



Mid Week Lenten Service—February 28, 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/UCSP6I9JEggsBUXlow1I7 -Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEggsBUXlow1I7-Q)



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

SERVING TODAY

Minister.....Pastor Phil Beck
Lector.....Susan Hayes
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 Love

I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 1:13-14

Opening Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

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|---|--|
| 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour
contempt on all my pride. | 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all. |
| 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown? | |

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C **Amen.**

P As the hour of his death drew near, Jesus said, “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.” (John 12:27) Throughout his earthly ministry, the cross stood before Jesus. It was his purpose in coming to the earth. Guided by love and in obedience to his Father’s will, Jesus came to lay down his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world.

C **The cross of Jesus guides us in the way of obedience as we seek to do God’s will.**

P God tells us in his Word, “Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:2)

C **The cross of Jesus guides us in the way of sacrifice.**

P On the night before he died, Jesus told his disciples, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34)

C **The cross of Jesus guides us in the way of love.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, you have called us to walk in love as Jesus did, yet we often turn away from showing love to others and choose to walk in our own selfish ways. We listen to the temptations of the world around us instead of following your Word. We fail to share with others the blessings that you have given to us. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins. Lead us to share your love with others.

P God has had mercy on us. This is how he loved the world—he sent his Son to be the Savior. Jesus, the Lamb of God, suffered and died on the cross to take away the sins of the world. He suffered and died to take away your 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 Lead us, Lord Jesus, to walk in love as you did, and to reflect your love in the world.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in your love for the world you sent your Son to be our Savior. The Lord Jesus came to give his life for us, to suffer and die on the cross for us. By your grace, through faith in Jesus, we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life. As we follow our Lord through this season of Lent, help us to walk in love as he did and to forgive others as we have been forgiven. Let the cross of our Lord always go before us to guide us in the way of love. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 63:7-8

Epistle Reading ... 1 Timothy 1:12-14

Gospel Reading ... John 19:25-27

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

ELW 609

1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
died that I might live on high,
lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his, and he is mine.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heav'ns above,
deeper than the depths of sea,
lasting as eternity.
Love that found me—wondrous thought—
found me when I sought him not.

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 Heavenly Father, you loved the world in this way—you sent your Son as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus was guided by the cross that was set before him. During this season of Lent, lead us in true repentance. Father of our Lord,

C **Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.**

P Heavenly Father, in obedience to your will and out of love for us, Jesus laid down his life for us. He bore our sins in his body on the tree of the cross, suffering the penalty of death that we deserve for our sins. Help us by your Spirit to look to Jesus alone for salvation. Father of our Lord,

C **Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.**

P Heavenly Father, there are people among us who must bear the heavy cross of suffering, grief or pain. We especially ask your mercy for *[mention known names of those who are sick or injured or grieving the loss of a loved one]* and for all of those we name in our hearts. We pray that, according to your will, you would bring them help and healing. Lead us to serve them in love, and bring to them the comfort and hope found in the promises of your Word. Father of our Lord,

C **Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.**

P Heavenly Father, send your Spirit to guide us and lead us to walk in love as Jesus walked. Help us to put the needs of others ahead of our own interests. Guide us in the study of your holy Word so that we are prepared to defend the hope that we have in Jesus. Lead us to serve as his witnesses in the world so that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, others will come to know and worship Jesus as Lord. Father of our Lord,

C **Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.**

P Heavenly Father, your unfailing steadfast love, your covenant love, never fails. It is the love that sent Jesus to be our Savior, to suffer, die and rise for us. It is the love that guides us now through this earthly life until we live forever in your presence. Lead us to reflect your love in the world so that others will see our good works and glorify you. Father of our Lord,

C **Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love. 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 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

C **We love because he first loved us.**

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

God Loved the World So That He Gave

ELW 323

1 God love the world so that he
gave His only Son the lost to
save, That all who would in him
believe Should everlasting life
receive.

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own
Son Forgives all sins which you
have done, And justified by Je-
sus' blood, Your baptism grand
the highest good.

5 All glory to the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.