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**Lenten Midweek 4**

**St. John’s Passion**

“O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfector of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” *Gradual for Lent*

**AS WE GATHER**

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. It is in that understanding that we are enabled to take up our cross and follow Him through the struggles of this life to the glorious deliverance of eternal life.

**SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING** (*LSB*, pg. 260)

**Hymn** “’Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake” (*LSB* 688)

**FIRST READING** 1 John 1:1-10

**Hymn** “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” (*LSB* 563)

**SECOND READING** John 19:1-16a

**SERMON *“Whom Do We Follow?”***

**Hymn** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (*LSB* 411)

**OFFERING**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: O Lord God, heavenly Father, by the blessed light of Your divine Word You have led us to the knowledge of Your Son. Grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may ever walk in the light of Your truth and, rejoicing with sure confidence in Christ, our Savior, be brought unto everlasting salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**Hymn** “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” (*LSB* 685)