



GUIDED *to the* CROSS

Week 1
GUIDED TO HOPE

*Preaching and teaching the truth to His
expanding Kingdom, reaching out to all!*

February 21, 2024

Guided to the Cross Services for Lent

Week 1: Guided to Hope

Order of Service

He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 2 Corinthians 1:10

Opening Hymn ... Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain (Naar Mit Öie 87 87 77)

435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

- 1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
 Sinners, ruined by the fall;
 Here a pure and healing fountain
 Flows for you, for me, for all,
 In a full, perpetual tide,
 Opened when our Savior died.

- 3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
 Wounded, impotent, and blind;
 Here the guilty, free remission,
 Here the troubled, peace may find.
 Health this fountain will restore;
 They that drink shall thirst no more.

- 4 They that drink shall live forever;
 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
 God is faithful; God will never
 Break His covenant of blood,
 Signed when our Redeemer died,
 Sealed when He was glorified.

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Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P When Jesus chased the money changers and merchants from the temple, the religious leaders who opposed him asked for a sign of his authority to do such things. Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). He spoke of the temple of his body. He would be killed and raised to life again on the third day after his death. The sign would be his death and resurrection. The sign would be the cross.

C **In a world of confusion and temptation and loss, we look for a sign to guide us.**

P As the time of his death drew near, Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). There he would take up his cross for the sake of our salvation. As we follow his path during this Lenten season, the cross stands before us as a marker, a signpost, to guide our steps.

C **As Jesus kept his focus on what lay ahead for him, we, too, look to his cross.**

P The cross signified a terrible death. Yet through faith in Jesus our Savior, for us the cross is a sign of triumph in the face of death. The cross is a sign of life and hope.

C **Lord Jesus, set your cross always before us to guide us to the hope of forgiveness and life that are ours through faith in your name! Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us confess our sins to God, and ask for his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, we have the cross of our Lord before us to guide us, but we often turn away from following in his steps. We listen to the temptations of the world instead of gladly hearing your Word. We turn from the hope we have in Jesus to follow our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus was nailed to the cross, suffering the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Lord God, set the cross always before us, and guide us in the way of hope.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn

451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,

David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
 Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
 Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
 See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
 Son of Man and Son of God.

4 Here we have a firm foundation,
 Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
 Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
 Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
 Who on Him their hope have built.

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Old Testament Reading ... Jeremiah 14:21-22

21 Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;
 do not dishonor your glorious throne;
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

22 Are there any among the false gods of the nations that
 can bring rain?

Or can the heavens give showers?
Are you not he, O LORD our God?
 We set our hope on you,
for you do all these things.

Epistle Reading ... 2 Corinthians 1:9-10

2Cor. 1:9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. **10** He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

Gospel Reading ... Luke 23:39-43

Luke 23:39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” **40** But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? **41** And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” **42** And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” **43** And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Sermon Hymn

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain

ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;

In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;

When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain

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Sermon

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

956 Create in Me

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

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Prayers *Each petition ends with the following response:*

P Lord God, we have placed our hope in you. You are faithful, and you always keep your promises. We give you praise and thanks for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for the hope that is ours through faith in his name. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, in you we have hope for eternity and for our life today. You have promised to be with us and to guide us. We pray for those who are struggling today with illness, pain or grief, especially for *[mention known names of those sick, injured or grieving]* and for those we name in our hearts. Fill them with hope, and comfort them with the promises found in your holy Word. Lead us to opportunities to serve and support them in their times of need. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, all of our hopes are fulfilled in Jesus, who is the “Yes!” to all of your promises. Through our Savior’s suffering and death and through his triumphant resurrection, the powers of death and Satan have been crushed. By your grace, through faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, the thief on the cross recognized Jesus, crowned with thorns, as his King. The thief repented of his sins and asked that his King would remember him. Jesus promised, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” That is our hope too. When we fall asleep in death, in that moment, we will be at home with you. Jesus’ promise is for us. We will be with him in paradise. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, you have told us to be ready at all times to be witnesses for our Savior, to speak to others of the hope that we have. Fill us with your Spirit and with the eager readiness to share the good news of forgiveness and life that is ours through faith in Jesus. Set his cross always before us to guide us to hope. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

The Blessing (Romans 8:23-25; Romans 15:13)

P We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

C But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

1 On my heart imprint Your image,
 Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
 Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
 Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
 And my glory and salvation!

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