

LENTEN
MIDWEEK SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021



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

Service of C o m p l i n e

For Lent

March 24, 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 says that his task of redemption is completed, his mission accomplished. His suffering is marked by trust in his Heavenly Father. Jesus commits himself into His care.

+ + +

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.

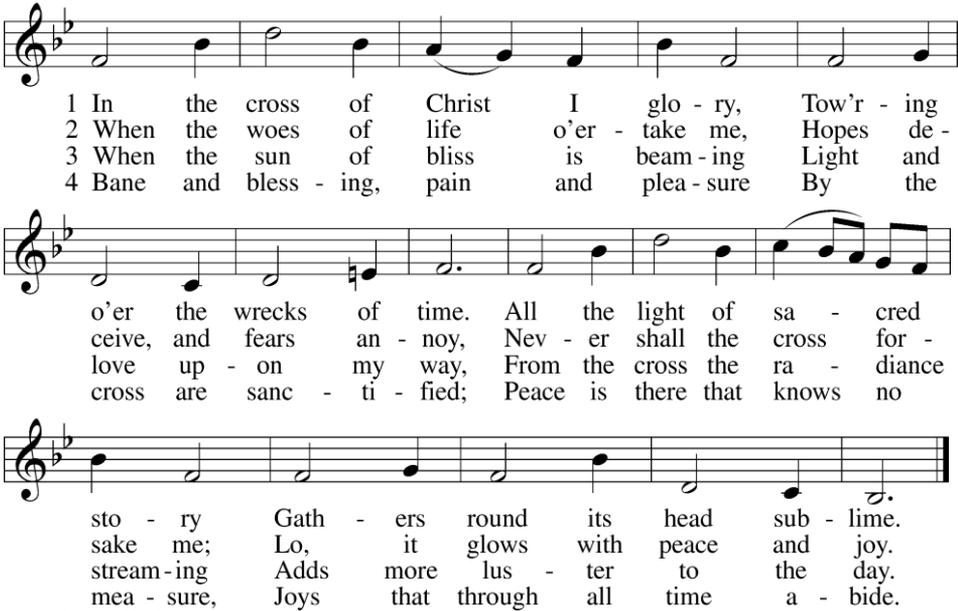
L Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

L By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C Amen.

Hymn: In the Cross of Christ I Glory, #427



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no

sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sit

Reading: Hebrews 9: 26-28

But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51 (various verses; spoken responsively as below)

L Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;

C according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

L Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

C Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

L Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

C Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

L Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

C Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

L Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

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 19:28-37 and Luke 23:46

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”²⁹ 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.³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him.³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.”³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

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: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me, #761



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Catechism: Confession and Office of the Keys

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22–23)

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Stand

Hymn: Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain, #435



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

Text and tune: 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, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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: Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness, #563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives',
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

- 5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text and tune: Public domain

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. PAUL

PALM SUNDAY, *March 28th, 10:00 a.m.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY, *April 1st, 7:00 p.m.*

GOOD FRIDAY, *April 2nd, 7:00 p.m.*

EASTER VIGIL, *Saturday, April 3rd, 7 p.m.*

EASTER SUNRISE, *April 4th, 7 a.m.*

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD,

April 4th, Festival Service, 10:00 a.m.