back to my place until they admit their guilt. And they will seek my face; in their misery they will earnestly seek me.” ¹“Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. ²After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. ³Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

**Sing: Amazing grace – how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.**

CW379 v 1 Text and Tune: public domain. Setting c 1964 Abingdon Press. Reprinted from The Book of Hymns by permission

Gospel Lesson – John 3:1-17 “Life By the Spirit”

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." ⁴"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" ⁵Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰"You

are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man.

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Sermon Hymn – “Lord Jesus, You Have Come”

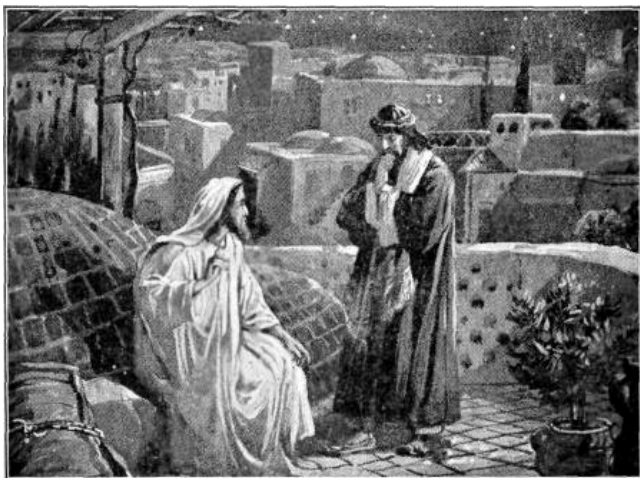
CW546 vv 1-3

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**Lord Jesus, you have come A teacher sent from heaven
And by both word and deed God's truth to us have given.
You wisely have ordained The holy ministry
That we, your flock, may know The truth that sets us free.**

**O blessed ministry Of reconciliation, That shows the way to God
And brings to us salvation! Lord, by your Gospel pure, You bless and keep your fold;
You call, enlighten, keep; You comfort and uphold.**

**Preserve this ministry While harvest days are keeping;
And since the fields are ripe And hands are few for reaping,
Send workers forth, O Lord, The sheaves to gather in
That not a soul be lost Which you have come to win.**



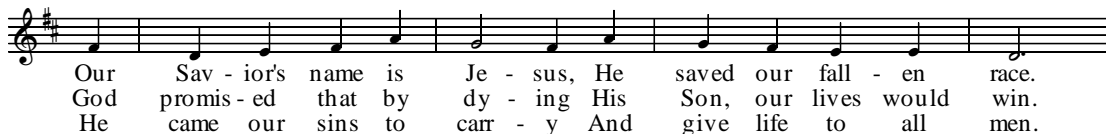
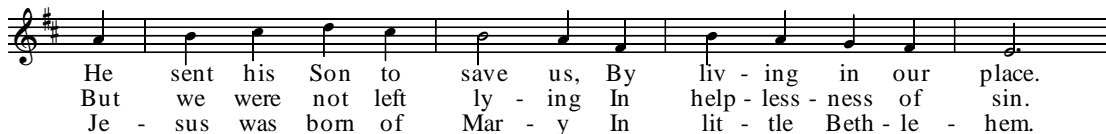
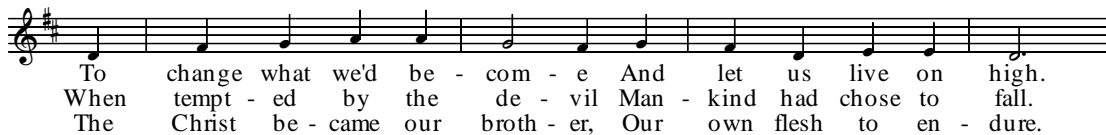
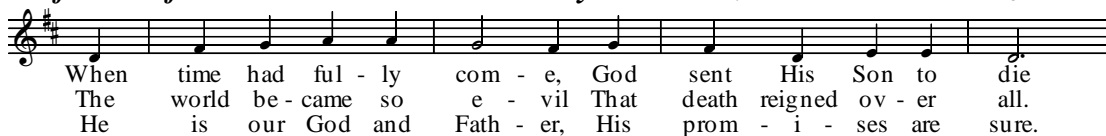
Sermon

CHANGED LIVES

Nicodemus

John 3:1-17

Confession of Faith – “When Time Had Fully Come” *Melody CW18 Tune Public Domain, Text Rev. Eugene R. Andrus*



Offering and Lord's Prayer 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Lord's Supper The Bible teaches that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public statement of our unity and agreement in the faith. If you are a visitor and have not communed with us before, we ask that you speak with our pastor outside the service before communing. It is our hope that we can share with you our beliefs from the Bible about our Savior and this Sacrament. Thank you.

The Words of Institution

8a Musical Selection – Sr. Choir

“O Taste and See”

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Distribution and Hymn “From Eternity, O God”

CW461

The Thanksgiving

Blessing

C: (sing) Amen, amen, amen.

Closing Song – “Let the Peace of Christ Rule In Your Hearts”

CH231

**Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart; Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart,
And whatever you do, in word or deed, Do it all in the name of the Lord.
Giving thanks, giving thanks to God, thro' Christ, the Lord;
Giving thanks, giving thanks to God, thro' Christ, the Lord.**

