



Midweek Lenten
Worship Service

March 19, 2025

St. Paul Luthera Church
Serbin, TX

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO CASTS OUT DEMONS

In repentance we are compelled to take sin seriously. All people have inherited sin; it is the cause of our fallen condition. Human nature was created perfect, sinless, and at one with our Creator. "I'm only human" does not explain or excuse sin. When we seek where this deadly infection originated, we are directed by God's Word to the reality of the fallen angel Satan and his minions. Satan is real. Temptation is real. Demonic activity is rampant and powerful. True repentance and faith require us first to admit that we are powerless on our own to defeat the devil. His grasp is too much for us. Faith then looks to our Lord, who took sin and Satan seriously for us. By the bloody battle He waged on the cross, He has defeated the old evil foe for us. With His victory at hand, given to us by the hand of His ministers in Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion, our hands are empowered now to wield the instrument of prayer. In that victory, we have the sure deliverance and salvation of the Crucified One, now risen and ascended and ruling for us from the right hand of the Father.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

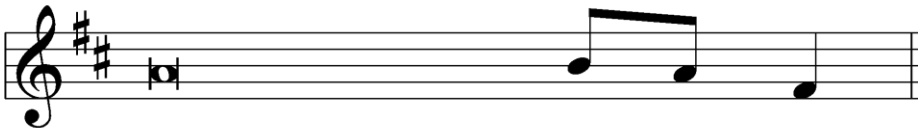
Stand

OPENING SENTENCES

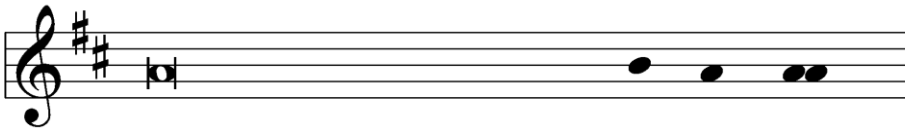
LSB 229



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

PSALM

PSALM 143



I stretch out my | hands to You;*
 my soul thirsts for You like a | parched land.
 Hear my prayer, O LORD;
 give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*

In Your faithfulness answer me,
 in Your | righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with Your | servant,*
 for no one living is righteous be- | fore You.
 For the enemy has pursued my soul;
 he has crushed my life | to the ground;*

he has made me sit in darkness like | those long dead.
 Therefore my spirit faints with- | in me;*

my heart within me | is appalled.
 I remember the days of old;
 I meditate on all that | You have done;*

I ponder the work | of Your hands.
 I stretch out my | hands to You;*

my soul thirsts for You like a | parched land.
 Answer me quickly, O LORD!
 My | spirit fails!*

Hide not Your face from me,
 lest I be like those who go down | to the pit.
 Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love,
 for in | You I trust.*

Make me know the way I should go,
 for to You I lift | up my soul.
 I stretch out my | hands to You;*

my soul thirsts for You like a | parched land.
 Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*

I have fled to You for | refuge!
 Teach me to do Your will, for You | are my God!*

Let Your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!

For Your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In Your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!
And in Your steadfast love You will cut off my | enemies,*
and You will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,
for I am Your | servant.
I stretch out my | hands to You;*
my soul thirsts for You like a | parched land.

Sit

HYMN: ♪"O CHRIST, YOU WALKED THE ROAD"

LSB 424

- 1 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r
And fought our ancient foe.
- 2 No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.
- 3 No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.
- 4 When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.
- 5 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour
To fight our ancient foe.

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READING

GENESIS 3:1–24

- P** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,

she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." To the woman He said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—"therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

READING

1 PETER 5:6-11

P Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

READING

LUKE 9:37-43; 11:14-23

P On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met Him. And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only child. And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. And I begged Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astonished at the majesty of God. . . .

Now He was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," while others, to test Him, kept seeking from Him a sign from heaven. But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

LENT RESPONSORY

LSB 231



L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.



G Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

Sit

HYMN: ♪ "IN GOD, MY FAITHFUL GOD"

LSB 745

1 In God, my faithful God,
I trust when dark my road;
Great woes may overtake me,
Yet He will not forsake me.
My troubles He can alter;
His hand lets nothing falter.

- 2 My sins fill me with care,
Yet I will not despair.
 I build on Christ, who loves me;
 From this rock nothing moves me.
To Him I will surrender,
To Him, my soul's defender.
- 3 If death my portion be,
It brings great gain to me;
 It speeds my life's endeavor
 To live with Christ forever.
He gives me joy in sorrow,
Come death now or tomorrow.
- 4 O Jesus Christ, my Lord,
So meek in deed and word,
 You suffered death to save us
 Because Your love would have us
Be heirs of heav'nly gladness
When ends this life of sadness.
- 5 "So be it," then, I say
With all my heart each day.
 Dear Lord, we all adore You,
 We sing for joy before You.
Guide us while here we wander
Until we praise You yonder.

Text: Public domain

SERMON: "THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO CASTS OUR DEMONS"

By Pastor John Shmidt

Stand

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERTORY

G 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.

Sit

Offering

As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.

