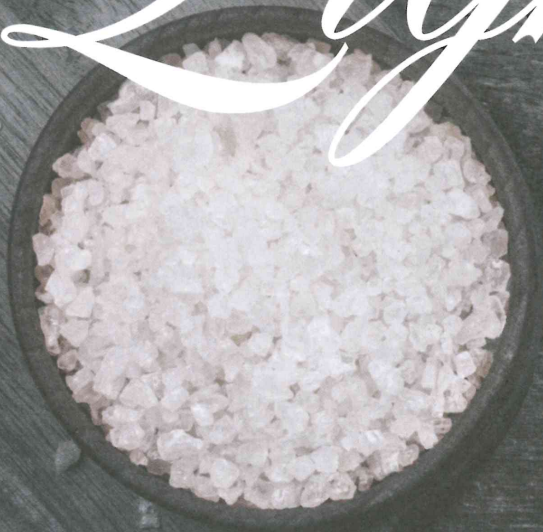


SERMON *on the* MOUNT

SALT

and

Light





“Salt and Light”

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 6:30 pm

✠ PREPARATION ✠

The congregation gathers in silence.

RINGING OF THE BELL

Please stand for portions of service marked with an asterisk ()*

WELCOME

Pastor Chris Matthis

ELDER PRAYER

***INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

***HYMN**

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

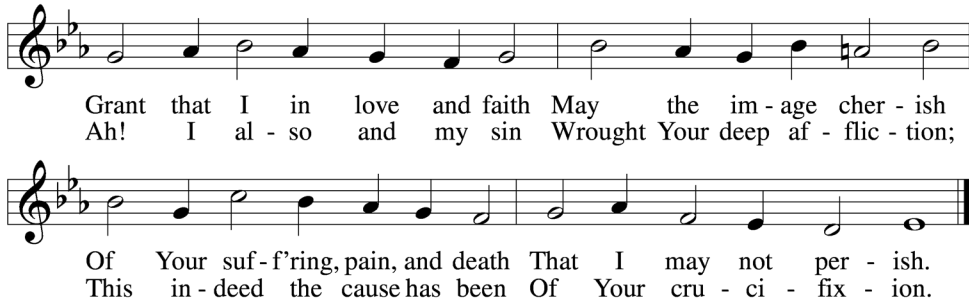
LSB 440 vs. 1 & 3



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im-age cher-ish
 Ah! I al-so and my sin Wrought Your deep af-flic-tion;
 Of Your suf-f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per-ish.
 This in-deed the cause has been Of Your cru-ci-fix-ion.

Tune and text: Public domain

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST *(read by Pastor)* ***Gethsemane***

When they had sung a hymn, he went out, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all be offended because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee."

Peter answered and said to him, "Even if all the others deny you, I will never deny you."

Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you this night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

But Peter said more vehemently, "If I have to die with you, I will never deny you." And all the others said likewise.

They went over the brook Kidron and came to a place which was called Gethsemane. There was a garden there, and he went into it with his disciples. Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. And when he was at the place, he said to them, "Sit down here, while I go on ahead and pray. Pray that you do not enter into temptation."

He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be full of sorrow and turmoil. Then he said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Wait here, and watch with me." He went on a little from them, about a stone's throw. He fell on his face and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He

said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup from me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."

An angel appeared to him from heaven, strengthening him; and he prayed, saying, "O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." In agony, he prayed more earnestly, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done." His sweat fell on the ground like great drops of blood.

When he got up from prayer, he came to his disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He went away again the second time and prayed, saying, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, your will be done." When he returned, he found them asleep again; for their eyes were heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. He left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Then he came to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour is come; behold, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. Look, the one who betrays me is here."

Even while he was saying this, Judas, one of the Twelve, came with a detachment and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees. They came to the place with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon him, went out to them and said, "Whom do you seek?"

They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said to them, "I am he."

Judas, who betrayed him, had taken his stand with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom do you seek?"

They said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus replied, "I told you that I am he. If I am the one you seek, then let these others go." This was to fulfill the word he had spoken, "Of those you gave me I have lost none."

Now he that was betraying Jesus had given them a sign, saying, "The one whom I shall kiss, that is he; seize him and be sure to take him away securely." He went straight up to Jesus and said, "Hail, Master," and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come? Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

They came then and laid their hands on Jesus and took him. When those who were about him saw what would happen, they said to him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Jesus answered, "No more of that." And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath. All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Do you imagine that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he will send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled that it must be so? The cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink of it?"

