



7 p.m. First Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Your Nail

Prelude - Bell

He has forgiven you all your sins: Christ has utterly wiped out the damning evidence of broken laws and commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely and has annulled it by nailing it over **His** own head on the cross. And then, having disarmed all the powers arranged against us, **He** exposed them shattered, empty, and defeated in **His** final glorious triumphant act. Colossians 2:13b-15

Some people tie a string around their finger to remind them of something. This Lent we hope the “gimmick” of a **nail** will serve that purpose for you, a frequent reminder to mediate daily on the crucifixion of Christ and its meaning for you.

+ Gathering +

P- Why a **nail** during Lent?

C- To help us think about something!

P- Specifically about the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C- About the meaning of the suffering and death for me personally.

P- The **nail** you see in the basket, the **nail** you will carry in your pocket or purse is **your** nail. Think about that.

C- Who won when Jesus died? And who lost?

+ We Sing +

What a Friend we Have in Jesus ELW 742

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear --
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged --
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness --
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge --
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

+ We Confess & Are Forgiven +

P- We have been confronted by the **nail** today. What thoughts cross our minds when we think on it?

C- Most of our thoughts accuse and condemn.

P- The **nail** is one of those that spiked Jesus on the cross.

C- It was because of us that he suffered so.

P- We should say, "I deserve to be crucified, not Jesus."

C- All of this is true!

P- During this Lenten season our *nail* will serve frequently to accuse and condemn, but it is also meant to proclaim the Good News and the good news of Jesus Christ that proclaims, "We are forgiven!"

C- We are forgiven indeed.

+ Prayer of the Day +

P-We look, this Lent, to a *nail*—the simplest piece of hardware used to construct the earth's most elaborate bit of carpentry: To secure our Savior to the cross, and to fasten, fast, the convicting notice of our sin above his head. This is no symbol, no simple sign, but the very machine of God's great love, created of cross and Christ and crudest nails, to churn out eternity for us.

C- For that grace and for all our gifts, I offer up my thanks and praise. Amen!

+ The Word of God +

P- By *our nail* which fixed Jesus to the cross, we seek

C- ...our God's love, mercy and forgiveness.

Philippians 1:2-11

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you,

because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reflection: Getting Started

P- By *our nail* which fixed Jesus to the cross, we seek

C- ...our God's trust, righteousness and salvation.

Matthew 16:24-27

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done."

Reflection: What Have I Got to Lose? & What Good Is It?

P- By *our nail* which fixed Jesus to the cross, we seek

C- ...our God's wisdom, strength and maturity.

1st Corinthians 3:9-17

For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Reflection: Where Are We Going? & What Are We Building?

+ We Sing +

Offering Hymn - My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less ELW 596

**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:

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**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]**

**His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! [Refrain]**

+ Offering Prayer +

As you are able, please stand.

P- We humbly gather up these gifts for use in your church, in your ministry and for your mission.

C- For that grace and for all your gifts,

we offer up our thanks and praise. Amen

+ Lord's Prayer +

**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.

+ Our Faith Statement +

P- The First Commandment demands from us a whole love for God—
“with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might.” Nothing less is
acceptable. Is there anyone or anything we love more than God?

C- How well have we kept it?

P- Perhaps more honestly, how seriously have we broken it? Is there
anyone or anything we fear more than God?

**C- Like our own reputation, what others might think of us if we truly
live according to this commandment.**

P- Is there anyone or anything we love more than God?

**C- Like money or pleasure or even a soft pillow on Sunday
morning.**

P- Is there anyone or anything we trust more than God?

C- Like our own wisdom or will or abilities.

P- The nail we carry is our nail. Think about that.

P- But it is also Christ's nail...may we think on that!

+ Our Sending +

P- Help me speak what's right and good

C- and keep silence on occasion;

P- help me pray, Lord, as I should,

C- help me bear my tribulations.

P- Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways

C- to keep his statutes!

P- Oh, that my God would grant me grace.

C- to know and do his will!

+ We Sing +

Blest be the Tie that Binds ELW 656

**Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts, and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.**

**When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.**

