

St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Hand of the Lord Who Casts Out Demons

Midweek Lent 2
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Large Print Bulletin

The Hand of the Lord Who Casts Out Demons

As We Gather

In repentance we are compelled to take sin seriously. All people have inherited sin; it is the cause of our fallen condition. Human nature was created perfect, sinless, and at one with our Creator. "I'm only human" does not explain or excuse sin. When we seek where this deadly infection originated, we are directed by God's Word to the reality of the fallen angel Satan and his minions. Satan is real. Temptation is real. Demonic activity is rampant and powerful. True repentance and faith require us first to admit that we are powerless on our own to defeat the devil. His grasp is too much for us. Faith then looks to our Lord, who took sin and Satan seriously for us. By the bloody battle He waged on the cross, He has defeated the old evil foe for us. With His victory at hand, given to us by the hand of His ministers in Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion, our hands are empowered now to wield the instrument of prayer. In that victory, we have the sure deliverance and salvation of the Crucified One, now risen and ascended and ruling for us from the right hand of the Father.

437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,

And did my sov'reign die?

Would He devote that sacred head

For such a worm as I?

2 Was it for crimes that I had done

He groaned upon the tree?

**Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!**

**3 Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died
For His own creatures' sin.**

**4 Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.**

**5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Text: Public domain

Opening Sentences *Psalm 102:1, 25; Psalm 91:1–2, 11; Psalm 143:1–2*

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;
C let my cry come to You!

P Of old You laid the foundation of the earth,
C and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

P He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
C will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

P I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
C my God, in whom I trust."

P For He will command His angels concerning you
C to guard you in all your ways.

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;
C give ear to my pleas for mercy!

P Enter not into judgment with Your servant,
C for no one living is righteous before You.

Collect

P Let us pray

God of love, You lifted up Your Son on the cross so that You could draw all people to Him. Fill us with thanksgiving for this incredible love that we dare to believe is ours. Help us to be faithful servants of Your new covenant, reaching out to all those whom You claim; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Reading

Genesis 3: 1-7, 14-15

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

St. John School Seraphim Choir sings

Reading

1 Peter 5:6–11

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

**1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!**

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt. Text: Public domain

Reading

Luke 11:14–23

¹⁴Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 51:1–6; antiphon: v. 10

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

**C Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my**

transgressions.

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!

C For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

P Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,

**C so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.**

P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**C Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Sermon

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness

With a liberating light;

Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,

Turning blindness into sight.

Praise the One who preached the Gospel,

Healing ev'ry dread disease,

**Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.**

**2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.**

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955 Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used
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**Offering St. John School Hand Bells play
during the Offering**

Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You that Jesus has acted by the finger of God to overthrow Satan and his tyranny. In times of temptation, grant us the strength to resist the devil and entrust ourselves in Your protection, which was won for us at the cross of Calvary; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, You justify the ungodly and desire not the death of the sinner. We humbly ask You to assist us by Your heavenly aid and to shield us always from the evil foe. Grant that we may not be separated from You by any temptation but, trusting in Your mercy, may serve You without ceasing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P 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, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

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.

Blessing

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!

**Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.**

**3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

**4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Text: Public domain

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