



**St. John
Lutheran
Church**

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Wednesday
Lenten Services

March 13, 2024

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Midweek Lenten Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

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***‘Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn, Share,
and Serve’***

***‘Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of Christian
faith in our community, to all generations, wherever they
may be’***

Pastor Winter

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.

Preludes

“Jesus Paid It All”

And I hear the Savior say Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray Find in Me thine all in all
'Cause Jesus paid it all All to Him I owe

Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow

Lord now indeed I find Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone
'Cause Jesus paid it all All to Him I owe

Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save My lips shall still repeat
Jesus paid it all All to Him I owe

Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow

Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow He washed it white as snow

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt And raised this life up from the dead
Oh praise the One Who paid my debt And raised this life up from the dead
Oh praise the One Who paid my debt And raised this life up from the dead

Jesus

Alex Nifong, Elvina M. Hall, John Thomas Grape
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“At the Cross”

Oh Lord You've searched me You know my way
Even when I fail You I know You love me

Your holy presence Surrounding me
In every season I know You love me I know You love me

At the cross I bow my knee Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this You have overcome the grave
Your glory fills the highest place What can separate me now

You go before me You shield my way
Your hand upholds me I know You love me

And when the earth fades Falls from my eyes
And You stand before me I know You love me I know You love me

At the cross I bow my knee Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this You have overcome the grave
Your glory fills the highest place What can separate me now

You tore the veil You made a way When You said that it is done
You tore the veil You made a way When You said that it is done

At the cross I bow my knee Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this You have overcome the grave
Your glory fills the highest place What can separate me now

You tore the veil You made a way When You said that it is done
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Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Hymn

“Just as I Am” (I Come Broken)

Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

I come broken to be mended. I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms, Praise God, just as I am.

Just as I am I would be lost, but mercy and grace my freedom bought.
And now to glory in Your cross, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

I come broken to be mended. I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms, Praise God, just as I am.

I come broken to be mended. I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms, Praise God, just as I am.

Invocation

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24; 113:3; Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5*

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

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

C **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**

P Jesus said: If any man 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 bruised for our iniquities.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

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.

First Reading

1 John 1:1-10

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 19:1-16a

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord**

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that

you may know that I find no guilt in him.”⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!”⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.”⁷ The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.”⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?”¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”¹² From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha.¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death;**
He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **He was delivered up to death;**
He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death;**
He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

Hymn

"I Will Follow"

Where You go I'll go. Where You stay I'll stay.
When You move I'll move. I will follow. Oh oh oh

All Your ways are good. All Your ways are sure.
I will trust in You alone. Higher than my sight.
High above my life. I will trust in You alone.

Where You go I'll go. Where You stay I'll stay.
When You move I'll move. I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love. How You serve I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow You, Yeah. I will follow You, yeah.

Light into the world, Light into my life
I will live for You alone. You're the One I seek,
Knowing I will find All I need in You alone. In You alone.

Where You go I'll go. Where You stay I'll stay.
When You move I'll move. I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love. How You serve I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow You, Yeah. I will follow You, yeah.

In You there's life everlasting. In You there's freedom for my soul.
In You there's joy unending joy; And I will follow.

Where You go I'll go. Where You stay I'll stay.
When You move I'll move. I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love. How You serve I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow.

Where You go, I'll go; Where You stay, I'll stay;
When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.
Whom You love, I'll love; How You serve, I'll serve;
If this life I lose, I will follow You, yeah.
I will follow You, yeah. I will follow You, yeah.
I will follow You, yeah.

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Message

"Whom Do We Follow"

Sermon

Offering

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Prayer for Lent

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord;
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord

C Lord, have mercy.

P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

Collect For The Word

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

Blessing

P Let us bless the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

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

G **Amen.**

Closing Song

“The Wonderful Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Acknowledgments

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