



FIRST LUTHERAN  
HOUSTON

## A Livestream-able Spoken Word Service for the Covid-19 Era

+ WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP +

**PRELUDE** *Chorale Prelude: "OMensch, beweine dein Sünde gross,"* BWV 622  
21,1685–1750)

J. S. Bach (March

*Chorale text (Seybold Heyden, 1530):*

O sinner, come thy sins to mourn,  
Because of which Christ left his Father's bosom  
And came upon the earth;  
From a young woman pure and gentle  
He was born here for us.  
He wanted to become our mediator.  
To the dead he gave life  
And removed in this way all sickness  
Until the time came  
When he would be sacrificed for us,  
Bearing the heavy burden of our sins  
For a long time on the cross.

### THE BRIEF RITE OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,  
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen**

#### GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C **And also with you.**

#### KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C **Amen**

#### WORDS OF PRAISE

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . . . (The prayer concludes:)

C **Amen**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### + WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD +

#### FIRST LESSON – A Reading from the Old Testament

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

#### PSALM – A Reading from the Psalter

Psalms 23 (Lexham English Bible)

Yahweh is my shepherd; I will not lack for anything.

**In grassy pastures he makes me lie down; by quiet waters he leads me.**

He restores my life. He leads me in correct paths for the sake of his name.

**Even when I walk in a dark valley, I fear no evil because you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare before me a table in the presence of my oppressors. You anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.

**Surely goodness and loyal love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will stay in the house of Yahweh for a very long time.**

## SECOND LESSON – A Reading from the New Testament

Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

*Stand*

**C Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

## THE GOSPEL READING

P The Holy Gospel according to St. \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.\*  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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

## THE PRAYERS

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
and for all people according to their needs.

After each prayer:

**A** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** **Amen**

## PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

*The congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you." During this time, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.*

## THE OFFERTORY

**C** **What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?**  
**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving**  
**and will call on the name of the Lord.**  
**I will take the cup of salvation**  
**and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

- A Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**+ WE RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR +**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- P It is indeed right and salutary . . . (Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**
- P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him  
should not perish, but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.  
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

#### **AGNES DEI**

**C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

*You may be seated while you wait to be called forward to receive Christ's body and blood. We will form a semi-circle at the front of the church. The pastor will offer you a piece of unleavened bread which you may dip into the chalice or eat and then drink directly from the chalice. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.)*

#### **COMMUNION**

*Solo during the Communion: "O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde gross"*  
J. S. Bach

Harmonized by

*As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:*

**P The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
C Amen**

*After all have been served and have returned to their seats, the pastor will say,*

**P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen  
you and keep you in his grace.  
C Amen**

**+WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD+**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your  
mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward  
one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

C **Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory 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 Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**