



Mid Week Lenten Service—February 21, 2024

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, Maryland 21793

Worship Service LIVE—7:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 301-845-4600 E-mail: info@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Web Site: <http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org>

Saint Paul's Official YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow1I7-Q>



*Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind,
and spirit of all*

SERVING TODAY

Minister.....Pastor Phil Beck
Lector.....Linda Yopp
Organist.....Jeff Gentry
Ushers.....Tom and Johanna Waters
Acolyte.....Camden Plog, Annabelle Bush

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

President—Patty Rimel
Vice-President—Sheila Kahler
Treasurer—Bill Cartwright
Secretary—Kate Stottlemeyer

Guided to Hope

He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 2 Corinthians 1:10

Opening Hymn

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

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|--|---|
| 1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace! | 4 Thou my faith increase and quicken,
let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken,
may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife. |
| 2 Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now! | 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes. |

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P When Jesus chased the money changers and merchants from the temple, the religious leaders who opposed him asked for a sign of his authority to do such things. Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). He spoke of the temple of his body. He would be killed and raised to life again on the third day after his death. The sign would be his death and resurrection. The sign would be the cross.

C **In a world of confusion and temptation and loss, we look for a sign to guide us.**

P As the time of his death drew near, Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). There he would take up his cross for the sake of our salvation. As we follow his path during this Lenten season, the cross stands before us as a marker, a signpost, to guide our steps.

C **As Jesus kept his focus on what lay ahead for him, we, too, look to his cross.**

P The cross signified a terrible death. Yet through faith in Jesus our Savior, for us the cross is a sign of triumph in the face of death. The cross is a sign of life and hope.

C **Lord Jesus, set your cross always before us to guide us to the hope of forgiveness and life that are ours through faith in your name! Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

- P Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.
- C **Almighty God, we have the cross of our Lord before us to guide us, but we often turn away from following in his steps. We listen to the temptations of the world instead of gladly hearing your Word. We turn from the hope we have in Jesus to follow our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**
- P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus was nailed to the cross, suffering the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- C **Lord God, set the cross always before us, and guide us in the way of hope.**

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, as we follow you on your path to the cross, guide our steps in the way of hope. By grace through faith in your holy name, we have forgiveness for our sins and the sure and certain hope of eternal life in your presence. When we are struggling with fear or loss, set your cross before us as a sign of the hope that we have. Lead us to be witnesses for you and to share the hope you bring with everyone we meet, so that they, too, in the power of the Holy Spirit, may come to believe in you and worship you as Lord. Hear our prayer, and accept our praise, dear Savior.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading ... Jeremiah 14:21-22

Epistle Reading ... 2 Corinthians 1:9-10

Gospel Reading ... Luke 23:39-43

Sermon.....Pastor Phil Beck

Hymn of the Day

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 596

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain

- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne!

Refrain

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

P Lord God, we have placed our hope in you. You are faithful, and you always keep your promises. We give you praise and thanks for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for the hope that is ours through faith in his name. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, in you we have hope for eternity and for our life today. You have promised to be with us and to guide us. We pray for those who are struggling today with illness, pain or grief, especially for *[mention known names of those sick, injured or grieving]* and for those we name in our hearts. Fill them with hope, and comfort them with the promises found in your holy Word. Lead us to opportunities to serve and support them in their times of need. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, all of our hopes are fulfilled in Jesus, who is the "Yes!" to all of your promises. Through our Savior's suffering and death and through his triumphant resurrection, the powers of death and Satan have been crushed. By your grace, through faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, the thief on the cross recognized Jesus, crowned with thorns, as his King. The thief repented of his sins and asked that his King would remember him. Jesus promised, "Today you will be with me in paradise." That is our hope too. When we fall asleep in death, in that moment, we will be at home with you. Jesus' promise is for us. We will be with him in paradise. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, you have told us to be ready at all times to be witnesses for our Savior, to speak to others of the hope that we have. Fill us with your Spirit and with the eager readiness to share the good news of forgiveness and life that is ours through faith in Jesus. Set his cross always before us to guide us to hope. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity. Amen.

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.

The Blessing

P We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

C **But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

ELW 811

On my heart imprint your image,
blessed Jesus, king of grace,
that life's troubles nor its pleasures
ever may your work erase.
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope's foundation,
all my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856-1921, alt.