

THE
HAND
OF THE
LORD



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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LENT MID-WEEK ONE 1:00 p.m. March 12, 2025

MIDWEEK OF LENT 1

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO CREATES AND SAVES

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).

432 In Silent Pain the Eternal Son



1 In si - lent pain the e - ter - nal Son Hangs der - e - lict and still;
2 He died that we might die to sin And live for righ-teous-ness;
3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;



In dark-ened day His work is done, Ful - filled, His Fa - ther's will.
The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us in - to peace.
To rule in us, our pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies:



Up - lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang-est vic - to - ry,
For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Him - self to save the lost;
For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our wars,



For in His bod - y on the tree He car-ries all our ill.
He loved us to the ut - ter - most And paid for our re - lease.
And those who love Him see His scars And look in - to His eyes.

Text: Christopher M. Idle, 1938

Tune: John L. Bell, 1949

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Tune: © 1988, 1997 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000276

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 102:1, 25

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

P I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and He answered me;
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice.

C **For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas,
 and the flood surrounded me;
 all Your waves and Your billows passed over me.
 Then I said, ‘I am driven away from Your sight;
 yet I shall again look upon Your holy temple.’
 The waters closed in over me to take my life;
 the deep surrounded me;
 weeds were wrapped about my head
 at the roots of the mountains.
 I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever;
 yet You brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.
 When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD,
 and my prayer came to You, into Your holy temple.
 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast
 love.
 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to You;
 what I have vowed I will pay.
 Salvation belongs to the LORD!**

**I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and He answered me;
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice.**

READING

Job 9:1–12

P 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

P 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.

P 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 worshipped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 8

C O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
 You have set Your glory above the heavens.
 Out of the mouth of babes and infants,
 You have established strength because of Your foes,
 to still the enemy and the avenger.
 When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
 the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,
 what is man that You are mindful of him,
 and the son of man that You care for Him?
 Yet You have made Him a little lower than the heavenly beings
 and crowned Him with glory and honor.
 You have given Him dominion over the works of Your hands;
 You have put all things under His feet,
 all sheep and oxen,
 and also the beasts of the field,
 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
 whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
 O LORD our Lord,
 how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

SERMON

543 What Wondrous Love Is This



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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

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.**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 pre-eminent.**

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 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don 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.

Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–76

Text and tune: Public domain



Lent

THE DEATH OF JESUS

So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided My garments among them,
and for My clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

—John 19:16–30