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, and the captains of the temple, and the elders who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a thief, with swords and clubs to take me? When I was with you day after day teaching in the temple, you did not lay your hands on me; but this is your hour and the hour of the power of darkness. All this has happened that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook him and fled.

There was a certain young man who followed along. He had only a linen cloth around his naked body. They laid hold on him, but he slipped out of the linen cloth and fled away naked.

Then the detachment and its captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus, and bound him, and led him away to Annas first; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Now Caiaphas was the one who gave counsel to the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: You are the salt of the earth.

People: Our Christianity flavors, enhances and preserves Your creation.

Pastor: You are the light of the world.

People: Our light sent and sustained by Christ cannot be hidden.

Pastor: You are the lamp that lights the house.

People: Our reflection of the light of Jesus drives away darkness.

Pastor: Do good works that others may see

People: and give glory to the Father.

Pastor: You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

People: May we never lose our flavor or dim the light. Amen.

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: We are created by God to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Too often we are neither. Forgive us, O Lord.

People: Most merciful God, when we fail to salt the earth with Your love, forgive us. When we fail to shine the light of Your peace, forgive us. When we place the light of Christ under a basket, forgive us. When we hide Jesus, deny him, or cover up our Christianity, forgive us. We are sinful from birth and sin against You in thought, word and deed. Our neighbors are too often shielded from Your light because we are sinners. Forgive us of all of our sins and grant us Your mercy.

Pastor: Jesus is the true salt of the earth and the light of the world from all eternity. For you he hung on the cross on earth's darkest day and rose again from the dead to shine the light of eternity. Therefore, I announce to you that all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 5:13-16

(Salt and light)

[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LSB 411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.

The night and the day are both a - like.

The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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SERMON

“Salt and Light”

Pastor Chris Matthis

OFFERING

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.epiphanylc.org and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.



If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY](#)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Down to the Valley to Pray”

Adult Choir

*PRAYERS

Pastor: Lord Jesus, you are the salt of the earth. So flavor this world with your love and forgiveness that presidents, kings and princes would act justly and love mercy and, as a result, see to it that all people would have the opportunity to hear about and experience your grace. In your mercy,

People: **make us to be salt and light.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. You shine your light through your Church and have called and created us to be living examples and loving people. Forgive us when we fail to shine the light of your love. Then shine your

light in us and through us that everyone we meet would see your glory. In your mercy,

People: make us to be salt and light.

Pastor Lord Jesus, you are the lamp that lights the house. Bring your light into all of our households that mothers, fathers, children and all family members live in love and harmony. Make our homes the places where your salt and light are passed on from one generation to the next. In your mercy,

People: make us to be salt and light.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, you do all things well. When we are ill, you are the one who has the ability to make us well. Lay your healing hand on all who are hospitalized, suffering from chronic illness or nearing the end of earthly life. Make them well in your own way and according to your good pleasure. In your mercy,

People: make us to be salt and light.

Pastor: Into your hands, Lord Jesus, we place all of our needs, knowing that you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

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 communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN**

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text and tune: Public domain

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Midweek Lenten Services (all begin at 6:30 pm)

March 10th – Do Not Worry – Rev. John Larson

March 17th – Judge Not – Rev. Chris Matthis

March 24th – Build on the Rock – Rev. John Larson

Holy Week Services

April 1st, 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday (with Holy Communion)

April 2nd, 7:00 pm – Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 3rd, 5:00 pm – Easter Service (with Communion)

April 4th, 8:00 am & 9:30 am & 11:00 am –

Resurrection Sunday (with Holy Communion)

SERVING THE LORD TONIGHT

(March 3, 2021)

Readings: *(Holy Gospel)* Matthew 5:13-16

	6:30 pm
Preacher	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>
Elders	<i>Larry Drees</i>
Accompanist	<i>Carol Krueger</i>
Acolyte	<i>Thomas Sprankle</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Ardath Appel</i>
Sound System	<i>Tim Schneider</i>



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ME SYSTEM LINK: <https://epiphanylc.ccbchurch.com/login.php>

Pastor Chris Matthis + Cell: 303-921-0717

pastorchris@epiphanylc.org

(Pastor available by appointment)

DCE Kristin Schmidt + Cell: 951-775-6134 + Tu-F 8 am - 4 pm

dce@epiphanylc.org

Mrs. Donata Rolf + office@epiphanylc.org + Office hours: M-F 8 am – 4 pm

Ms. Mary Wenkheimer, Choir Director + choir@epiphanylc.org

Ms. Debbie Stewart, Accounting Specialist + accounting@epiphanylc.org

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

"We help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"

