

MID WEEK OF LENT
APRIL 2, 2025
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - WESTALLIS
THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO RAISES THE DEAD

AS WE GATHER

Lent is about repentance of sin and faith in God's forgiveness. When we confess our sins, we normally think about the wrongs we have committed, whether in thoughts, words, or deeds, as well as the good things we have failed to do. But sin is no simple or temporary issue. Sin is a matter of life and death; as we were reminded on Ash Wednesday, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ultimate punishment for sin is death. God's ultimate salvation is, as we confess in the Nicene Creed, "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." Already in the Old Testament, the hand of the Lord raised individuals who had died, as at the hands of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. Everyone believed that the Messiah, the Savior, would raise the dead when He came. Today we hear of one such incident: Jesus raising the widow's son in Nain (Luke 7). When Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the tomb, it could no longer be denied who Jesus is. Jesus finally proved that He is, as He said, "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25) by His own resurrection. In the resurrection, God has turned death from enemy into the remedy in our deliverance from sin. The risen, ascended, and reigning Lord promises to raise us daily in repentance and faith, and on the Last Day, free us from sin in eternal life in our human bodies. "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another" (Job 19:25-27).

HYMN "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" (LSB 440:1, 4-6)

Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.

1 continued

Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

Rise

OPENING SENTENCES

- P Hear my prayer, O LORD;
C **let my cry come to you!**
P The LORD is my strength and my song;
C **He has become my salvation.**
P Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous:
C **"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,**
P the right hand of the LORD exalts,
C **the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"**
P I shall not die, but I shall live,
C **and recount the deeds of the LORD.**
P The LORD has disciplined me severely,
C **but He has not given me over to death.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, the blessed hands of your Son, our Lord Jesus, touched many lives bringing healing, restoration, and even resurrection. Fill our hearts with faith and trust, that as we face affliction and even eventual death, we may find solace, healing and hope through faith in Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Be Seated

READING *1 Kings 17:8–24*

L ⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, ⁹“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.” ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” ¹⁵And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that He spoke by Elijah. ¹⁷After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” ¹⁹And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have You brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” ²¹Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child’s life come into him again.” ²²And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house

and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” ²⁴And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

- L This is the Word of the Lord
- C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN “Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing” (*LSB* 421)

Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev’ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach’rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me from its first beginning.

Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion, And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, “Christ for me was wounded,”
That the tempter flee confounded.

If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.

Ev’ry wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I’m faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet Ev’ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all atoning passion Has procured my soul’s salvation.

O my God, my rock and tower, Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.

Rise

READING *Luke 7:11–17*

P ¹¹Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. ¹²As He drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” ¹⁴Then He came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited His people!” ¹⁷And this report about Him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

Be Seated

HYMN “When Peace, Like a River” (LSB 763)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

He lives-oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

SERMON

OFFERTORY (LSB p. 192)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

Rise

PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you sent Jesus with a compassionate hand to stop death in its tracks. Bless us that we may ever hold fast to His promises for us through His death and resurrection. Help us to always remember our Baptism, where we have been united to both Christ’s death and resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER (10:00AM)

C **I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil for may have no power over me. Amen.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER (6:00PM)

C **I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

“Abide With Me”

(LSB 878)

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Preacher
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Michael Schumacher
Grant Gundersen, Jodi Drew
Deaconess Carole King