



# Jesus Drops the Veil

Mark 14:53-72

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Prospect Heights, IL

Office: 847-537-4430

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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## Look Out! Look Up to Jesus

### As We Gather

Few are as popular in America as is Jesus. Polls and books may show that people don't like the church, but they do like Jesus. In fact, any religion that comes to America has to find a way to account for Jesus and treat him positively in order to survive in America. And in recent years several books have come out highlighting that very fact. One by Steven Prothero is entitled *American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon*. The other by Richard Fox, is entitled, *Jesus in America: Personal Savior, Cultural Hero, National Obsession*. So, from movies like *Last Temptation of Christ* down through *Jesus Christ Superstar*, to *Godspell*, to Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, Jesus has been an object of fascination for Americans. But which Jesus? Jesus is the center of the gracious Good News. We are God's workmanship, and now He holds the door open as we walk through, looking up to Jesus, just as the Israelites looked to the pole with the bronze serpent...

### Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### Introduction

P Today is the "lightest" Sunday in Lent, once called Laetare, for the old Introit that began "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem." Our Readings call us to look up to Christ on the cross and rejoice, for by grace He leads us from death to life.

## Opening Hymn 972 I TRUST, O CHRIST, IN YOU ALONE

1 I trust, O Christ, in You alone;  
No earthly hope avails me.  
You will not see me overthrown  
When Satan's host assails me.  
No human strength, no earthly pow'r  
Can see me through the evil hour,  
For You alone my strength renew.  
I cry to You!  
I trust, O Lord, Your promise true.

2 My sin and guilt are plaguing me;  
O grant me true contrition  
And by Your death upon the tree  
Your pardon and remission.  
Before the Father's throne above  
Recall Your matchless deed of love  
That He may lift my dreadful load,  
O Son of God!  
I plead the grace Your death bestowed.

3 Confirm in us Your Gospel, Lord,  
Your promise of salvation.  
And make us long to hear Your Word  
And follow our vocation:  
To spend our lives in love for You  
And show Your love in all we do.  
And then, at last, when death shall loom,  
O Savior, come  
And bear Your loved ones safely home.

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### Opening Sentences

*Numbers 21:9; Ephesians 2:4–5; John 3:16*

P Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone,  
C **he would look at the bronze serpent and live.**

P But God, . . . even when we were dead in our trespasses,  
C **made us alive together with Christ.**

P For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,  
C **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

## Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P God's steadfast love endures forever!

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.

C **Although we are on the way to the heavenly promised land, like the Israelites in the desert, we complain about many things. We are sinful and unclean at heart and often follow the desires of the body and the mind.**

P God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,

C **made us alive together with Christ.**

P God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,

C **but in order that the world might be saved through Him.**

P By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 107:1–9; antiphon: v. 19*

P Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,

C **and He delivered them from their distress.**

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

C **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

P Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

C **whom He has redeemed from trouble  
and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.**

P Some wandered in desert wastes,  
finding no way to a city to dwell in;  
hungry and thirsty,  
their soul fainted within them.

C **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and He delivered them from their distress.**

P He led them by a straight way  
till they reached a city to dwell in.

C **Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,  
for His wondrous works to the children of men!**

P For He satisfies the longing soul,  
and the hungry soul He fills with good things.

C **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and He delivered them from their distress.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Kyrie

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who saved us while we were still sinners,

C **have mercy on us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, once lifted upon the tree of the cross,

C **have mercy on us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy on us and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

## Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Numbers 21:4–9*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

*Hebrews 12:2*

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 2:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand as you are able and without pain)*

**Gospel**

*Mark 14:53-72*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

53And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. 54And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. 55Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. 56For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. 57And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, 58“‘We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” 59Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. 60And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” 61But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” 62And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” 63And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? 64You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. 65And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” And the guards received him with blows.

66And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, 67and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” 68But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. 69And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” 70But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” 71But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” 72And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn of the Day 430 My Song Is Love Unknown sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 My song is love unknown,<br>My Savior’s love to me,<br>Love to the loveless shown<br>That they might lovely be.<br>Oh, who am I<br>That for my sake<br>My Lord should take<br>Frail flesh and die?                | 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?<br>What makes this rage and spite?<br>He made the lame to run,<br>He gave the blind their sight.<br>Sweet injuries!<br>Yet they at these<br>Themselves displease<br>And ’gainst Him rise. |
| 2 He came from His blest throne<br>Salvation to bestow;<br>But men made strange, and none<br>The longed-for Christ would know.<br>But, oh, my friend,<br>My friend indeed,<br>Who at my need<br>His life did spend! | 5 They rise and needs will have<br>My dear Lord made away;<br>A murderer they save,<br>The Prince of Life they slay.<br>Yet cheerful He<br>To suffering goes<br>That He His foes<br>From thence might free.              |

7 Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend!

*Text: Public domain*

## **Sermon – “Jesus Drops the Veil”**

### **Apostles’ Creed**

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their various circumstances.

