



Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Bethany Covenant Church
Friday, April 10, 2009

Prelude

(Please remain in an attitude of quiet prayer during the prelude.)

Call to Worship: Isaiah 53:1-6

Opening Prayer

Congregational Song: "Come, Ye Sinners"

Words of Explanation

Call to Prayer: Exodus 20:17, 1 Peter 2:1

Prayer of Confession for the Sin of Envy

Lord we confess that sometimes when others have what we do not have, we burn! We begin to tell ourselves and others around us that life has been unfair to us. We fail to rejoice in the blessing others have received, and we fail to rejoice in the unique blessings we have received. We instead covet someone else's blessing for ourselves, and in doing so fail to acknowledge that all good things come from you.

Lord, though envy has gripped us, we confess our need to walk in a new way. We ask you to lead us in a new way. And as we seek to walk in this new way we repent of this sin of envy. We turn from this wickedness of our hearts. We choose to walk instead in the way of love, with your help. Teach us and move in our hearts to love you and to love our neighbor as we ought, and to forsake this sin of envy. May it be far from us, Lord. Through the power of Christ working in us we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Colossians 1:13-14

Special Music

Call to Prayer: Ephesians 4:19

Prayer of Confession for the Sin of Greed:

Lord, we confess to you our sin of greed. We confess that we have tried to serve two masters. We have said that we love you, but our actions have displayed a love of worldly possessions instead. Our selfish greed has consumed time and attention that should have gone to those we love. It has squandered resources that should have been given to those in need. It has stolen the tithes and offerings and acts of devotion that should have been yours.

We ask you, Lord, to forgive us of our greed and self-centeredness. Search our hearts and show us where we have been blind to our sin. Bring us to repentance and cleanse us, so that we will serve you and others, with undivided hearts. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance: 1 Peter 1:18-19

Special Music

Call to Prayer: Proverbs 15:1, Ephesians 4:26

Prayer of Confession for the Sin of Anger

Lord, we confess to you our sin of anger. We confess that we have violated your command not to let the sun go down while we are angry. We confess that our anger has brought harm to others, that it has grieved the Holy Spirit, that it has corrupted our prayers and worship, and that it has prevented us from living lives that are righteous in your sight.

We ask you, Lord to cleanse us of our anger and to give us the grace instead to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, because our anger does not bring about the righteous life that you desire for us. Lord, lead us in that way of righteousness and cleanse us for your name's sake. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Acts 13:38-39a

Congregational Song: "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended?"

Call to Prayer:

Prayer of Confession for the Sin of Gluttony

Lord, as those who live in a nation in which obesity has become epidemic, we confess to you our sin of gluttony. Whether collectively or individually, we confess that we have turned to food and drink where we should have found our satisfaction with you instead. We have taken your gifts of sustenance and

provision, and placed them above you on the altar of our hearts. We have eaten and drunk to excess, seeking to be satisfied. And yet we will not be satisfied, because we have failed to find our satisfaction fully in you.

We ask you, Lord, to help us in our weakness. May we receive your blessings of provision with thankfulness. May we be good stewards of what you have provided and of our bodies for which that provision is made. May we have hearts that worship you fully as the Provider. May we consume what we eat and what we drink in the moderation that comes from trusting you and from desiring your pleasure in our lives. In the name of our Lord Jesus we ask this. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Ephesians 1:7-8a

Special Music

Call to Prayer: Proverbs 15:19

Prayer of Confession for the Sin of Sloth

Lord, your word speaks of the lazy person with disdain: The sluggard imagines a lion in the streets as an excuse for not venturing out. The sluggard turns on his bed like a door turns on its hinges. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish, but is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven who answer discreetly. There is more hope for a fool than for such a person.

Lord, we confess our tendency toward laziness. We confess that we waste precious time that could be spent serving you and others. We confess that our idleness easily leads us to other sins. We acknowledge that when we behave in this way we fail to live under your lordship in our lives.

May such idleness and all its ill effects be far from us! May we work appropriately and live productive lives before you and others, as you lead us through your strength. We pray this in the able name of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Romans 6:23

Congregational Song: “Out of My Bondage, Sorrow, and Night”

Call to Prayer: Matthew 5:28

Prayer of Confession for the Sin of Lust

Lord, we live in a world in which lust is exalted as a virtue rather than acknowledged as sin. Promiscuity is encouraged. Adultery is excused. Indecency is mass-marketed. Perversion is championed as normal behavior. Precious human beings are exploited for destructive, wickedly indulgent purposes.

