

# WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP 5

## ROOTED IN JUSTICE, MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS!

**This Week's Gospels**    *John 8:2-11, Matthew 23:23*

*The Gospel of St. John*

<sup>2</sup> Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, <sup>4</sup> they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

*The Gospel of St. Matthew*

<sup>23</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others."

**Homily** by Blake Bina

The story in John 8 starts when Jesus is preaching at the Temple to a big crowd. The the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. Then the crowd is saying to stone her because that is the punishment for what she has done. Then Jesus

says "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." Then Jesus writes something down on the ground. The Bible does not say what he wrote down on the sand, but what do you think he wrote? Then Jesus says "Have they condemned you?" The woman says no. Then Jesus says then I will not condemn you. Since Jesus does not condemn the woman that tells me that God is a God of second chances.

There are many ways to see God in the passage; one of them Jesus does not look at all the bad things that we have done but he looks at our true character and our inner being. I see myself in the story as the person accused of doing wrong. I see myself as her because I do wrong and am in need of Jesus' forgiveness. The woman does not symbolize only committing adultery, but it symbolizes everything that we do wrong.

I also know that I need to repent and ask for God's grace and forgiveness. I see my neighbor as the people in the crowd who are probably ready to join in on the judging. They probably think Jesus is going to judge her for her actions. There is something that we do not know. One being what Jesus wrote in the sand. Although we do not know what he wrote you can still think and imagine what he wrote. I personally think that Jesus wrote in the sand something like "I will not judge you for your past." I think he would say this to comfort the woman. This would also assure the woman into knowing that Jesus is there for her throughout her life.

In the passage there were definitely some emotions. The crowd I would hope felt convicted, and the woman was probably thankful that Jesus forgave her for her sins. I have many emotions whenever I read this story. One of them being how I feel proud that we have a God that looks at our inner being and not what we have just done. Just because we do something bad does not mean we are a bad person. This passage teaches us that we need to stop judging people for whatever reason. We need to focus on building and putting each other up. Think of some ways you can put others up whether it is your family or strangers. The world needs people to do that.

The good news of the story is how Jesus will not condemn us because he has died for us. According to Philippians 3: 13-14 which

says "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." I have picked this verse as my life verse to guide me through the rest of my life. This verse also talks about how Jesus looks past what we have done and we can strive for Jesus.

Can you think of some times when Jesus has looked past your wrongdoings? Think about how Jesus looks past those and how you strive for that same forgiveness and grace with others. Think about how you would want justice shown to you if you were in this situation that the woman was in? Knowing that, how do you show justice to others and how would you want justice shown to you?

All in all this story teaches us about many things. But for me the main thing that I have taken away from John 8: 2-11 is God is a God of second chances. That reassures me knowing that if I mess up one time God will give me another chance. Amen.

### **Homily** by Sayelor Sanchez

With the fast pace of our world we are often distracted. Leading us to focus on the "wrong things". We focus on our look rather than how we treat people, we focus on the past rather than the present, and we focus on how we're perceived, especially online rather than who we truly are.

Matthew 23:23 States "woe to you scribes and pharisees hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matter of the law, Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness. These you ought to have done without neglecting the others." This verse is when Jesus is confronting the religious leaders about their hypocrisy. These leaders who were trusted by the people to uphold this title instead used it to shield who they were, as well as, what they were not doing. They taught all the people how to live by the Bible and worship God, but they weren't living like this behind closed doors.

This verse leads me to wonder who Jesus would have this same conversation with in our modern world, and we really see this a lot

more than we may think. Most if not all of us have seen people online who are sharing their interpretation of the Bible or teaching people how to live through Jesus. Behind the screen we have no clue if they are really living out their faith or their teachings, Just like the Pharisees.

Along with this we have heard the phrase" Actions speak louder than words" - this is especially true when it comes to our Faith. We can talk all we would like about what we should be doing but nothing really changes unless we put it into action.

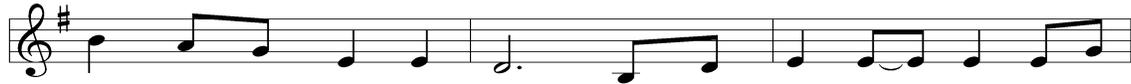
I myself have learned first-hand how important this is when I started becoming more involved in Calvary. Calvary offers so many service projects, fund raisers, and general help to so many people no matter the circumstances. I've had the privilege to be a part of a handful of these during day camp. We were always told the importance of our help.

We were taught that our faith focuses us on God's justice and mercy and our faithfulness to these things, as well as how we can live out God's mercy with others. This helps us to keep focused on God in this fast-paced world. So how will you live out your faith by both action and word?

# Offering ELW 723 *Canticle of the Turning*



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's . . . mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne. The  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## Offering received during Hymn



### *Two Ways to Give*

Download the new  
“**Vanco Mobile**” giving app  
from your smart phone’s app store

Give online  
through this **QR code**  
*Use smart phone camera; click link*



### **Worship Leaders**

Homily  
Lector  
Prayers  
Sound

Blake Bina and Sayelor Sanchez  
Becca Burkett  
Anna Gruebmeyer  
Gary Graeber

# Holy Week Schedule



*Maundy Thursday*

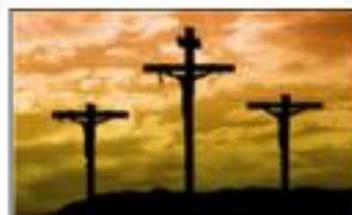
**April 2 at 7:00PM**

Worship focuses on the Last Supper & the Stripping of the Altar

*Good Friday*

**April 3 at 5:00PM & 7:00PM**

Powerful and moving service using the Stations of the Cross



*Easter Sunday*

**April 5 at 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM**

6:30AM - **Sunrise Worship** in the Woods

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00AM - **Festival Worship** Celebrating the Resurrection

9:30AM - **Family Sunday School Easter Celebration**

*Join us as we flower the cross and learn more about Easter.*

*This is for parents & kids in the FLC. Please bring fresh flowers.*

# **Western Worship & BBQ Lunch**

**Sunday, April 12 at 11:00 am**

- **One Morning Service Only –  
Outside Weather Permitting**
- **Bring your lawn chairs and dress  
in your Western Wear!**
- **Smoked Brisket prepared by  
Calvary's Men's Group**
- **Please bring a side dish or dessert  
to share that will feed 4-6**

**Tickets on sale in Narthex on  
Sundays or online by  
scanning QR Code**

**Ages 5 and under: Free**

**Ages 6 to 11: \$5**

**Ages 12-: \$10**

**\$10 maximum per household**

