

P: We confess that we have, at times, gambled with our eternal life through sin.

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us, forgive us, and hear us as we pray.

All: Dear Jesus, we know that you watched as the soldiers gambled for your last earthly possessions. You saw how their eyes focused only on the low stakes of small earthly gain. Be with us, Lord, and by your Holy Spirit, help us to keep our eyes focused on the high stakes of heaven. May we never gamble with our eternal life by putting you off, by trusting in our own good deeds, or by carelessly sinning. Instead, may we be certain of our eternal prize through faith in you. In your name we have prayed. Amen.

#### Offering/ Offertory

Renew! #187 "Purify My Heart"

*Purify my heart, touch me with your cleansing fire.*

*Take me to the cross; your holiness is my desire.*

*Breathe life in me, kindle a love that flows from your throne.*

*Oh, purify my heart. Purify my heart.*

#### Closing Prayers

#### Benediction

#### Closing Hymn

#448 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

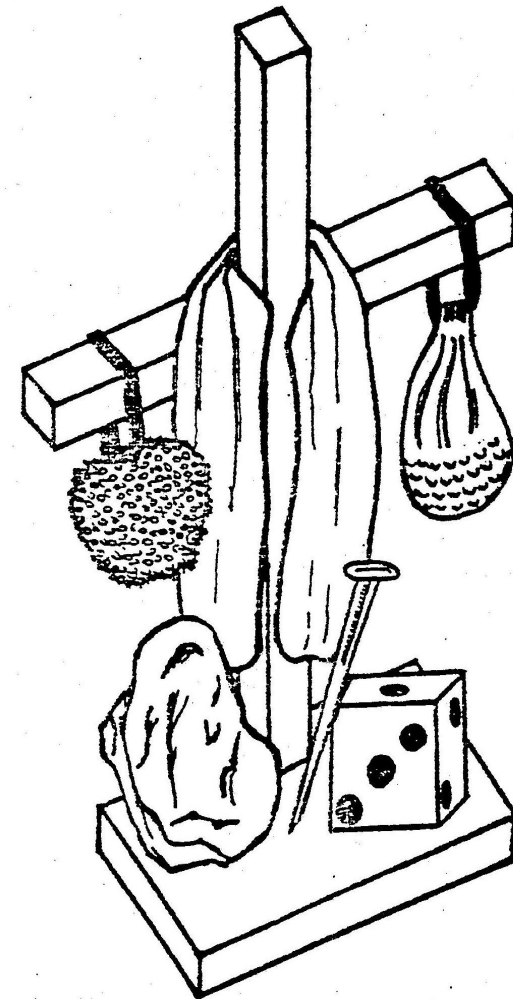
*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

**For He is our peace...  
...through the CROSS**



**CROSS/PEACE**

Lenten mid-week worship

March 25, 2020

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

**Opening Hymn: #106 "In the Hour of Trial"**

*In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me,  
lest by base denial I depart from thee.*

*When thou seest me waver, with a look recall;  
nor from fear or favor suffer me to fall.*

*With forbidden pleasures should this vain world charm,  
or its sordid treasures spread to work me harm,  
bring to my remembrance sad Gethsemane,  
or, in darker semblance, cross-crowned Calvary.*

*Should thy mercy send me sorrow, toil, and woe,  
or should pain attend me on my path below,  
grant that I may never fail thy hand to see;  
grant that I may ever cast my care on thee.*

**Lenten Response**

P: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.**

P: Seek the Lord while he may be found.

**C: Call upon him while he is near.**

P: Let the wicked abandon their ways,

**C: and the unrighteous their thoughts.**

P: Let them turn to the Lord for mercy,

**C: to our God, who is generous in forgiving.**

P: All you who are thirsty, come to the water.

You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk.

**C: Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Lord, somehow we are so earthly possessed that we are not heavenly enriched. We are so preoccupied with earthly gain that we neglect the spiritual treasures we can have in Christ. Holy Spirit, help us to seek the kingdom of God first, knowing we cannot serve two masters. Set our minds on things that are eternal and from above. Amen.

First Lesson: Judges 11:30-40

*Jephthah seeks vengeance on his brothers. He binds himself in an oath to God that if he, an outcast, leads the people of Israel to victory over their enemies, when he returns home he will slay the first person to come out of the house. Jephthah gambles that it will be one of his brothers. Jephthah pays a terrible penalty.*

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:7-1

*Paul declares that he places all his hope and trust in Jesus Christ alone.*

Gospel: John 19:23-24

*Jesus is crucified. At the foot of the cross the soldiers throw dice to see who will get to keep Jesus' tunic. The soldiers' stakes are low, but for Jesus they are high. He must triumph over sin or all humanity will be lost forever.*

**Message**

"The Highest Stakes" (object: dice)

**Hymn Journey During Lent**

#482 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a tribute far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!*

**Lenten Litany**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, by your agony on the cross, you have won for us peace with God and the promise of life everlasting.

**C: We give you our thanks and praise.**

P: O Lord, you have promised that you have prepared a place for us in heaven, and that you will return for us, that we may be where you are.

**C: We give you our thanks and praise.**

P: O Lord, by your cross you have made us big winners, you have won for us the prize of happiness eternal.

**C: We give you our thanks and praise.**

P: We confess that there have been times when we have gambled with our spiritual lives when we put you off, considering the things of this life to be more important than you.

**C: O Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us.**

P: We confess that there have been times when we have gambled with our spiritual lives through our neglect of worship, prayer, and Scripture study.

**C: O Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us.**