

Fourth Sunday in Lent Setting 3 March 19, 2023 8:15

Discovering What is Good and Right and True

Prelude Handbells "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

As We Gather

Walking is important for our lives! Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus to "walk as children of light" and to seek what is "good and right and true". May our walking with our Lord be blessed each day! Hymn of Invocation "God Loved the World So That He Gave" LSB 571
God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death; All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

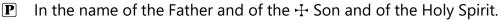
God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh; His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done; And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One! To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain



- С
- Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- A I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ++ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

(sing) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie (sing)

LSB 186

Lord, have mercy upon us.
 Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Lord, have mercy upon us.

Rite of Holy Baptism

WELCOME

On behalf of St. Paul Lutheran Church we welcome you! The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is a monumental and lifetime event in the life of a Christian. The Baptism of this child becomes a reminder of the day of our baptism when God claimed us as His son or daughter through the power of His Word. In this particular moment God comes to us in water and Word.

INVOCATION

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

TEACHING

- Martin Luther wrote about baptism, asking the simple question, "What does such baptizing with water indicate?"
- It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition (sorrow for our sin) and repentance (a desire to change), be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts. And also it shows that a new man should daily come forth and arise, who

shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever." (Small Catechism)

- **P** St. Paul says in the sixth chapter of Romans,
- "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).
- The command to baptize comes from Jesus. He speaks to His disciples in the last chapter of Matthew saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."
- A The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Pastor addresses the parents and sponsors:

- **P** How is this child named?
- R Baylor Timothy Whitlock & Cohen James Boyce

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

Baylor/Cohen, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your + forehead and upon your + heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

THE RESPOSONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS

It is your task as parents and sponsors to confess with the whole Church the faith we have in God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whose name these children are to be baptized. After each child has been baptized you are at all times to remember them in your prayers, put them in mind of her Baptism, and, as much in you lies, give your counsel and aid, especially if they should lose their parents. Place in their hands the Holy Scriptures so that they grow and mature as His disciple expressing a living faith to all they encounter in their lives. That with instruction in this faith they come to the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood and thus, abiding in baptismal grace and in communion with His Church, they may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus the Christ.

This, then, you intend gladly and willingly to do?

Parents & Sponsors: Yes, with the help of God.

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

- It is not the water alone nor the parents and sponsors, who present these children at this font, which empowers Baptism. As we have heard it is God's Word of promise, freely given, through Christ's death and resurrection, which conveys God's abundant grace through the simple means of water, which our Lord commanded us to use. It is God's action of redemption we witness here. In our weakness it is Christ's power bestowing life, faith, and salvation.
- A People of God, baptized into God's Triune name, proclaim in behalf of these children what you believe about God the Father.
- **I** believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

- A People of God, baptized into Christ's death, proclaim in behalf of these children what you believe about God the Son.
- I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- A People of God, having received the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, proclaim in behalf of these children what you believe about God the Holy Spirit.
- **C** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THE BAPTISM

P Who brings this child to be baptized?

Parents: We do.

The pastor pours water three times on the head of the candidate while saying:

- Baylor/Cohen, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

The pastor places his hand on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

- The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life + everlasting. (The blessing renewed at Confirmation.)
- C Amen.

The pastor or another may give a white baptismal cloth and a burning light as gifts of the church.

A Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Baylor/Cohen the new birth in Holy Baptism and made them a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as they have now become Your child You would keep them in their baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure they may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

An Elder or representative of our church will speak a welcome and our members respond.

- A Baylor/Cohen, in Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
- **C** We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom.
- And you, Baylor/Cohen, the Lord bless you in all your ways from this time forth and even forevermore. Peace + be with you.
- C Amen.

(The families and children return to their seats)

Salutation and Collect of the Day



A Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament

Isaiah 42: 14-21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant.
¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.
¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

A The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him,

"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing....

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."...

³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.



(Having already made our profession of faith with Apostle's Creed during the baptism we continue with the next part of our worship)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" LSB 411
I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father. Refrain

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

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Sermon "Discovering What is Good and Right and True" Ephesians 5: 8-14

Offertory (stand to sing)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen. 192

Prayer of the Church

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

Gracious Lord, shine Your light of mercy and grace into our darkened hearts of sin and eyes blinded to Your will and ways, so that we know the fullness of Your forgiveness, life, and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,



C hear our prayer.

