



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

March 17, 2021 - 6:30PM

AS WE GATHER: *Rolling Stones* - Drawing on the rich imagery of rocks and stones in Scripture, this Lenten sermon series centers around the compelling metaphor of stones. These metaphors illustrate God's will for our lives and our failure to trust, follow and obey Him in all things. These stones show us our sins and our need for a Savior, Jesus, the Rock of our Salvation. Join us this Lenten season as we journey to the Cross of Christ and the forgiveness that He won for us. This series begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and continues Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings during Lent.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #427

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

- 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.

INVOCATION

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.
People: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
People: **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

CANTICLE #611, vs. 1,4,5 *“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.

5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

THE LITANY OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

People: We confess to you, Merciful Father,
that our sin has broken down our relationship with You.

Pastor: We confess to you, Jesus, our Savior,
People: **that we have not built on Your solid foundation.**

Pastor: We confess to you, Spirit Comforter,
People: **that our sin has left us in ruin and despair.**

Pastor: O Lord,
People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,
People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Lord,
People: have mercy. Amen.

(Time for silent reflection and confession)

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CANTICLE #912

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

- 1 Christ is our cornerstone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.
- 2 Here may we gain from heav'n
The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n,
Be with us evermore
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.
- 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious name.

FIRST READING

Revelation 21:22-27

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Matthew 24:1-2

Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION "Rolling Stones: Destruction"
Pastor Seth Flick

HYMN #645, vs. 1-4

"Built on the Rock"

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
 Even when steeples are falling.
 Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
 Bells still are chiming and calling,
 Calling the young and old to rest,
 But above all the souls distressed,
 Longing for rest everlasting.
- 2 Surely in temples made with hands
 God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
 High above earth His temple stands,
 All earthly temples excelling.
 Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
 Chooses to live with us in love,
 Making our bodies His temple.

- 3 We are God's house of living stones,
 Built for His own habitation.
 He through baptismal grace us owns
 Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
 Were we but two His name to tell,
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell
 With all His grace and His favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes,
 Telling how God has received us.
 The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
 And what His Supper here gives us.
 Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
 Christ yesterday, today, the same,
 And evermore, our Redeemer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me"

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

LITANY

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church here and around the world, and people everywhere in their various needs.

For everyone weighed down by their bondage to sin and an inability to stop sinning by thought, word, and deed, let us pray to the Lord.

People: For the sake of Christ's sacrifice, heavenly Father, open their ears to hear the Gospel anew; free them to live before You in Your kingdom.

Pastor: For everyone who has fallen prey to society's distorted morality, let us pray to the Lord.

People: For the sake of Christ's sacrifice, heavenly Father, surround them with faithful and caring members of the Body of Christ; call them back in repentance and hope.

Pastor: For those who keep the peace at home or are deployed abroad, for those who provide care and guidance in relationships, finances, and health, and for those who respond to natural disasters and crises of various sorts, let us pray to the Lord.

People: For the sake of Christ's sacrifice, heavenly Father, accompany them with Your Holy Spirit; protect them from harm, and give them wisdom in all circumstances.

Pastor: For ourselves and the Church around the world as we seek to live according to Your will, let us pray to the Lord.

People: For the sake of Christ's sacrifice, heavenly Father, assure us that we are Your redeemed children; forgive our errors, and send us to serve in faithfulness and love.

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

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.

CLOSING LENTEN COLLECT

Pastor: Dear Father in heaven, who having created us knows well our frailties, purify our motives for all our works, that they proceed from faith in Christ, our Redeemer, and be done because we love You above all else; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

CLOSING CANTICLE #878, vs. 1,2,4,6 *“Abide with Me”*

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

* * * * *

Guest Organist: Ed Kappeler
Acolytes: Alex and Andrew Harshbarger
Sound: Shannon Bader
Elder: Paul Ewan