Midweek Lenten Service
MARCH 6, 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Serbin, Texas
King David’s enemies said of him, “When will he die and his name perish?” (Psalm 41:5) Do you have enemies who wish the same fate on you? Regardless of your best efforts to “lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” (1 Timothy 2:2), you are pursued unceasingly by three dread adversaries: the world, the devil, and your own sinful flesh. When will you die? When will your name perish? Christ silences your foes and your fears and will strengthen and keep you firm in His Word and faith unto the end.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Stand*

**OPENING SENTENCES**

*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

P Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;
C Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!
P Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
C listen to my plea for grace.
P In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
C for You answer me.

PSALM

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
C In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;
P the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;
C You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.
P The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.
C As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”
P My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”
C And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.
P All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
C They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”
P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
C But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!
P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
C But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.
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.

Sit

HYMN: ♫ “JESUS, REFUGE OF THE WEARY” LSB 423

1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,
   Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life’s desert dreary,
   Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,
   Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
   You have borne the pain of all.
2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,
   Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
   See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
   Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us
   Calms the sinner’s deep distress.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning
   With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
   To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
   From the blessèd Savior’s side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
   Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

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READING

DEUTERONOMY 7:22–26

A reading from Deuteronomy, the seventh chapter.

The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. But the LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed. And He will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them. The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

READING

REVELATION 19:11–16

A reading from Revelation, the nineteenth chapter.

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written that no one knows but Himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Stand
Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

"Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not Mine."

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

SERMON HYMN: ❖“O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN”

All:

1 O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,
What dark transgression?

2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;
They crucify Thee.
Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,
This I do merit.

Women:

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,
Who would not know Him.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;
God is committed.

Men:

There was no spot in me by sin untainted;
Sick with sin’s poison, all my heart had fainted;
My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me,
Such woe it wrought me.

O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying
While Thou wert dying.

O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer?
What dare I offer?

For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder—
Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.
Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee!
Can I requite Thee?

Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;
I will renounce whate’er doth vex or grieve Thee
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly
All fires unholy.

But since my strength will nevermore suffice me
To crucify desires that still entice me,
To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me
And reign within me!
All:
12 I’ll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,  
That earth’s vain joys to me no more be pleasing;  
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor  
Henceforth forever.

13 Whate’er of earthly good this life may grant me,  
I’ll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.  
I shall not fear what foes can do to harm me  
Nor death alarm me.

14 But worthless is my sacrifice, I own it;  
Yet, Lord, for love’s sake Thou wilt not disown it;  
Thou wilt accept my gift in Thy great meekness  
Nor shame my weakness.

15 And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven  
To me the crown of joy at last is given,  
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,  
I, too, shall praise Thee.

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SERMON: “SOON AND NEVER”
PSALM 41:5
By Pastor John Schmidt

Stand

P The Grace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts in Christ Jesus.
C Amen

ANTIPHON

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
HYMN: ♫“MY SOUL REJOICES”  

1 My soul rejoices,  
   My spirit voices—  
   Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
   For God my Savior  
   Has shown me favor—  
   Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
   With praise and blessing,  
   Join in confessing  
   God, who is solely  
   Mighty and holy—  
   O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
   His mercy surely  
   Shall rest securely  
   On all who fear Him,  
   Love and revere Him—  
   O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

2 His arm now baring,  
   His strength declaring—  
   Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
   The proud He scatters,  
   Their rule He shatters—  
   Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
   Oppression halted;  
   The meek exalted.  
   Full are the hungry;  
   Empty, the wealthy—  
   O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
   Here is the token  
   All that was spoken  
   To Abr’ham’s offspring  
   God is fulfilling—  
   O sing the greatness of God the Lord!


Sit

OFFERING

As the offering is brought forth the congregation stands and sings.

OFFERING HYMN: ♫“WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN”  

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

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KYRIE

LORD’S PRAYER

COLLECTS

BENEDICAMUS
BENEDICTION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

CLOSING HYMN: “CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING”

1 Christ, the life of all the living,
   Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
   To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit
   I eternal life inherit.
   Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
   Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
   O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
   From the bonds of sin forever.
   Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
   That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
   Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
   Blessing unto me securing.
   Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
   Treating Thee with shameful scorn
   And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.
   All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
   That as Thine Thou mightest own me
   And with heav’nly glory crown me.
   Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
   Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
   That from pain I might be free;
   Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
   Thence I gain security;
   Comfortless Thy soul did languish
   Me to comfort in my anguish.
   Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
   Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
   And hast borne it patiently,
   Even death by crucifixion,
   Fully to atone for me;
   Thou didst choose to be tormented
   That my doom should be prevented.
   Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
   Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
   For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
   For Thine anguish in the Garden,
   I will thank Thee evermore,
   Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
   For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
   For that last triumphant cry,
   And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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Silent Prayer

Announcements

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