

# Forgiveness



**W**elcome to Beautiful Savior!

**5631 North Adams Road,  
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**FORGIVENESS - *"The Death Penalty:  
Forgiving the Unforgiveable"*  
January 23, 2022 9:00 a.m.**

The death penalty is used by society in cases when people have decided that someone did something so unforgiveable that death should be the consequence. Biblically, we know that the wages of sin – all sin – is death. Still, how does a community handle a situation when the ultimate consequence seems like the only option? Also, how does the use of execution affect not only the person put to death, but also those who use execution as a tool?

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P: Pastor

C: Congregation

A: Assistant Minister

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC

*“O Day of Peace”*

Charles Callahan

*O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God’s grace our warring world shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(Please kneel as you are able during a time of silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

P: Rejoice in this good news: In ✚ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## GATHERING HYMN

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

### *Refrain*

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR MISSION STATEMENT

P: Although as individuals we are unique in many and various ways, we gather as a congregation for a common mission.

**C: In Jesus's name, we:**

**Bring Glory to God through fulfilling worship,**

**Serve God's people, both within our congregation and without,**

**Learn about the Lord's will for us through sharing and teaching, and**

**Connect within our membership and reach out to connect with others.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## **CHORAL ANTHEM**

*"Ancient Words"*

Lynn DeShazo/Mary McDonald

*Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,  
they resound with God's own heart; oh, let the ancient words impart.  
Words of life, words of hope give us strength, help us cope;  
in this world where'er we roam, the ancient words will guide us home.*

*Ancient words ever true, changing me and changing you;  
we have come with open hearts; oh, let the ancient words impart.*

*Holy words of our faith, handed down to this age,  
came to us through sacrifice; oh, heed the faithful words of Christ.  
Ancient words ever true, changing me and changing you;  
we have come with open hearts; oh, let the ancient words impart.*

*Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,  
they resound with God's own heart; oh, let the ancient words impart.  
Ancient words ever true, changing me and changing you;  
we have come with open hearts; oh, let the ancient words impart.*

## **WORSHIP THEME PROVERB**

*Proverbs 17:9*

A: Together, let us recite Proverbs 17:9:

**C: One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE READING**

Gwen Fitzgerald

## **READING**

*Genesis 4:1-16*

A: The reading is from the book of Genesis, the fourth chapter.

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the Lord." Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain

was very angry, and his countenance fell. The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.” Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” And the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen; your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.” Then the Lord said to him, “Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## **GOSPEL VERSE**

*“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

**ELW 836**

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

## **GOSPEL**

*Matthew 5:38-42*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Karyn Parker, Interim Children's Ministries Coordinator

## SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack, Senior Pastor  
"The Death Penalty: Forgiving the Unforgiveable"

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

**ELW 588**

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.
- 2 There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.
- 3 For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

P: You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression (especially). God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation (especially). Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn (especially). Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

### **STEWARDSHIP READING**

*Leviticus 27:30*

All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord.

### **OFFERING**

*“When Morning Gilds the Skies”*

Robert A. Hobby

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Together, let us pray:

**C: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**C: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

### ***What is Holy Communion?***

Holy Communion is a meal instituted by Jesus Christ that involves the receiving of God's forgiveness in a tangible form – we receive Jesus's life-giving body and blood in the presence of bread and wine (or grape juice). The meal is a time of remembrance and celebration.

### ***Who can take part?***

Holy Communion is something that not one of us has earned, so we receive it as God's free gift of life. The Church traditionally recommends that people be baptized before taking part, but all that is required is simply a heart that believes in Jesus Christ. If a person of any age wishes to be baptized, please let us know.

### ***How does Holy Communion take place?***

If you wish to take part, come forward as directed by the ushers. You will receive the wafer from the Pastor and the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant. If you wish to come forward for a blessing only, please cross your arms across your chest. You may also remain seated if you so wish.

## POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

P: Together let us pray:

C: **We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## BLESSING

P: May God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✝ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

**ELW 631**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C: We will! Thanks be to God!**

P: And next time ...

**C: ... we'll invite a friend!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

Gordon Young

*We thank you for worshipping with us today.*

*We hope to worship with you again in the near future!*

*Many thanks to all those on our tech team  
for making this livestream service possible.*

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## **HELPFUL INFORMATION**

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – The 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. worship services will be livestreamed through our website and YouTube pages. People can gather with us in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. to worship in a more traditional style in person. We offer a more contemporary style worship service at 11:15 a.m. People can also worship in their homes with the livestream at 9 or 11:15 a.m., as well as access the recording of either service any time after worship concludes.

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