OFFERING HYMN: ♪ "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

LSB 781 V. 1-2

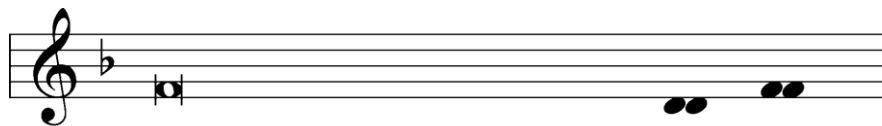
**1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

**2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!**

Text: William W. How, 1823-97 Text: Public domain

ANTIPHON

LSB 231



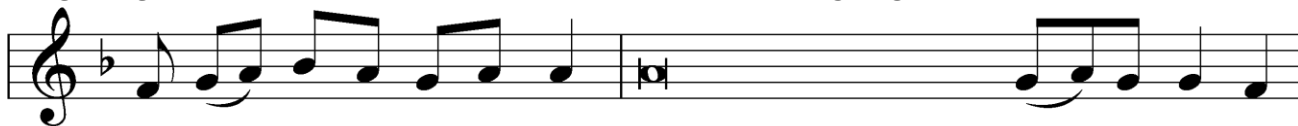
L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



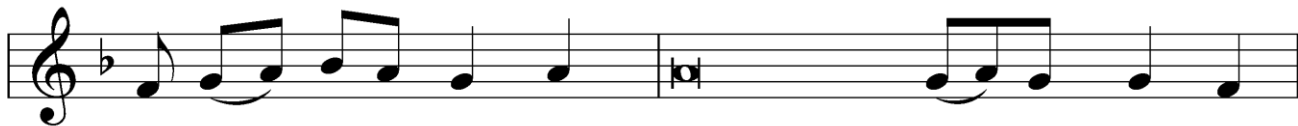
C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

MAGNIFICAT

LSB 231



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



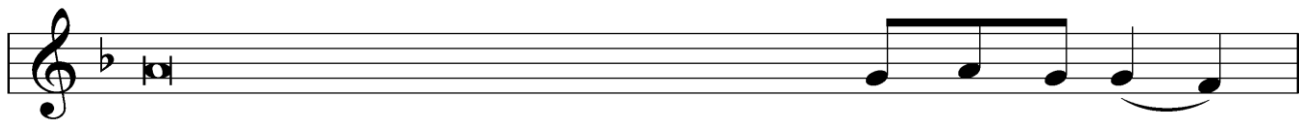
imagination of their hearts. II He has cast down the



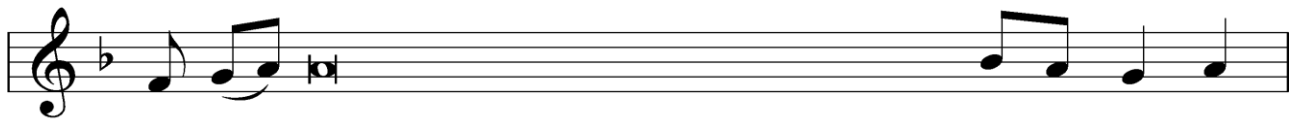
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



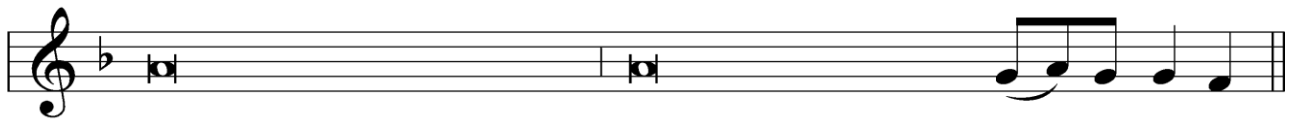
I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



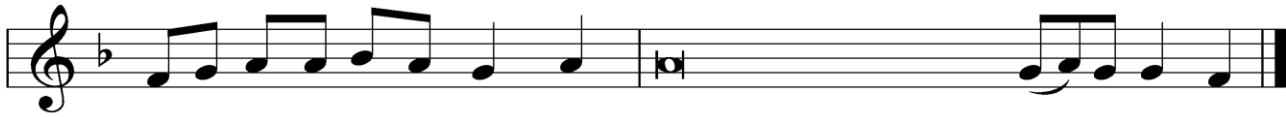
II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ev - er.



III Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A-men.

KYRIE

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You that Jesus has acted by the finger of God to overthrow Satan and his tyranny. In times of temptation, grant us the strength to resist the devil and entrust ourselves in Your protection, which was won for us at the cross of Calvary; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, You justify the ungodly and desire not the death of the sinner. We humbly ask You to assist us by Your heavenly aid and to shield us always from the evil foe. Grant that we may not be separated from You by any temptation but, trusting in Your mercy, may serve You without ceasing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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.

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.

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.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 234



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 234



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: ♪"O LITTLE FLOCK, FEAR NOT THE FOE"

LSB 666

- 1 O little flock, fear not the foe
Who madly seeks your overthrow;
Dread not his rage and pow'r.
And though your courage sometimes faints,
His seeming triumph o'er God's saints
Lasts but a little hour.
- 2 Be of good cheer; your cause belongs
To Him who can avenge your wrongs;
Leave it to Him, our Lord.
Though hidden yet from mortal eyes,
His Gideon shall for you arise,
Uphold you and His Word.
- 3 As true as God's own Word is true,
Not earth nor hell's satanic crew
Against us shall prevail.
Their might? A joke, a mere facade!
God is with us and we with God—
Our vict'ry cannot fail.

**4 Amen, Lord Jesus, grant our prayer;
Great Captain, now Thine arm make bare,
Fight for us once again!
So shall Thy saints and martyrs raise
A mighty chorus to Thy praise
Forevermore. Amen.**

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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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