



## Mid Week Lenten Service—March 20, 2024

### ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, Maryland 21793

#### Worship Service LIVE—7:00 p.m.

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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.....Mary Ann Ferguson  
Organist.....Jeff Gentry  
Ushers.....Sheila Kahler and Roxanne Smith  
Acolyte.....Camden Plog, Annabelle Bush

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

# Guided to Perseverance

*Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might ... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance. Ephesians 6:10, 18*

## Opening Hymn

## *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

**ELW 802**

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| <p>1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,<br/>through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.<br/>Onward in his footsteps treading,<br/>trav'lers here, our home above,<br/>full of faith and hope and love,<br/>let us do our Savior's bidding.<br/>Faithful Lord, with me abide;<br/>I shall follow where you guide.</p> | <p>2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,<br/>and with patience bear our cross.<br/>Joy will follow all our sadness;<br/>where he is there is no loss.<br/>Though today we sow no laughter,<br/>we shall reap celestial joy:<br/>all discomforts that annoy<br/>shall give way to mirth hereafter.<br/>Jesus, here I share your woe;<br/>help me there your joy to know.<br/>life eternal grant to me.</p> |
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Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## Invocation and Call to Worship

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Jesus repeatedly told his disciples what lay ahead for him. It was the purpose for which he had come. Calling himself the Son of Man, a title for the Messiah from the prophet Daniel, Jesus said, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day" (Matthew 17:22-23).

**C** **Teach us, Lord, to follow you in faithfulness.**

**P** As the time drew near for Jesus to finish his earthly ministry and to be taken up to heaven, he turned to Jerusalem and to the cross: "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51).

**C** **When our days are difficult and challenging, Lord Jesus, help us to keep our focus on you.**

- P As Jesus began to take his final steps toward the cross, he 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. Father, glorify your name” (John 12:27-28).
- C **Jesus, in faithfulness, you took up the cross for the sake of our salvation. Set your cross before us to guide us to persevere in faith.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

- P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.
- C **Almighty God, we are called to persevere in our obedience to your will and your ways, but instead we sin against you. We do not walk in your ways or love others as we should. We are more interested in fulfilling our own desires than serving others and being faithful to your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**
- P God, in his mercy, sent his Son to deliver us. Jesus faithfully obeyed his Father’s will and suffered and died to save us. 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, lead us to walk faithfully in your ways.**

### Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem as the time of your death drew near. You did not turn away from what lay ahead. In Gethsemane, you prayed that your Father’s will, not yours, would be done. You were faithful to your purpose and obedient to your heavenly Father, obedient to the point of death on a cross. Lead us by your Spirit to be faithful to you in our thoughts, words and actions, so that our lives bear witness to your steadfast love. **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading ... Micah 6:7-8**

**Epistle Reading ... Ephesians 6:13-20**

**Gospel Reading ... John 19:16-22**

Sermon

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.
- 3 I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869

### 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 Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem, where you would take up your cross for the sake of our salvation. In faithful obedience to your heavenly Father, you suffered and died to save us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,
- C Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**
- P Lord Jesus, when we face difficult days in life, when we are filled with doubt or fear, strengthen us to persevere in faith and to hold fast to the hope and peace that you have brought us. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,
- C Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**
- P Lord Jesus, be present with those who face illness, pain and grief, especially *[mention known names of those who are sick, injured or grieving]* and those we name in our hearts. Comfort them through the promises of your Word, and keep them strong in faith. Guide us as we serve them in love. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,
- C Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**

P Lord Jesus, keep us steadfast in the study of your Word so that we will grow in faith, ready to defend the hope that is ours and to be your witnesses each day. Give us opportunities to speak to others about your redeeming death and triumphant resurrection, so that in the power of the Spirit, they, too, may come to follow you in faith. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C **Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness.**

P Lord Jesus, faithful to your purpose and to your Father's will, you suffered and died to save us. Keep us steadfast in faith, walking in your footsteps, until we live in your presence for ever. Faithful Lord, as we follow you,

C **Set your cross before us to guide us in faithfulness. 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 Into your hand I commit my spirit;

C **You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

### *Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake*

### ELW 799

1 "Come, follow me," the Savior spake,  
"all in my way abiding;  
deny yourselves, the world forsake,  
obey my call and guiding.  
Oh, bear the cross, whate'er betide;  
take my example for your guide."

4 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,  
and take the cross appointed,  
and, firmly clinging to his word,  
in suffering be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle's strain  
the crown of heav'nly life obtain.

2 "I am the light; I light the way,  
a godly life displaying;  
I bid you walk as in the day;  
I keep your feet from straying.  
I am the way, and well I show  
how you should sojourn here below."

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624-1677; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813-1896,  
alt.

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