



March 14, 2021

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

At Home Worship  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Closter, New Jersey

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PREPARATION

#### INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**Congregation O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

**Congregation therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

**Congregation I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

## ENTRANCE HYMN *There is a Name I Love to Hear*

1. There is a name I love to hear;  
I love to sing its worth.  
It sounds like music in my ear,  
The sweetest name on earth.

*Refrain:* Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus!  
Oh how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!

2. It tells me of a Savior's love,  
Who died to set me free.  
It tells me of His precious blood,  
The sinner's perfect plea. *Refrain.*
3. It tells me what my Father hath  
In store for every day  
And though I tread a dark-some path  
Yields sunshine all the way. *Refrain.*
4. It tells of one whose loving heart  
Can feel my deepest woe,  
Who in each sorrow bears a part  
That none can bear below. *Refrain.*

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And with your spirit.**

Pastor Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
Your mercies are new every morning;  
and though we deserve only punishment,  
You receive us as Your children  
and provide for all our needs of body and soul.  
Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness,  
give thanks for all Your benefits,  
and serve You in willing obedience;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

## READINGS

### *Old Testament Reading:*    **Numbers 21:4-9**

- 4        From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way.<sup>5</sup> And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food."<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.<sup>7</sup> And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.<sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."<sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

*After the reading:*

Lector        This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation    Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience---<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ---by grace you have been saved---<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,<sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

Pastor      The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter three, beginning at verse fourteen.

**Congregation      Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>      And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>      "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.<sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.<sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.<sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.<sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

*After the reading:*

Pastor      This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Congregation      Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



## **HYMN OF THE DAY** *Jesus Loves Me*

- 1. Jesus loves me, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so,  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak, but He is strong. *Refrain:***

***Refrain:* Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!**

- 2. Jesus loves me, He who died,  
Heaven's gate to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin,  
Let His little child come in. *Refrain.***

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*after each portion of the prayer:*

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation hear our prayer.**

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **LITANY** (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*(Silence for meditation)*

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation To You, O Lord.**

Pastor 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 the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYER**

Pastor Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

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

**Congregation Amen.**



## **CLOSING HYMN** *Christ Be My Leader*

- 1. Christ be my leader by night as by day;  
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future His care;  
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**
- 2. Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,  
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.  
Grant me to trust Him, though shifting as sand,  
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**
- 3. Christ be my savior in calm as in strife;  
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain  
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.**

***Christ Be My Leader Copyright Information***

***Text by Timothy Dudley-Smith Words Copyright 1964 Renewal 1992***

***Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, Illinois***

***Reprinted under License # 62126***

## **IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

We remember our nation and many nations, as terrorism remains a threat, and service in Afghanistan continues to be a danger. We pray for the safety of both soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan, and around the world. We pray for peace in the Mideast. We pray for God's help and protection for persecuted Christians throughout the world. We pray for victims of natural disasters throughout the world. We pray for victims of violence (and their loved ones) around the world. We pray for our nation and world as we continue in care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray for our church leaders and their loved ones, and our sister churches and their outreach: Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President; Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn, our District President; and the African Immigrant congregations and missions. We pray for Rev. Dan Fenco and the Camino De Fe mission, Rev. Matt and Nyssa Lytikainen and Mile Square Church in Hoboken, Rev. Matthew Hass (pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor, NJ), and Naomi Vogt (serving as a teacher in Shanghai). We pray for Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner, missionaries in Israel. We pray for the Comfort Dog Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge. We pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries. We pray for St. Paul's families. We pray for St. Paul's youth and their parents. We pray for St. Paul's Sunday School. We pray for St. Paul's Bible Studies. We pray for those suffering from addiction.

We pray for those serving in the military: Capt. John Beddoe, Capt. Mark Buckman, Maj. Jake Butz, Cmdr. Jeff Dermody, Brian Grotz, Rolly Jarmin, Capt. Timothy Kuppler, Cmdr. Jeffrey Morin, T. Sgt. Ruth Presto, Laura Scott, Capt. Rance Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Trainor, Lt. David West and Shane Wojnar, serving with the Armed Forces (and all who serve in the Armed Forces).

We pray for our college and graduate students: Arianna Cavalli, Valerie Costeniuc, Sam del Corral, Lauren Graesser, Megan Hamlett, Alison Keil, David Keil, Kylie Keil, Casey and Courtney Luikert, Giulia Nicolai, Matthew Rojas, Brianna Ross, Emily Sposa, and James Steindl.

We pray for help, healing and God's loving care in the lives of our loved ones: Beau Bowman, Ron Cavalli, Dan Cinquegrana, Bette Eifert, Jenna Forbes, Pat Gianotti, Marilyn Grieco, BJ Heinz, Christopher Huss, June Kuhn, Lois Lake, Doris Lange, Fran Lelkendey, Gary Lopes, Ruth McReynolds, Ed Miller, Linda Sue Olsen, Bev Otten, Danielle Potocek, José Rojas, Gloria Rubner, Irma Schmuck, Delaney Westenhiser, and Anna Zulli

**ST. PAUL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH** is Closter Welfare.

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Sunday, March 14

9:00 AM – Bible Study

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:15 AM – Online Worship Service

Wednesday, March 17

4:15 PM – Confirmation Class