

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



The Hand of the Lord Who Creates and Saves

Midweek Lent 2
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather... The God who is Creator of all came to save us from sin and death in the incarnate Son of Mary, Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is God. He first revealed Himself to Moses with the holy name "I AM," saying, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14). When Jesus came to His disciples walking on the crashing waves of the sea of Galilee, He said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27). "It is I" is the same term for the divine name, "I AM." As He reached out His hand and grabbed the fearful, doubting, sinking Simon Peter, so does His compassionate hand save you in times of despair and helplessness. His greatest deliverance was when He allowed His hands to be nailed to a cross for your sins. As we are helpless like drowning Peter, our repentant prayer this day is in the words of the hymn, "Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling" (*LSB* 761:3).

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 118:14, 15b–16;
Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5, alt.*

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 The LORD is my strength and my song;

C He has become my salvation.

P “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts,

C the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”

P Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster.

P Jesus said, “If anyone would come after Me,

C let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.”

P Christ was wounded for our transgressions;

C He was crushed for our iniquities.

Prayer Response

Jonah 2

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, when we, by our sin, had fallen away from You, You graciously came down to us. You became man to save humanity. You lived among us in lowliness that we may live with You in glory. You endured Satan’s attacks for us that You could crush the serpent’s head for us. By Your humble incarnation, Your life of purity and selfless service, and Your sacrificial death, You have redeemed us. Therefore, God our Father has highly exalted You and put everything under Your feet, and we humbly bow before You, for You are our Lord, and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Reading

Job 9:1–12

¹Then Job answered and said:

²"Truly I know that it is so:

But how can a man be in the right before God?

³If one wished to contend with him,
one could not answer him once in a thousand times.

⁴He is wise in heart and mighty in strength
—who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?—

⁵he who removes mountains, and they know it not,
when he overturns them in his anger,

⁶who shakes the earth out of its place,
and its pillars tremble;

⁷who commands the sun, and it does not rise;
who seals up the stars;

⁸who alone stretched out the heavens
and trampled the waves of the sea;

⁹who made the Bear and Orion,
the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;

¹⁰who does great things beyond searching out,
and marvelous things beyond number.

¹¹Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not;
he moves on, but I do not perceive him.

¹²Behold, he snatches away; who can turn him back?
Who will say to him, 'What are you doing?'

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Ephesians 2:1–10

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Matthew 14:22–33

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of

the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon

431 Not All the Blood of Beasts

1 Not all the blood of beasts

On Jewish altars slain

Could give the guilty conscience peace

Or wash away the stain.

2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,

Takes all our sins away;

**A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.**

**3 My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.**

**4 My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.**

**5 Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.**

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

Offering

Prayer *(LSB 761)*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, our Creator and Redeemer, "Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy Law's demands." Therefore "nothing in my

hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling." Increase our faith and trust in You that we may walk confidently amid the troubles and reverses of life, knowing that Your gracious hands are evermore leading us, guiding us, and saving us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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.

New Testament Canticle

Colossians 1:12–20, alt.

P Let us give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**C Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**

**For by Him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,**

P whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—
all things were created through Him and for Him.

And He is before all things,
and in Him all things hold together.

**C And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything He might be preeminent.**

P For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of His cross.

**C 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.**

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.

433 Glory Be to Jesus

**1 Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!**

**2 Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind!**

**3 Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream**

**Which from endless torment
Did the world redeem!**

**4 Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.**

**5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.**

**6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!**

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Text:
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