

# Lenten Preaching—1969

by Irwin J. Habeck

In the January 1968 issue of our *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly* we printed the following appeal: “A year from now we should like to print an anthology of original Lenten series as submitted by our readers. May we count upon your cooperation? If you have used an original series which you found to be edifying, please send it to the managing editor.” The response was gratifying.

Two members of the editorial staff made the selection of the series which are presented below. They were guided by a number of criteria: 1. Is the series original? 2. Is it uniquely suited for Lenten preaching? 3. Will it stimulate the interest of the homiletician and his desire to try the series in his own Lenten program? 4. Are the suggested texts of such a nature that they will provide adequate material for textual and, above all, Christ- and cross-centered preaching?

No attempt was made to revise or refine the series. In some instances those who made the selection might have used a different text or limited the length of a suggested text. However, it was felt that those who might work with a given series would make whatever adaptations their homiletical instincts might dictate. Finally, since some of the contributors expressly requested that their names be not published, it was decided not to indicate the source of any of the material which now follows:

## I. Triumphs of the Cross

1. Dedication to Duty Triumphs over the Horror of the Cross—Mark 14:32–36
2. A Straying Sheep Reclaimed by the Good Shepherd—Luke 22:54–62
3. Every Word of Scripture Fulfilled to the Letter—Matthew 26:53–56
4. A Sinner Snatched from the Jaws of Hell—Luke 23:39–43
5. An Important Life Comes to a Victorious End—Luke 23:46
6. A Feeble Faith Grows Bold—John 19:38–42
7. A Priceless Supper Instituted—Matthew 26:26–28
8. The Father’s Plan Carried Out to the Last Detail—John 19:30

## II. What Did the Prophets Say About the Son of Man?

1. That He would Be God’s Servant—Isaiah 42:1–7
2. That He Would Be Betrayed by a Friend—Psalm 41:9
3. That He Would Enter upon His Passion Knowingly and Willingly—Isaiah 50:5–7
4. That He Would Be Forsaken by God—Psalm 22
5. That He Would Be Buried with the Rich—Isaiah 53:9
6. That He Would Be Successful—Isaiah 53:10–12

## III. The Testimony of Christ’s Enemies Concerning His Passion

1. The Sanhedrin: “He Is Guilty of Death”—Matthew 26:66
2. Caiaphas: “It Is Expedient for Us that One Man Should Die for the People”—John 11:47–53
3. Pilate: “He Is Sinless”—John 18:38
4. The Chief Priests: “He Saved Others”—Matthew 27:41–44
5. The Centurion: “He Is the Son of God”—Matthew 27:50–54
6. The Pharisees: “He Is the Hope of the World”—John 12:19
7. The Scribes: “This Man Receiveth Sinners”—Luke 15:2
8. The Roman Court Superscription: “He Is the King of the Jews”—John 19:19

## IV. Our Savior’s Sorrows Foreshadowed in the Psalms

1. Our Savior Betrayed by His Own—Psalm 41:9

2. Our Savior Deserted by His Friends—Psalm 38:11
3. Our Savior Rejected by Religious Leaders—Psalm 118:22
4. Our Savior Shamed by His People—Psalm 69:7ff.
5. Our Savior Crucified by All Sinners—Psalm 22:13–16
6. Our Savior Unpitied by His Enemies—Psalm 69:19–21
7. Our Savior Sacrificed by Himself—Psalm 23:5
8. Our Savior Forsaken by God—Psalm 22:1, 2

#### **V. The Meaning of the Cross on Which Jesus Died**

1. The Cross Means Success—Acts 2:22–26
2. The Cross Means Denial—Acts 3:11–16
3. The Cross Means Suffering—Acts 8:26–38
4. The Cross Means Forgiveness—Acts 10:36–43
5. The Cross Means Life—Acts 13:26–47
6. The Cross Means Witness—Acts 26:12–23

#### **VI. Jesus Christ, Our Great High Priest**

1. Jesus Christ Is the Son of God—Hebrews 1:1–14
2. Jesus Christ Is the Son of Man—Hebrews 2:5–18
3. The Office of High Priest—Hebrews 5:1–10
4. Jesus Christ Is Far Superior to the Old Testament High Priests—Hebrews 7:1–28
5. Jesus Christ Gives Us Eternal Redemption—Hebrews 9:6–28
6. Let Us Hold Fast to Our Faith in Jesus Christ—Hebrews 10:19–39

#### **VII. Lenten Series Based on Numbers**

1. One Hour with Christ—Matthew 26:36–46
2. Two Church Leaders and Christ—John 18:12–14
3. Three Denials of Christ—Luke 22:54–62
4. Four Soldiers and Christ—John 19:23, 24
5. Five Wounds—John 19:16–18; 31–37
6. Six Hours—Mark 15:22–39
7. After Six (reference to evening)—Matthew 26:20–30
8. Seven Words of Christ—Four Gospels

#### **VIII. Behold the Servant of the Lord!**

1. Humbled and Exalted—Isaiah 52:13–15
  - a. How deep His humiliation!
  - b. How great His exaltation!
2. Despised and Rejected—Isaiah 53:1–3
 

The prophet tells us

  - a. From whence He would come.
  - b. The impression He would make.
  - c. How He would be received.
3. Smitten and Afflicted—Isaiah 53:4, 5
  - a. How terrible a sight!
  - b. How glorious a sight!
4. Willing and Patient—Isaiah 53:6, 7
  - a. Though we are the sheep who have gone astray;
  - b. Yet He is the Lamb Who is led to the slaughter.

5. Guilty and Innocent—Isaiah 53:8, 9
  - a. He was truly guilty.
  - b. He was perfectly innocent.
6. Humbled and Exalted—Isaiah 53:10–12
  - a. The reason for His humiliation.
  - b. The reason for His exaltation.

We now repeat the plea which is quoted in the opening paragraph. If material such as is presented in this article is of enough interest and stimulation to our readers to warrant making it an annual feature, we shall have to depend upon the kind cooperation of our readers.

The editorial committee has no way of knowing how many of our congregations have midweek Advent services. We should be happy to devote space in the October issue of the Quarterly to an anthology of Advent series if it is evident that there is a desire to share suggestions on the part of those who preach such a series. To start the ball rolling we respectfully request those who have recently preached an original Advent series to forward it to the managing editor.