



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

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2024 Lenten Theme: The Book of Exodus: “Let My People Go!”

Silent Prayer Before Worship: O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

Tonight’s Theme: God does big things with small stuff! He does it for Israel through **Moses** and he does it for us through **Jesus**.

RINGING OF THE BELLS


GREETING

P: Peace be with you,
C: And also with you.


HYMN “Lift High The Cross”

LSB 837 v. 1-4


Refrain




Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.
Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947. Text and tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744

stand

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

P: Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you."

C: **Come and see what God has done, how awesome are his works for us!**

P: For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

C: **You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.**

P: You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water.

C: **But God has listened and heard our prayer.**

P: He turned the sea into dry land, we passed through the waters on foot.

All: He has brought us to a place of abundance!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

From selected verses in Romans 7

P: Hear me, merciful and mighty Father, as I confess my bondage to sin and death.

C: **I know that nothing good lives in me.**

P: That is, in my sinful nature.

C: **I have the desire to do good.**

P: But I cannot carry it out.

C: **What I do is not the good I want to do.**

P: No, the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing.

C: **I find this law at work—**

P: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

C: **In my inner being I delight in your law.**

P: But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war and making me a prisoner of the law of sin and death.

All: Who will rescue me from this body of death?

*You are invited to silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great,
Christ's love is greater.*

P: Hear the good news! The same God who delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage also delivers you from your body of sin and death! Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed and his blood forgives you and sets you free! He turned the sea into dry land; we passed through the waters on foot.

All: He has brought us to a place of abundance!

HYMN “Lift High The Cross”

LSB 837 v. 5-6

5 Let ev - 'ry race and ev - 'ry lan - guage tell
6 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.
Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Refrain

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KYRIE

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. 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, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

sit

CHOIR “There Is A Balm In Gilead”

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 2:1-10

¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. ⁵Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-4, 16-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Sixth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . . ¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

sit

CREED *Luther's Explanation of the 2nd Article*

LSB p.322

SERMON “*Big Things with Small Stuff*”

Exodus 2:1-10

stand

OFFERTORY HYMN “What Wondrous Love Is This”

LSB 543



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be-
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven. Text and tune: Public domain

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Following each petition, the pastor will say, *“If the Son sets us free,”* to which the congregation is invited to respond, *“We are free, indeed.”* (John 8:36)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the promised treasure of salvation accomplished for us by the life-giving sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Holy Spirit. In the fellowship of His Table, we are blessed to receive Christ's forgiveness as He exchanges the ashes of our sin for His perfect righteousness. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My **†** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My **†** blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST & LORD'S PRAYER

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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 PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

LSB 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871. Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68. Text and tune: Public domain

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758. Text and tune: Public domain

Silent Prayer after Receiving the Supper: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise you for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that You have given us pardon and peace in this Supper. Grant us faith to always trust in you, for you alone are God, and there is no other. You alone cause your people to shout:

P: God has listened and heard our prayer!

C: He turned the sea into dry land; we passed through the waters on foot.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor **†** and give you peace.

C: Amen.

sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN “Abide With Me”

LSB 878 st. 1, 2 & 6



1 A - bid e with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid e.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bid e with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bid e with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bid e with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89. Text and tune: Public domain

THE SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE(S)



Welcome to Peace in the name of the Risen Savior!

We request that visitors register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. We ask that you share your name and address so that we can recognize your visit with us. All members are requested to register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. Members, please indicate all family members present and those who took communion, so that the Pastor and Elders can be spiritually accountable for you and your family.

Are your cell phones turned off? Cell phones are indeed a great convenience in life these days. However, please, out of courtesy, silence cell phones during the worship service. Thank you!

Hearing assist devices and large print bulletins are available for those who may need them. Please see an Usher or the Elder who will be happy to assist you.

A Mother's Room is available for parents of young children if the need arises. The Mother's Room in the west hallway. The worship service is able to be heard in the Mother's Room.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion. Scripture teaches that Holy Communion is a sacred act, established by Christ Himself and is given to His Church. As members of **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**, we hold the doctrine of the Real Presence, in with and under; meaning that Jesus gives His Body and Blood with the bread and wine, as He Himself says, *"This is my body... This is my blood... for the forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:26ff)

The Holy Scriptures also teach us to receive this meal in a way that is responsible and healthy. As overseer, St. Paul wrote- *"let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself"* (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Out of genuine care for God's people we ask that those (1) who have not been baptized and instructed in the faith or (2) who come from another church body, not in altar or pulpit fellowship with us, refrain from receiving Holy Communion.

For those preparing to receive Holy Communion, Luther encourages us to ask ourselves these questions:

Do **I repent** of my sins, desiring to turn away from them, back to the Lord?

Do **I believe** Jesus died and rose for me and gives me His Body and Blood this day "for the forgiveness of sins"?

Do **I intend** to use this means of grace to change my life, following His will and way?

We ask that all who receive the Lord's Supper fill out a "Care Card" and place it in the offering plate. Please note that reduced-alcoholic white wine is available in the center cups of the communion tray.

**Peace Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

1228 S Park Ave.
Neenah, WI 54956
920-725-0510

Ricky P. Schroeder, Pastor
pastor@peaceneenah.com
Josiah Fitch, Associate Pastor
assocpastor@peaceneenah.com

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Holy Communion Celebrated at all Services
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00a.m.
Sunday Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School (Sept. -May) 10:30 a.m.

Website: www.peaceneenah.com

YouTube: Peace Neenah