We confess that we as fallen human beings are too easily tempted by the lust of the flesh. We confess that we are prone to the same types of behavior that have lured the world away from

you and from your desire for purity and chastity. We confess that in our sin of lust we have exchanged your truth for a lie and have worshiped created things, placing them above you, our Creator.

Cleanse us with hyssop, and we will be clean. Wash us, and we will be whiter than snow. Turn your face from our sins and blot out all our iniquity. Create in us a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and grant us willing spirits, to sustain us.

We offer our bodies to you as a living sacrifices, asking you to transform us by the renewing our minds and hearts. We ask you to wash away our sin and help us to walk in newness of life. In the name of Jesus and through his cleansing blood we ask this. Amen.

Words of Assurance: 1 Corinthians 6:9a, 10-11

Special Music: “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

Call to Prayer: Proverbs 16:18

Prayer of Confession for the Sin of Pride

Lord, we confess that we do not see ourselves as we ought. We are excessively confident in our own sufficiency. We habitually trust our own wisdom. We constantly overestimate our abilities, our resources, and our strength. We fail to acknowledge that in reality we are weak, poor, wretched, and blind. In our ignorance of the truth we deprive ourselves of your grace, of your strength in our weakness, and of your sufficiency for the many ways in which we are lacking.

Lord, we confess to you our sin of pride. We humble ourselves before you. We acknowledge our desperate need of you. We ask that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will help us see ourselves as you see us. Help us to know fully our constant need for you. And may we walk in your grace, your strength, and your

Words of Assurance: Romans 3:23-24

Special Music

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:1-47

Nailing of Sins to the Cross

(The Congregation is invited to come forward and nail their written confessions of sin to the cross.)

Congregational Song: “How Deep the Father’s Love”

Dismissal with Blessing

(Congregation please exit the sanctuary in silence.)

Greed is the excessive, self-centered desire for money, wealth, power, and possessions, especially when this denies the same goods to others.

Hear the word of the Lord from Ephesians chapter 4: “Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.” (Ephesians 4:19, TNIV)

Let us pray together this prayer of confession for the sin of greed:

Lord, we confess to you our sin of greed. We confess that we have tried to serve two masters. We have said that we love you, but our actions have displayed a love of worldly possessions instead. Our selfish greed has consumed time and attention that should have gone to those we love. It has squandered resources that should have been given to those in need. It has stolen the tithes and offerings and acts of devotion that should have been yours.

We ask you, Lord, to forgive us of our greed and self-centeredness. Search our hearts and show us where we have been blind to our sin. Bring us to repentance and cleanse us, so that we will serve you and others, with undivided hearts. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance from 1 Peter chapter 1: “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1 Peter 1:18-19, TNIV)

Anger is an emotional reaction to a real or perceived injustice. Anger is not always sinful, but becomes a sin when it is directed hurtfully against others or when it leads to a loss of self-control. The sin of anger stands in opposition to godly justice and charity.

Hear the word of the Lord regarding the sin of anger in the book of Proverbs chapter 15: “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1, TNIV)

And in the book of Ephesians chapter 4: “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.” (Ephesians 4:26, TNIV)

Let us pray together this prayer of confession for the sin of anger:

Lord, we confess to you our sin of anger. We confess that we have violated your command not to let the sun go down while we are angry. We confess that our anger has brought harm to others, that it has grieved the Holy Spirit, that it has corrupted our prayers and worship, and that it has prevented us from living lives that are righteous in your sight.

We ask you, Lord to cleanse us of our anger and to give us the grace instead to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, because our anger does not bring about the righteous life that you desire for us. Lord, lead us in that way of righteousness and cleanse us for your name’s sake. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance from Acts chapter 13: “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin.” (Acts 13:38-39a, TNIV)

Pride is considered the original and most serious of the seven deadly sins, and the ultimate source from which the others arise. It is identified as a desire to be more important or attractive than others, failing to acknowledge the good work of others, and excessive love of self, especially holding self out of proper position toward God.

Hear the word of the Lord from Proverbs chapter 16: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18, TNIV)

Let us pray together this prayer of confession for the sin of pride:

Lord, we confess that we do not see ourselves as we ought. We are excessively confident in our own sufficiency. We habitually trust our own wisdom. We constantly overestimate our abilities, our resources, and our strength. We fail to acknowledge that in reality we are weak, poor, wretched, and blind. In our ignorance of the truth we deprive ourselves of your grace, of your strength in our weakness, and of your sufficiency for the many ways in which we are lacking.

