



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH
HOWARDS GROVE, WI
MARCH 10, 2021



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**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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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.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

Hands of Passion: *Whether they were lifted to bless God's chosen people or to stone God's chosen prophets, hands in the Bible are rarely noticed but always in action. Our series explores the many roles hands played during the Passion History, from waving palm branches to nailing our Savior to the cross.*

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing | 111

- 1 Sweet the moments, rich in blessing, Which before the cross we spend,
Life and health and peace possessing From the sinner's dying friend.
- 2 Here we rest in wonder, viewing All our sins on Jesus laid;
Here we see redemption flowing From the sacrifice he made.
- 3 Here we find the dawn of heaven While upon the cross we gaze,
See our trespasses forgiven, And our songs of triumph raise.
- 4 Oh, that, near the cross abiding, We may to the Savior cleave,
Naught with him our hearts dividing, All for him content to leave!
- 5 Lord, in loving contemplation Fix our hearts and eyes on you
Till we taste your full salvation And your unveiled glory view.

Please stand.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

C: The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. (Psalm 24:3-4)

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear.

C: For our hands are stained with blood, our fingers with guilt. Our lips have spoken lies, and our tongue mutters wicked things. (Isaiah 59:2-3)

M: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

M: Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" - and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32:3-5)

M: Jesus was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;

C: The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

M: As a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

ANTHEM

The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day: Christ on the road to Calvary. Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.

Refrain: This, the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us, took the blame, bore the wrath: we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain written on your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin. Every bitter thought, every evil deed crowning your bloodstained brow.

Refrain

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows his head. Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life. "Finished!" the victory cry. *Refrain*

Oh to see my name written in your wounds, for through your suffering I am free. Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live, won through your selfless love! *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord Jesus, you endured senseless treatment at the hands of soldiers. May your selfless love cover our savagery and produce heartfelt honor for you as our King, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

DUET

From the Depths

Based on the Psalm of the Day, Psalm 130

Out of the depths we cry to the LORD for mercy and put our hope in his unfailing love.

From the depths I cry to you, O God. Lord, listen to my voice. From the depths I cry to you, O God. Please listen to my prayer. For if you should mark iniquity, O Lord, who could stand? But with God, forgiveness can be found, but with God, forgiveness can be found.

I wait in stillness for the Lord, and in God's Word do I hope more than those who watch for morning's light, more than those who watch for morning's light. Trust in God, you people Israel, who redeems you from sin. For with God, forgiveness can be found, for with God, forgiveness can be found.

My heart's not lifted up, O Lord, nor my eyes raised too high. I do not think on things too great. I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child with mother quieted. My soul is at rest, for with God, forgiveness can be found, for with God, forgiveness can be found. For with God, forgiveness can be found.

Silence for meditation on the psalm.

PSALM PRAYER

M: Let us pray. God of might and compassion, open your ears to the prayers of your people, who wait for you. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but listen to your Church pleading for the fullness of your redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PASSION HISTORY

Mark 14:43-65

Jesus is arrested and tried.

⁴³ Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸ "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, ⁵² he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶² “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. ⁶⁴ “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted | 127

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.**
- 2 Tell me, as you hear him groaning, Was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress,
Many hands were raised to wound him, None would intervene to save,
But the deepest stroke that pierced him Was the stroke that Justice gave.**
- 3 If you think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; See who bears the awful load—
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.**

**4 Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt—
None shall ever be confounded Who on him their hope have built.**

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 27:27-31

"Soldiers: Hands of Brutality"

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹ They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. (EHV)

Please stand.

SERMON RESPONSE

O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head | 118 vv. 2,4

**2 O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands With nails were pierced for me;
Oh, shed thy blessing on my hands That they may work for thee.**

**4 O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart With spear was pierced for me;
Oh, pour thy Spirit in my heart That I may live for thee.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

**C: I thank you my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, you dear Son,
that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and
graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body
and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the
wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**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.

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: Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing | 121

- 1 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.
- 2 Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,
Let me think about your 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.
- 3 If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me think about the load
You were willing to endure; Then I'll flee all thoughts impure,
Mastering each wild temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.
- 4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me By your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm weak, 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.
- 5 O my God, my Rock and Tower, Grant that in your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost his power Since you crushed him in the dust.
Savior, let your agony Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.

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