Healing Lord, shine Your light of peace and healing to all who seek A relief, for the sick and dying, for those troubled physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, and for the grieving and the dying, that Your comfort be known, especially Jamie Holtzman, Vicki Sargent, Chuck Senecol, Lennie Sprayberry, Deane Peters, John McCarty, Allison White, Eddie Musgrave, Erik Peterson, Dave Peterson, Janice Sessum, Jason Taylor, Kirk Ruhberg, Sara Rothan, Jeanette Henriques, Nathan Pittman, Andy Puls, Barbara Murphy, Kathy Carlson, Dan Benson, Tammy Tolbert, Tisha Robinson and for the Krueger family as they mourn the loss of loved ones. Lord, in Your mercy,

С hear our prayer.

A Lord of all nations, shine Your light to all places in this world and to the leaders of cities, states, and countries, that Your light guide and direct them so that peace be had and justice faithfully served. Give courage and diligence to all who work to defend liberties and life, and to those who speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,



hear our prayer.

A Grant Your presence and provision within our families and in the lives of our children. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Jim & Anne Rowe, Melissa & Olivia Ruhberg, Kirk & Shari Ruhberg, Gretchen & Mack Sloan. Bless the children of our CLC Vivian, Zenley, Alex, Campbell, along with their parents and our staff. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. Grant that we share with them our faith in Christ and live together as God's sanctified and thankful people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Lord of the Church, shine Your light upon all You have enabled to speak and proclaim Your Word. Be with our congregation, that we remain united in truth, love, faith, and service. Give courage to live as Your witnesses, that many who remain in darkness rejoice in the light of truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Lord of all seasons, in this season of Lent shine Your light upon us as we examine ourselves, see our sins, and know our need for a Savior. Gather and bless us in Mid-Week Lent worship as we continue to follow Christ to the cross, draw our hearts and minds to You and the joys that await. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

A Moment of Reflection

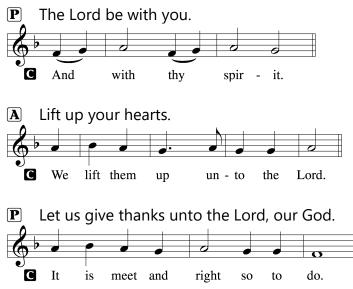
"Psalm 141" Trombone Duet - John Rosenboom and Tracy Lindsay

We Prepare

- As we prepare to receive the Sacrament of Christ's True Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins, let us humbly confess what we believe regarding this Sacrament and our approach to it:
- I believe and confess that I sin often. I am responsible for my sins.
 I am truly sorry for them and I desire to redirect my life by God's grace.
- **I** am not withholding forgiveness nor harboring bitterness with anyone.
- I believe that Jesus is truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion- in, with, and under the bread and wine - His Body and Blood - for the forgiveness of my sins.
- **I** believe I am coming together with fellow Christians who are united in faith and doctrine concerning this Sacrament.
- If this is what you believe then I invite you to come forward to share the true Body and Blood of our Savior under these elements of bread and wine. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms as a sign to receive a blessing only.

(For those intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Preface



A It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (sing)

G Holy, holy,

holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

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A 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.



The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

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."

Pax Domini

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei (sing)

• O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

> O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymn "The Lamb" LSB 547

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice? Faith sees. believes God will provide the Lamb of price! Refrain

Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

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LSB 197

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. Refrain

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. Refrain

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. Refrain Tet: Geral P. Coleman, 1933

Distribution Hymn "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" LSB 563

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress; Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay; Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame. Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.

Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore, Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies, This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me, For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt. Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis (sing)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. 199

Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P The Lord be with you.



Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.



Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace. A-men, С a-men. а men. Closing Hymn "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685 Let us ever walk with Jesus. Follow His example pure, Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure. Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above, Full of faith and hope and love,

Let us do the Father's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross. Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss. Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy; All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter. Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know. Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death, He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath. Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin; And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven. Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head. We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever. Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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