



STRONGER THAN DARKNESS

NEW EVERY MORN'

OUR SINS THEY ARE MANY

HIS MERCY IS MORE

A S H
W E D N E S D A Y
St. Paul's Lutheran
February 17, 2021



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**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a
Congregation in the Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this worship service! Especially to you who are guests and visitors, WELCOME!

We at St. Paul's Lutheran share a common belief in **Jesus** as **our Savior** from sin and as the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, revealed in the Bible. We want to share God's Word with as many people as possible because we know that Jesus lived, died and rose from death to save us and all people. We're happy to have the opportunity to share the saving truths of the Bible with you!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Worship during these times: We offer distanced seating on one side of the sanctuary. We also encourage compliance for all who are able to wear a face covering to honor God's representatives in our state government. Surfaces such as door handles are cleaned between Sunday services. Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex. All responses and songs are printed in your bulletin, which should be taken with you or discarded after worship. Offerings may be placed in the designated boxes in the narthex.

Communion is offered in worship each month on the 2nd and 4th weekends. Members who are not yet comfortable returning to worship during the pandemic may schedule a communion appointment with a pastor.

DVDs: DVDs of our worship services can be made per request. Please contact the office to make arrangements. In order to ensure cleanliness, you do not need to return a DVD. Please consider a small monetary donation (\$2) to cover the cost of the DVD if you request one.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (pre K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

ASH WEDNESDAY CONFESSIONAL SERVICE

Todays' Worship Focus: *Great paradox defines the confession of the Church. Christ is sinless yet becomes sin. We are guilty yet declared innocent. We are dying and yet we live. We are chastened yet we are not condemned. Repentance is that intersection of faith - knowing that we deserve death but are gifted with life. Broken and restored hearts are grounded in the treasure of Christ's forgiveness, which reveals the mercy of God. "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful" (Joel 2:13).*

Please stand.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to struggle against sin. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

HYMN

Lord, to You I Make Confession v. 1

Soloist: We have come into God's presence; Maker of the heav'ns and earth. He created us to love him; to serve him as his precious child. We have disobeyed and erred, thus deserving wrath and anger.

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

HYMN

Lord, to You I Make Confession v. 2

Soloist: Lord to you I make confession; I have sinned and gone astray; I have multiplied transgression, chosen for myself my way. Led by you to see my errors, Lord, I tremble at your terrors.

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us,

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

HYMN

Lord, to You I Make Confession v. 3

Soloist: Yet, though conscience' voice appall me, Father, I will seek your face.
Though your child I dare not call me, yet receive me to your grace.
Do not for my sins forsake me; do not let your wrath o'ertake me.

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

HYMN

Lord, to You I Make Confession v. 4

ALL: Lord, on you I cast my burden – sink it in the depths below!

Let me know your gracious pardon; wash me, make me white as snow.

Let your Spirit leave me never; make me only yours forever.

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. By the power of God's holy gospel fulfilled in Jesus, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we remain in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Lord, to You I Make Confession v. 5

**ALL: For your Son has suffered for me, giv'n himself to rescue me,
Died to save me and restore me, reconciled and set me free.**

Jesus' cross alone can vanquish these dark fears and soothe this anguish.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Gracious and merciful God, you forgive the sins of all who come to you with penitent and contrite hearts. Grant us the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in you forgiveness and restoration, wholeness, and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord and our Redeemer.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 12:1-13

¹The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

¹¹“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

¹³Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."

SONG OF PRAISE

His Mercy Is More

Led by Small Group

Refrain: Praise the Lord. His mercy is more. Stronger than darkness; new every morn'. Our sins they are many; his mercy is more.

What love could remember no wrongs we have done? Omniscient, all-knowing he counts not their sum. Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore, our sins they are many; his mercy is more. *Refrain*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father so tender is calling us home? He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor. Our sins they are many; his mercy is more. *Refrain*

What riches of kindness he lavished on us. His blood was the payment; his life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford. And our sins they are many; his mercy is more. So much more!

ALL Sing Refrain Twice:

The musical notation is written on a single treble clef staff in a 6/8 time signature. It consists of four lines of music with lyrics underneath. The first line starts with a repeat sign and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Praise the Lord His mer - cy is". The second line continues: "more. Strong - er than dark - ness,". The third line continues: "new ev - 'ry morn', Our". The fourth line concludes: "sins, they are man - y His mer - cy is more." The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Small Group: Our sins they are many; his mercy is more.

Please stand.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 27:15-26

¹⁵ Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. ¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." ²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ²¹ "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. ²² "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" ²³ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" ²⁵ All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Adam We Have All Been One | 396

- 1 In Adam we have all been one, One huge rebellious man;
We all have fled that evening voice That sought us as we ran.
- 2 We fled our God, and losing him, We lost our brother, too.
Each singly sought and claimed his own; Each man his brother slew.
- 3 But your strong love, it sought us still And sent your only Son
That we might hear his shepherd-voice And, hearing him, be one.
- 4 O Savior, when we loved you not, You loved and saved us all;
O great good Shepherd of mankind, Oh, hear us when we call.
- 5 Send us your Spirit; teach us truth To purge our vanity.
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways, O Savior, set us free.
- 6 Then shall our song united rise To your eternal throne,
Where with the Father evermore And Spirit you are one.

Hands of Self Preservation (Pilate)

HYMN

The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me | 749 v. 2

**My sins I only see in part, My self-regarding ways;
The secret places of my heart Lie bare before his gaze.
For me the price of sin he paid; My sins beyond recall
Are all alike on Jesus laid, He died to bear them all.**

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Online giving options available



In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER

M: O Lord, grant us strength and perseverance as we meditate upon the passion of your Son in this season of Lent. Bestow on us the firm confidence that Christ has done all things for us and for our salvation. Comfort our hearts with this message of forgiveness, and bring us at last into your heavenly kingdom.

M: We join 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.

THE SACRAMENT

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

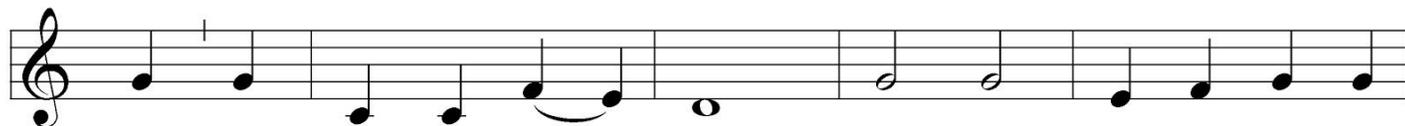


C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



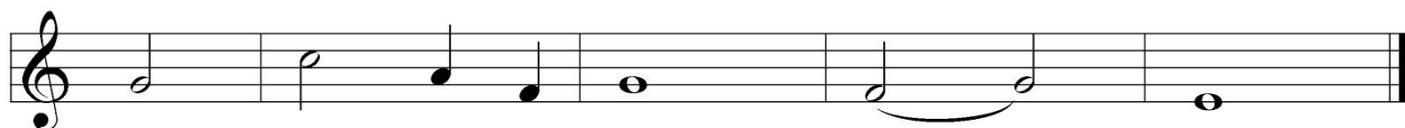
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: *St. Paul's invites up to Communion instructed and confirmed members of this congregation and the Wisconsin Synod (WELS). If you are visiting us and are not a member of either, we would love to have you join us - just after we have established a shared faith in Jesus with you on the basis of God's Word. Please speak with one of our pastors after the service so we can make this happen.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Gave My Life for Thee | 454

- 1 I gave my life for thee; My precious blood I shed
That thou might'st ransomed be And quickened from the dead.
I gave my life for thee; Come, give thyself to me!
- 2 My Father's home of light, My rainbow-circled throne,
I left for earthly night, For wand'rings sad and lone.
I left it all for thee; Come now and follow me!
- 3 I spent long years for thee In weariness and woe
That an eternity Of joy thou mightest know.
I spent long years for thee; Come, spend thy years for me.
- 4 I suffered much for thee, More than my tongue may tell,
Of bitt'rest agony, To rescue thee from hell.
I suffered much for thee; Come, bear thy cross with me.

5 And I have brought to thee Down from my home above
Salvation full and free, My pardon and my love.
Great gifts I brought for thee; Come, bring thy gifts to me.

6 Oh, let thy life be spent, Thy years for me be giv'n,
As I for thee was sent To bear thee home to heav'n.
I gave my life for thee; Come, give thy life to me.

Please stand.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee | 402 v. 1, 2

- 1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day Be wholly thine!
- 2 May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

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