When the Israelites became impatient, they spoke against God and against Moses. Let us pray for all who are in positions of authority in our nation and others, that God would give them wisdom to seek ways to meet the needs of their citizens, providing for equal justice and stability for everyone within their borders. And let us pray for police and armed forces, that God would protect them as they maintain security and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Many people follow the course of this world carrying out their desires, by nature children of wrath. Let us pray for people who influence our culture and society but without faith in our Savior, that God would open their eyes to look up to Christ on the cross, working faith in their hearts, and making them alive together with Christ. And let us pray for lay and clergy leaders of the Church here and around the world, that God would give them strength and opportunity to spread the Gospel with joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** When the Israelites were in the wilderness without food and water, God provided manna. Let us pray for all who lack adequate food, clothing, and shelter, that He would provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to channel the resources He provides to where they are most needed. And let us pray that all who manage God’s bounty, serving Him so that it moves from mine to tool, from farm to table, from warehouse to storefront, and from street to home. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

- P The psalmist remembered that when “they cried to the Lord in their trouble, . . . He delivered them from their distress.” Let us pray for all who are troubled in body, mind, or spirit, both those near and dear to us, including Hedy Beer, Kathleen, Alicia, Sallyann, Sheila, Lou, Jean Staffa, Dana, Kaylee, Leah, Terri, Rory, Jean, Ray Wirsing, Rod Isaacson, Sharlene, Fran, Doug, Paula, Wally Olson, Annette Kirschenmann, Kathie Kirschenmann, and Pastor Barber and his family and those known only to God, that He would bring about healing, relief, comfort, and peace as fits His gracious plans for them. And let us pray for ourselves and all who care for the sick and dying, that we serve our gracious God using the gifts He provides. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.
- C **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

- C **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.**

### Blessing

- P The Almighty Father, the Christ, the Son ✠ of the Blessed One, and the Holy Spirit strengthen you in believing and guard you in peace.
- C **Amen.**

### 756 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Why should cross and trial grieve me?<br/>Christ is near<br/>With His cheer;<br/>Never will He leave me.<br/>Who can rob me of the heaven<br/>That God's Son<br/>For me won<br/>When His life was given?</p>            | <p>3 God gives me my days of gladness,<br/>And I will<br/>Trust Him still<br/>When He sends me sadness.<br/>God is good; His love attends me<br/>Day by day,<br/>Come what may,<br/>Guides me and defends me.</p> |
| <p>2 When life's troubles rise to meet me,<br/>Though their weight<br/>May be great,<br/>They will not defeat me.<br/>God, my loving Savior, sends them;<br/>He who knows<br/>All my woes<br/>Knows how best to end them</p> | <p>4 From God's joy can nothing sever,<br/>For I am<br/>His dear lamb,<br/>He, my Shepherd ever.<br/>I am His because He gave me<br/>His own blood<br/>For my good,<br/>By His death to save me.</p>              |

5 Now in Christ, death cannot slay me,  
    Though it might,  
    Day and night,  
Trouble and dismay me.  
Christ has made my death a portal  
    From the strife  
    Of this life  
To His joy immortal!

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*Text (sts. 1–3): Public domain*

## Dismissal

*Ephesians 2:10*

P You are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Therefore, go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

## Acknowledgments

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## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Wheeling Food Pantry Wish List:**

The Wheeling Township food pantry is in need of the following items: Beans (Cannellini, Northern, Pinto) Flour, Mayonnaise, Rice (1 lb or 2 lb bags) and Sugar Items can be dropped off at the Wheeling Township office located at 1616 N Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights. Questions can be directed to Julie Villarreal at 847-259-7730.

### **Midweek (Wednesday) devotions through Lent:**

**Schedule: Wednesdays February 24 – March 24, 2021**

**7:00 to 7:45 pm:** Devotions Online, with discussion following

**Website:** <https://Koinonia.ClickMeeting.com>

**Look for: Lenten Midweek Devotions and click the button to [Join]**

**Phone-in Chicago: +1 (312) 702-1380**

**Participant PIN: 817491474#**

**Event ID: 877-837-975**

- The Pastor-Led Bible Studies on Wednesday evenings will be suspended during Lent, allowing for MidWeek Lenten Devotions on Wednesdays through the week prior to Holy Week (March 28-April 4). Pastor-Led Bible Studies will resume on Wednesdays, starting on April 21, 2021.

### **Worship:**

If you are planning to attend in person worship, please register each week using the link below.

<https://rsvp.church/r/PsLbwYgP>

If you find you can't attend after registering, you can go to your confirmation email and remove yourself or indicate to Jim that you are not coming.

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube Live and recorded and published on YouTube.

Please dispose of your worship bulletin (and Communion supplies) or take them with you. We are not recycling them.

We are resuming the use of the mailboxes upstairs, so please check yours for the March Monthly News and calendar.

### **Altar Flowers:**

We have resumed our Altar Flower program. Anyone interested in ordering flowers for the Church Altar, please contact Laurie in the Church Office at 847/537-4430 or

[office@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:office@ourredeemerprospectheights.org)

### **Online Giving:**

We are now set up for Online Giving on our website as well as in Breeze. If you haven't set up your personal Breeze account, please do so using the email invite that was sent out to you. Setting up your account allows you to update your personal contact information and allows access to online giving. If you need another invitation or need help setting it up, please contact Jim Burmeister at [elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org) or (847) 934-5963.

**Email address for Pastor Jim:**

If you would like to send an email to Pastor Jim, please use the following address:  
[Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org).

**Prayer Request Information:**

If you have a prayer request, please notify Jim Burmeister via text at (847) 343-3798, Phone (847)934-5963 home or (847)343-3798 cell; or via email at [elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org).

**Are you a Thrivent Member?**

Have you directed your Choice Dollars? Please remember to check your Thrivent account at least on an annual basis and indicate where you would like to have them directed. Both Our Redeemer and Sonshine are included in the recognized recipients and would appreciate being designated. Thrivent provides this free of charge to members, so remember to take advantage of their generosity!



**Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM**

**Holy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 7:00 PM**

**Good Friday Tre Ore, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM**