

Order of Service–April 6, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting **please rise as you are able and comfortable and welcome one another into worship**

Welcome of New Members: Cindy and Michael Lanini

Invocation **please remain standing**

"Here I Am to Worship"

"10,000 Reasons" **please be seated**

First reading from Luke 23:1-16

Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. [2] And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." [3] And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." [4] Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." [5] But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

[6] When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. [7] And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. [8] When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. [9] So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. [10] The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. [11] And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. [12] And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

[13] Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, [14] and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. [15] Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. [16] I will therefore punish and release him."

Confession and Absolution

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another....

C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so

that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen

"In Christ Alone" *please rise as you are comfortable and able*

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator 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

Reading from Luke 23:17-25 *please be seated*

Context: Even the highly politicized, far less than impartial Pontius Pilate could find no evil in Jesus. When the world is confronted with the truth of Jesus, the only condemnation of Christ and his followers comes from those who knowingly disavow the truth and purposely try to destroy the one true threat to their evil-the grace and truth of the gospel.

[17] Pilate needed to release one prisoner to them at the Festival. [18] But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"— [19] a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. [20] Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, [21] but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" [22] A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." [23] But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. [24] So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. [25] He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

Children's Message & Offering

Message: "What Evil Has This Man Done?"

Theme: Jesus' accusers were guilty of the charge they were laying against Jesus. Nothing has changed in the tactics used against Christ and His Church even to this date. The devil and his willing human accomplices accuse Christ and Christians of the evil they themselves are committing.

Responsive Prayer and Reflection *please rise as you are comfortable and able*

(Pastor Speaks the light print, the congregation responds with the dark print)

P: O God

C: The devil and the world around us

P: accuse Christ and we his followers with they very evils they are committing.

C: But light of the Word of Life shines in the darkest corners of sin and sinful people.

P: In the face of this evil, may we ever hold fast to the confession:

C: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Amen

Blessing

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Go in Peace + Serve the Lord!