

# In Their Own Words

*Wednesday Lenten Worship Series*

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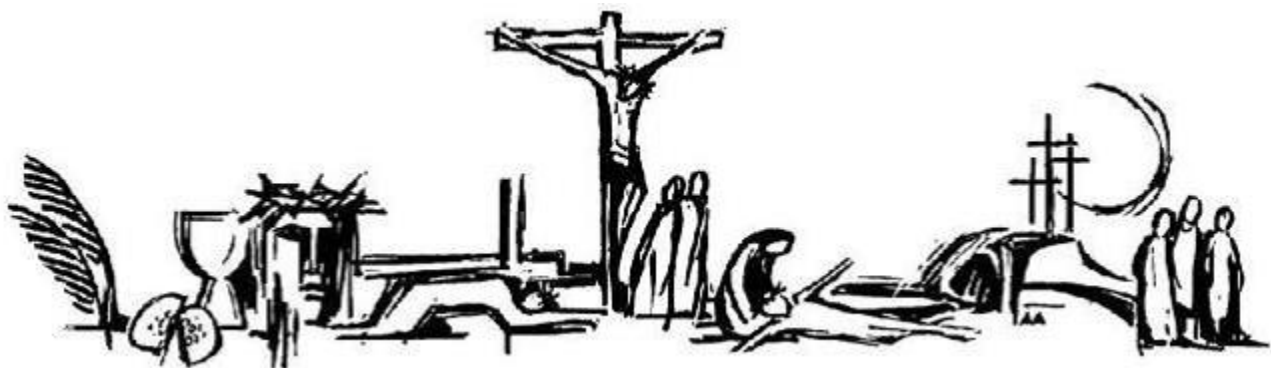
**Wednesday, March 29, 2023 + 7:00pm**

**THE 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF LENT**

St. Martin's Lutheran Church + Archbold, Ohio

[www.the-welcome-place.org](http://www.the-welcome-place.org)

Sunday Worship, 9am + Sunday School, 10:20am



*Welcome to Wednesday worship. Our Lenten worship theme is based on a series of monologues “In Their Own Words.” We will explore individuals connected to Jesus’ ministry and the events surrounding Holy Week.*

*TONIGHT: Mary, as presented by Diane Phelps  
Deacon Steve Basselman, Worship Leader*

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader  
**Bold text is spoken by the Congregation**

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## OPENING DIALOGUE

*Please Stand*

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;

**hear my voice when I cry to you.**

Let my prayer rise before you as incense,

**the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,

**and guard the door of my lips.** *(from Psalm 141)*

I lie down and go to sleep;

**I wake again, because you sustain me.** *(from Psalm 3)*

Hear my prayer, O Lord:

**listen to my cry.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye;

**hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

In righteousness I shall see you;

**when I awake, your presence will give me joy.** *(from Psalm 17)*

OPENING HYMN

"WHAT CHILD IS THIS?"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



## PRAYER

In many and various ways God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets.

**But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.** (*Hebrews 1:1*)

Gracious and holy God, as we gather for worship this night give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Give us a mind to meditate on you; eyes to behold you; ears to listen for your word; a heart to love you; and a life to proclaim you; all in response to the gift of your Son, our Savior, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### LUKE 2:21-35

<sup>21</sup> Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

<sup>22</sup> Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the LORD.” <sup>24</sup> So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him <sup>26</sup> and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> “Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.

<sup>30</sup> I have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared for all people.

<sup>32</sup> He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

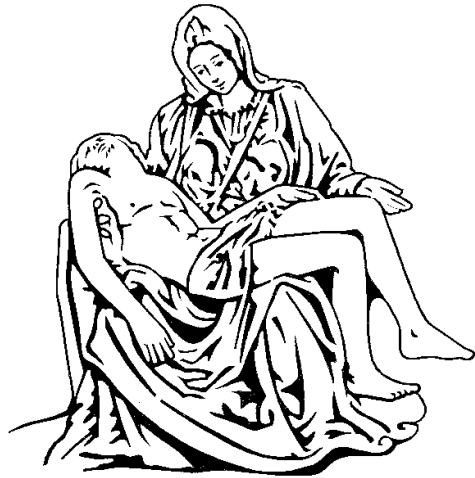
<sup>33</sup> Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. <sup>35</sup> As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

## JOHN 19:23-27

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. <sup>24</sup> So they said, “Rather than tearing it apart, let’s throw dice for it.” This fulfilled the Scripture that says, “They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing.” So that is what they did.

<sup>25</sup> Standing near the cross were Jesus’ mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, “Dear woman, here is your son.” <sup>27</sup> And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS: MARY



## PRAYERS

Beneath the cross of Jesus, we lift up our joys and our concerns to God.

*A brief silence to collect our thoughts...*

O Lord, amid the shifting sands of this world,

**be our rock and our foundation.**

In the fears and uncertainties of our lives,

**be our home and our resting place.**

When we lay our sins before you,

**be our comfort and our guide.**

As we gaze upon the cross of Christ,

**be our hope and our salvation.**

*Additional prayer petitions are offered...concluding with...*

I give thanks to you, my heavenly Father,

**through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today, and I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. For into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen** *(Martin Luther's Evening Prayer)*

O God our help, our hope, our shelter and our home; hear us as we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come,**

**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen**

## BENEDICTION - *Based on Galatians 2:19-20*

People of God, you have been crucified with Christ,

and it is no longer you who live, but it is Christ who lives in you.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

## "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?"



- 1 Must Je - sus bear the cross a - lone and all the world go free?
- 2 The con - se - crat - ed cross I'll bear till death shall set me free;
- 3 Up - on the crys - tal pave - ment, down at Je - sus' pierc - ed feet,
- 4 Oh, pre - cious cross! Oh, glo - rious crown! Oh, res - ur - rec - tion day!



No, there's a cross for ev - 'ry - one, and there's a cross for me.  
and then go home my crown to wear, for there's a crown for me.  
joy - ful, I'll cast my gold - en crown and his dear name re - peat.  
Ye an - gels, from the stars come down and bear my soul a - way.



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News.

**Thanks be to God.**

Scripture quotations are from the *New Living Translation*. *In Their Own Words* by Curt Joseph

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**Chancel Choir** rehearses after worship tonight.

**Wednesday Night Kids Program . . .** Jake has re-launched our Wednesday Night Elementary Kids program. This will take place from 6-7:00 pm for K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. He is still looking for some volunteers who would like to help as Small Group Leaders, Large Program Leaders and Floaters. If this is something you are interested in, come and speak with Jake soon. He would love to fill you in on his vision and plans.

### *Holy Week*

*As we look ahead to Holy Week, please make plans now to experience the whole of the story by participating in each of the Holy Week services.*

Palm Sunday – April 2 at 9:00am

Maundy Thursday – April 6 at 7:00pm

Good Friday – April 7 at 7:30pm (*Please note the later time for Good Friday*)

### *Easter Sunday - April 9*

7:00am Worship, Easter Vigil Sunrise

8:00am Breakfast

8:45am Easter Egg Hunt

9:00am Sunday School (*ending at 9:45*)

10:00am Worship

### *In Their Own Words - Wednesday Worship Series*

**FEBRUARY 22 + JUDAS**

**MARCH 1 + CAIAPHAS**

**MARCH 8 + PILATE**

**MARCH 15 + MARY MAGDALENE**

**MARCH 22 + CENTURION**

**TONIGHT: MARCH 29 + MARY**