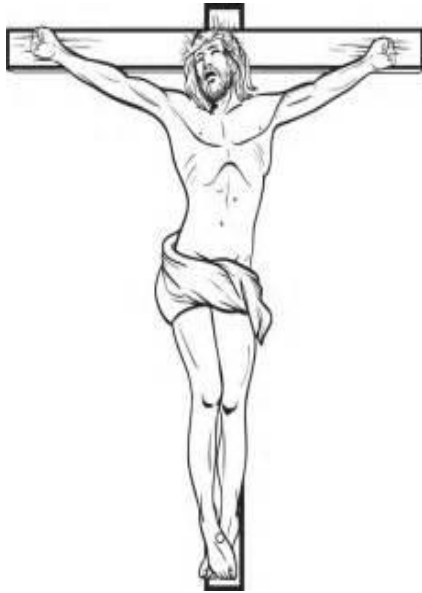


**Lenten Worship + March 12, 2025
Grace Through Faith Ministries
Pastor Bradley A. Pearson**



Prelude

Invocation

+ Confession +

From Heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth ...

All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

(Psalm 33:13-14 and Proverbs 16:2)

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on me.

**Help me face the truth about myself:
to hear my words as others hear them;
to see my face as others see me;
to guard my behavior as others are watching me.**

**Teach me to understand my impatience,
to recognize my selfishness.**

**Shepherd me to accept my weakness
and say, "I was wrong, forgive me".**

Amen

Absolution of Sin

Red 338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Cross Walk

Being found in appearance as a man, Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

A man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped His feet with her hair.)

The sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick".

When He heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it".

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days, and then He said to His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea".

On His arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home.

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask".

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again".

Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day".

Jesus said to her, **"I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die"**.

Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," Jesus said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for Lazarus has been there four days".

Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe You sent Me".

When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go".

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in Jesus. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

"What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation".

Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish". So from that day on they plotted to take Jesus' life.

Six days before the Passover (Saturday, the day before Palm Sunday), Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor.

Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Jesus.

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Jesus, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages".

Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as a keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Jesus said, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to Me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have Me. When she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this Gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her".

Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in Him.

The next day (Palm Sunday), the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem.

They took palm branches and went out to meet Jesus, shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Blessed is the King of Israel!"

Now the crowd that was with Jesus when He called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that Jesus had performed this sign, went out to meet Him.

So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Jesus!"

(Excerpts from John 11 & 12; Matthew 26:10-13)

Red 623 "Rock of Ages"

Offering

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude