

PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Hosea 5:15-6:3

15 Then I will go back to my place until they admit their guilt. And they will seek my face; in their misery they will earnestly seek me.” 1 “Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. 3 Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:1-10

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. 9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

RESPONSE: (From Hebrews 12:2)

P. Oh, come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C. THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH,

P. Who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame,

C. AND SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:17-28

17 Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, 18 “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death 19 and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to

life!” 20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 “What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.” 22 “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered. 23 Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.” 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

HYMN: “How Great Thou Art” (LW #519)

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, Consider all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain: Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee, How great thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died, to take away my sin; (*Refrain*)

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” (*Refrain*)

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SERMON – “God’s Dirty Job”

CONFESSION OF FAITH: “The Nicene Creed”

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with

glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please sign book at end of pew)

PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR BLESSING: *(Sung, LW p.168)*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HYMN OF ASSURANCE: *(Sung, LW p. 172)*

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.

THOSE DESIRING COMMUNION: *The Bible teaches under the bread and wine of Communion Jesus gives His real body and blood to assure us of forgiveness. (Mt 26:26-28) It also teaches in receiving this meal together, we are by that act professing a unity of faith with the church at whose altar we commune. (1 Cor 10: 16-21) While Communion is meant as a blessing, we can however misuse it to our harm. Those who eat without repentance or recognizing the presence of Jesus' body and blood sin against the Lord. (1 Cor 11:27-29). Also, when fellowship at this meal is practiced with others who hold beliefs contrary to God's Word, the church is weakened and the truth God tells us to guard is compromised. (Ro 16:17, 2 Thess 3:14) In an effort to avoid these sins and follow God's Word, before communing anyone we first seek to teach them about Christ's meal, and have them make a public profession of their agreement with us in the faith. As a matter of loving spiritual care then, not judgment, we invite to commune with us today confirmed members in good standing of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or the American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) who have received*

instruction, and by current membership in one of these sister churches confess a unity of faith with us here at St. Paul's.

NON-ALCOHOLIC COMMUNION WINE: *Out of consideration for those who have difficulty with alcohol a few glasses in the center ring of each Communion tray contain non-alcoholic white wine.*

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

BENEDICTION

HYMN: #375 "If Thy Beloved Son, O God" vs.1-4

ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF MARCH:

March 9th and 30th - 10:30 Service