

**Restored in Christ
Broken Justice
A Service for Lent
March 16, 2016**

Order of Service

Opening Hymn #563 “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” Stanzas 1, 3-6

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Lord, I believe thy precious blood, which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives’ liberty, was also shed in love for me.

Lord, I believe, were sinners more than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, for all a full atonement made.

When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all thy hands have made, an everlasting ransom paid.

Opening Litany (Rise)

Pastor: In ancient times, God made clear that his people are to love justice and to show mercy.

People: “Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God,” God said through the prophet Micah.

Pastor: When Jesus confronted hypocrites, he renewed Micah’s words.

People: Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Pastor: The world craves justice and kindness, but finds little of either.

People: Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Pastor: But here, tonight, we delight to know that what God demands of us, he eagerly and fully gives to us.

People: Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Pastor: God works with perfect justice and God freely showers us with kindness. He teaches us to walk in faith and humility.

People: Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Pastor: The justice that God gives is not the justice of the world. It is justice coupled with kindness and offered in humility. It is the justice of the Gospel.

People: Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Pastor: So here in this place we experience God’s justice, rejoice in God’s kindness and learn to walk humbly with him.

People: Here in this place we receive the gifts of the Gospel.

Hymn #852 “O God of Mercy, God of Might” Stanzas 1, 3,4

O God of mercy, God of might, In love and pity infinite,
Teach us, as ever in thy sight, To live our lives in thee.

Teach us the lesson thou hast taught: To feel for those thy blood hath bought,
That ev’ry word and deed and thought May work a work for thee.

All are redeemed, both far and wide, Since thou, O Lord, for all hast died.
Grant us the will and grace provide To love them all in thee!

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Justice is often sought, but usually proves elusive in the world, and even in our own lives. It is not easy to do what is fair, and we know that there are even times when we would rather not treat others with justice. But an even more frightening prospect should be the possibility that justice might actually one day be applied to us. Aware of our problems with justice, we seek from God his great mercy.

People: Lord God, justice demands too much. It requires us to act when we see what is unfair, so we close our eyes. It demands us to give when we hear of need, so we cover our ears. It insists that we intervene when we encounter suffering and pain, and so we retreat to the safety of our personal worlds. We do not do justice. We are guilty. According to the standard of your justice, we are crushed. We deserve only punishment and death. Lord, give us not justice, but mercy.

Pastor: God is just, and sin must be punished. But God is merciful and is eager to give mercy. In Jesus he did both. Jesus took your sin. Jesus took your failure. Jesus took your guilt. For your sin, he suffered and died. Jesus received justice; you receive mercy. For Jesus’ sake, you are forgiven. You are free.

People: Amen. (Be seated)

First Reading ... Leviticus 16:20-22

When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task. The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert.

Second Reading ... 2 Corinthians 5:12-21

We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel Reading ... John 19:1-16 (*Rise*)

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" and they struck him in the face. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back

inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. (*Be seated*)

Sermon Hymn #423 "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, you have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see you wounded, bleeding, see your thorn encircled brow?
Yet your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace and rest;
Only what your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning to behold your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Sermon

"Broken Justice"

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Offering As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

Prayers (*Rise*)

Each petition ends with the following response:

Pastor: Christ who heals all brokenness,

People: restore justice through your cross.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: Now may God the Father who established this world in the justice of his good plan and God the Son who did all that was needed to restore the world according to that perfect plan and God the Holy Spirit who works now in us and in the world to establish that final plan, give you his peace.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn #420 "Christ, the Life of All the Living" Stanzas 1,7

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:
Through thy suff' rings, death and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, for thy sorrows deep and sore,
For thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank thee evermore,
Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing, for thy bleeding and thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

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Worship Leader
Lectors
Acolyte
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Bob Reynolds, Laurel Privatt
Elena Gonzalez-Clark
Roger Gottschalk

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday March 19 at 5:00pm & March 20 at 8:00 & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday March 24 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Good Friday March 25 at 1:00 & 6:00pm

Easter Vigil March 26 at 5:00pm

Easter Celebration March 27 at 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00am

