

MIDWEEK OF LENT

MARCH 12, 2025

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – WEST ALLIS

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO CREATES AND SAVES

AS WE GATHER

The God who is Creator of all came to save us from sin and death in the incarnate Son of Mary, Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is God. He first revealed Himself to Moses with the holy name “I AM,” saying, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Exodus 3:14). When Jesus came to His disciples walking on the crashing waves of the sea of Galilee, He said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). “It is I” is the same term for the divine name, “I AM.” As He reached out His hand and grabbed the fearful, doubting, sinking Simon Peter, so does His compassionate hand save you in times of despair and helplessness. His greatest deliverance was when He allowed His hands to be nailed to a cross for your sins. As we are helpless like drowning Peter, our repentant prayer this day is in the words of the hymn, “Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling” (*LSB* 761:3).

HYMN “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (*LSB* 437)

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died
For His own creatures' sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do.

OPENING SENTENCES

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;

C **let my cry come to you!**

P Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,

C **and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

P The LORD is my strength and my song;

C **He has become my salvation.**

P “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts,

C **the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”**

P Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster.**

P Jesus said, “If anyone would come after Me,

C **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.”**

P Christ was wounded for our transgressions;

C **He was crushed for our iniquities.**

READING *Job 9:1–12*

L ¹Then Job answered and said: ²“Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be in the right before God?

³If one wished to contend with Him,

one could not answer Him once in a thousand times.

⁴He is wise in heart and mighty in strength

—who has hardened himself against Him, and succeeded?—

⁵He who removes mountains, and they know it not,
when He overturns them in His anger,
⁶who shakes the earth out of its place,
and its pillars tremble;
⁷who commands the sun, and it does not rise;
who seals up the stars;
⁸who alone stretched out the heavens
and trampled the waves of the sea;
⁹who made the Bear and Orion,
the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;
¹⁰who does great things beyond searching out,
and marvelous things beyond number.
¹¹Behold, He passes by me, and I see Him not;
He moves on, but I do not perceive Him.
¹²Behold, He snatches away; who can turn Him back?
Who will say to Him, ‘What are You doing?’

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

READING *Ephesians 2:1–10*

L ¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—
³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith.

3 continued

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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

READING *Matthew 14:22–33*

P ²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. ²³And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”
²⁸And Peter answered Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

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

HYMN “What Wondrous Love Is This” (LSB 543)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down Beneath God’s righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

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.

PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O God, our Creator and Redeemer, “Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy Law’s demands.” Therefore “nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling.” Increase our faith and trust in you that we may walk confidently amid the troubles and reverses of life, knowing that your gracious hands are evermore leading us, guiding us, and saving us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

10:00 LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

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 like 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.**

6:00 LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

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.**

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE VERSES

Colossians 1:12–20, alt.

L Let us give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

C **Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,**

L whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

C **And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.**

L For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. 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 “Glory Be to Jesus” (LSB 433)

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life blood From His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Worship Leader
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Michael Schumacher
Grant Gundersen, Jodi Drew
Deaconess Carole King

Lenten Dinner
4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall

March 12: Homemade Chicken Soup, Assorted
Rolls with Butter, Hot Dogs, Fresh Veggie's,
Dessert

March 19: Sloppy Joe's, Fritos/Chips, Fresh
Veggies, Dessert

*Kids meals available each week. All meals served
with milk and juice. Free will offering appreciated!*