Lord, we confess to you our sin of pride. We humble ourselves before you. We acknowledge our desperate need of you. We ask that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will help us see ourselves as you see us. Help us to know fully our constant need for you. And may we walk in your grace, your strength, and your sufficiency. Through Jesus Christ, the only sufficient and worthy One we pray. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance from Romans chapter 3: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24, TNIV)

Gluttony is the excessive indulgence in food and drink. It is the over-indulgence and over-consumption of anything to the point of waste, harmfulness, or excess.

Hear the word of the Lord from Proverbs chapter 23: "For drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags." (Proverbs 23:21, TNIV)

Let us pray together this prayer of confession for the sin of gluttony:

Lord, as those who live in a nation in which obesity has become epidemic, we confess to you our sin of gluttony. Whether collectively or individually, we confess that we have turned to food and drink where we should have found our satisfaction with you instead. We have taken your gifts of sustenance and provision, and placed them above you on the altar of our hearts. We have eaten and drunk to excess, seeking to be satisfied. And yet we will not be satisfied, because we have failed to find our satisfaction fully in you.

We ask you, Lord, to help us in our weakness. May we receive your blessings of provision with thankfulness. May we be good stewards of what you have provided and of our bodies for which that provision is made. May we have hearts that worship you fully as the Provider. May we consume what we eat and what we drink in the moderation that comes from trusting you and from desiring your pleasure in our lives. In the name of our Lord Jesus we ask this. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance from Ephesians chapter 1: "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us." (Ephesians 1:7-8a, TNIV)

Envy is a sin of malice and covetousness. Those who commit the sin of envy resent that another person has something they perceive themselves as lacking, and wish the other person to be deprived of it.

Hear the word of the Lord from the book of Exodus chapter 20: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:17, TNIV) And from the book of 1 Peter chapter 2: “Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.” (1 Peter 2:1, TNIV)

Let us pray together this prayer of confession for the sin of envy:

Lord we confess that sometimes when others have what we do not have, we burn! We begin to tell ourselves and others around us that life has been unfair to us. We fail to rejoice in the blessing others have received, and we fail to rejoice in the unique blessings we have received. We instead covet someone else’s blessing for ourselves, and in doing so fail to acknowledge that all good things come from you.

Lord, though envy has gripped us, we confess our need to walk in a new way. We ask you to lead us in a new way. And as we seek to walk in this new way we repent of this sin of envy. We turn from this wickedness of our hearts. We choose to walk instead in the way of love, with your help. Teach us and move in our hearts to love you and to love our neighbor as we ought, and to forsake this sin of envy. May it be far from us, Lord. Through the power of Christ working in us we pray. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance from Colossians chapter 1: “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col. 1:13-14, TNIV)

Sloth is sluggishness, laziness, and idleness. It is the disinclination to action or labor. It is a passive refusal to do that which one should do.

Hear the word of the Lord from the book of Proverbs: “The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.” (Proverbs 15:19, TNIV)

Let us pray together this prayer of confession for the sin of sloth:

Lord, your word speaks of the lazy person with disdain: The sluggard imagines a lion in the streets as an excuse for not venturing out. The sluggard turns on his bed like a door turns on its hinges. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish, but is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven who answer discreetly. There is more hope for a fool than for such a person.

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May such idleness and all its ill effects be far from us! May we work appropriately and live productive lives before you and others, as you lead us through your strength. We pray this in the able name of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance from Romans chapter 6: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23, TNIV)

Lust is the inordinate craving for, or indulgence of, sexual pleasure. It disregards the biblical boundaries of fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness. It is a tragic departure from God's standard of love.

Hear the word of the Lord from the gospel of Matthew: "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:28, TNIV)

Let us pray together this prayer of confession for the sin of lust:

Lord, we live in a world in which lust is exalted as a virtue rather than acknowledged as sin. Promiscuity is encouraged. Adultery is excused. Indecency is mass-marketed. Perversion is championed as normal behavior. Precious human beings are exploited for destructive, wickedly indulgent purposes.

We confess that we as fallen human beings are too easily tempted by the lust of the flesh. We confess that we are prone to the same types of behavior that have lured the world away from you and from your desire for purity and chastity. We confess that in our sin of lust we have exchanged your truth for a lie and have worshiped created things, placing them above you, our Creator.

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We offer our bodies to you as a living sacrifices, asking you to transform us by the renewing our minds and hearts. We ask you to wash away our sin and help us to walk in newness

of life. In the name of Jesus and through his cleansing blood we ask this. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance from 1 Corinthians chapter 6: "Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? . . . That is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9a, 10-11, TNIV)