

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 3 , 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 3, 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. ATonight a son takes a mother and a mother a son. They are joined not by blood but by the word of the Crucified Savior.

+ + +

*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: Go to Dark Gethsemane, #436



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the  
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of  
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
 life ar - rained; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!  
 at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
 breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His  
 Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
 Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.  
 hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Sit*

### Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as

though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 32:1-7 (spoken responsively as below)

L Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

C **Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

L For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

C **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

L I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;

C **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

L Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;

C **surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.**

L You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;

C **you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

**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 19:25-27

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his

mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”<sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

- 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: What Wondrous Love, #543



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That  
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be-  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my  
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my  
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will  
sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

## Sermon

### Catechism: The Creed

#### The First Article

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

*What does this mean?* I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

#### The Second Article

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.

*What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## The Third Article

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.

*What does this mean?* I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

*Stand*

### Hymn: Not All the Blood of Beasts, 431, v. 1-2, 5



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con-science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

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### 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 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, 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 kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.**

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: 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.

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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.*