

L E N T E N  
M I D W E E K S E R V I C E  
W E D N E S D A Y , M A R C H 1 7 , 2 0 2 1



**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2001 Old Frederick Road  
Catonsville, Maryland

# Service of C o m p l i n e

For Lent

March 17, 2021

Lent is a time to reflect upon one's sinful life and to repent. But Lent is not only a time to see our sin; it is also a season for beholding our Savior. It is a time to hear His word. We listen to the words spoken by Jesus from the cross. These are his "crosswords." They are lifegiving words from the One who is Life Himself.

Tonight, Jesus cries out in thirst. The Creator of all things lacks the basics of life. The One who gives living water is thirsty in our stead and for our salvation.

+ + +

*Stand*

L The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C Amen.**

L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**

L to herald Your love in the morning,

**C Your truth at the close of the day.**

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Kneel. Silence for self-examination.*

**C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. 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.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

### Hymn: My Song is Love Unknown, #430, v. 1-3



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would  
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,  
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
Who at my need His life did spend!  
And for His death They thirst and cry.

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Sit

**Reading: Isaiah 53:1-6**

Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 69** (various verses; spoken responsively as below)

L Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,  
O Lord GOD of hosts;

C **let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me,  
O God of Israel.**

L For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach,  
that dishonor has covered my face.

C **I have become a stranger to my brothers,  
an alien to my mother's sons.**

L For zeal for your house has consumed me,  
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

- C **They gave me poison for food,  
and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.**
- L But I am afflicted and in pain;  
let your salvation, O God, set me on high!
- C **I will praise the name of God with a song;  
I will magnify him with thanksgiving.**
- C **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.**

### Reading: John 19:28-30

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”<sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsory

- L Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
- C **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**
- L You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.
- C **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**
- L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**

## Hymn: O Dearest Jesus, #439, v. 1-3,5,15



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken  
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?  
5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;  
15 And when, dear Lord, be - fore Thy throne in heav - en



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?  
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;  
The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;  
To me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -  
Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -  
Where sweet - est hymns Thy saints for - ev - er



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?  
cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.  
her - it, This I do mer - it.  
quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.  
raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

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## Sermon

### Catechism: Sacrament of Baptism

#### First

#### What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

## **Which is that word of God?**

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 28:19)

### **Second**

## **What benefits does Baptism give?**

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

## **Which are these words and promises of God?**

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

### **Third**

## **How can water do such great things?**

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)

### **Fourth**

## **What does such baptizing with water indicate?**

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

## Where is this written?

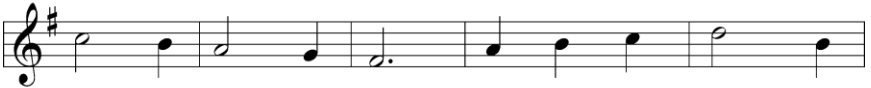
St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Rom. 6:4)

*Stand*

### Hymn: Lamb of God, 550



1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With heal - ing  
2 Thou know - est all my griefs and fears, Thy grace a -  
3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; Let noth - ing  
4 And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, To find in Thee my  
bused, my mis - spent years; Yet now to Thee with  
of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing, though it  
sweet a ser - vice be That an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
be through pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Responsive Prayer

L Holy God, Holy and most Gracious Father,  
C **have mercy and hear us.**

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.**

**C 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.**

**L I cry to You, O Lord;  
C in the morning my prayer comes before You.  
L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
C and uphold me with a willing spirit.  
L My mouth is filled with Your praise,  
C and with Your glory all the day.  
L Every day I will bless You  
C and praise Your name forever and ever.**

L By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,  
C **O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

L Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
C **and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name!**

L He redeems your life from the pit  
C **and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
C **let my cry come to You.**

L 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. Amen.  
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.**

L Let us bless the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

L The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and (+) bring you to everlasting life.  
C **Amen.**

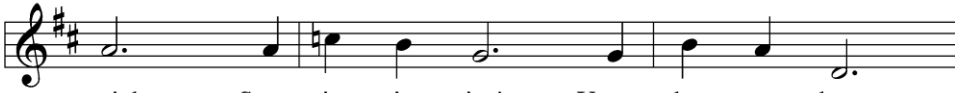
Hymn: My Song is Love Unknown, #430, v. 4-7



4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and  
 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -  
 6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might  
 7 Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di -



spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their  
 way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they  
 have; In death no friend - ly tomb But what a strang - er  
 vine! Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like



sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these  
 slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes  
 gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home  
 Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise



Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.  
 That He His foes From thence might free.  
 But mine the tomb Where - in He lay.  
 I all my days Could glad - ly spend!

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**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. PAUL**

PALM SUNDAY, *March 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.*  
 MAUNDY THURSDAY, *April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m.*  
 GOOD FRIDAY, *April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.*  
 EASTER VIGIL, *Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 p.m.*  
 EASTER SUNRISE, *April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 a.m.*  
 THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD,  
*April 4<sup>th</sup>, Festival Service, 10:00 a.m.*