

# God's Gift *of* Forgiveness

*Make Haste to Help Me – Psalm 38*

**Midweek Lenten Service  
March 4, 2026  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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March 4, 2026

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Rev. Jonathan F. Meyer

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6:30 PM

## Midweek Lenten Worship

We welcome you to our worship service this evening.  
St. Paul's has a service every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM.

Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM.

We request that members and visitors fill out an attendance card.

Please pass the card down to the center aisle after the offering.

You are welcome in this house.

The Mission at *St. Paul's Lutheran Church* is:  
Preach and Teach to ALL, Comfort and Support those in need!

**ACOLYTE:** James Wuerflein

**LIVESTREAM:** Paul Fisher

**SOUND:** Gerald Nolte

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Gene Hollrah

**ELDER OF THE DAY:** Gene Breitenkamp

**USHERS:** Gene Breitenkamp, Bill White, James Wuerflein & Richard Burdick

### Hymn – “Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain” – LSB #435



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined  
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -  
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -  
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain  
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,  
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,  
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -  
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and  
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain  
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.  
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.  
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.  
deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

## Opening Versicles

P O Lord, open my lips,  
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

All **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.**

## Psalm 38

P O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath!  
C **For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.**

P There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.  
C **For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.**

P My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness,  
C **I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning.**

P For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.  
C **I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.**

P O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you.  
C **My heart throbs; my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.**

P My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my nearest kin stand far off.  
C **Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all day long.**

P But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear, like a mute man who does not open his mouth.  
C **I have become like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.**

P But for you, O Lord, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.  
C **For I said, “Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!”**

P For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever before me.  
C **I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.**

P But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.  
C **Those who render me evil for good accuse me because I follow after good.**

P Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me!  
C **Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!**

All **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.**

## The Reading of the Passion of our Lord: *The Second Part – Gethsemane*

P O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Response:

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

### From the Small Catechism: Confession (The 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> portion)

*What is the Office of the Keys?*

**The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.**

*Where is this written?*

**This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22–23)**

*What do you believe according to these words?*

**I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.**

## Hymn – “Christ, the Life of All the Living” – LSB #420



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a  
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might  
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing  
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,  
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,  
shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe; Through Thy suf - f'rings,  
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my  
Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of  
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.  
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.  
God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.  
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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## Sermon – Make Haste to Help Me – Psalm 38

### Offering

## Kyrie

P O Lord,  
C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,  
C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,  
C **have mercy.**

## Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

## Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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.**

**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. Amen.**

## Versicles

P Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
C **let my cry come to You.**

P In the day of my trouble I call upon You;  
C **for You answer me.**

P Hide Your face from my sins,  
C **and blot out all my iniquities.**

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
C **and renew a right spirit within me.**

P Cast me not away from Your presence,  
C **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

P Because Your steadfast love is better than life,  
C **my lips will praise You.**

P For You have been my help,  
C **and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**

P Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;

C **unite my heart to fear Your name.**

P I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

C **and I will glorify Your name forever.**

P May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

C **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**

P Save Your people and bless Your heritage!

C **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**

P Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;

C **listen to my plea for grace.**

### **Collects**

P Let us pray.

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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.**

### **Benedicamus and Blessing**

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C **Amen.**

## Hymn – “Abide with Me” – LSB #848



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,  
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.  
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.  
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.  
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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**Following the service, Pastor is available for private confession in the sacristy. A simple form of private confession and absolution is on the last page of the bulletin. Know this: that whatever you confess, it is under the seal of the confessional and cannot and will not be divulged.**

**If the door is closed, please wait for the door to open and then enter.**

Acknowledgments Responsive Prayer 2, adapted, from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

## A Form of Individual Confession and Absolution

When you are ready, say:

**Individual: Pastor, please hear my confession and pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God's will.**

Pastor: Proceed.

*(Use either the left or right column)*

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A General form of confession:

**I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all of my sins.**

**I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most.**

**My Lord's name I have not honored as I should;  
my worship and prayers have faltered.**

**I have not let His love have its way with me,  
and so my love for others has failed.**

**There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help.**

**My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. (continue below)**

If you wish to confess specific sins that trouble you:

**What troubles me particularly is . . .**

*Confess whatever you have done against the commandments of God, according to your own place in life. Then, continue below.*

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*Then conclude by saying:*

**Individual: I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better.**

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**Individual: Amen.**

Pastor: Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

**Individual: Yes.**

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe.

*The pastor places his hands on the head of the penitent and says:*

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.

**Individual: Amen.**

Pastor: Go in peace. Your sins are forgiven.

**Individual: Amen.**

*Psalms 30, 31, 32, 34, 103, or 118 are appropriate to pray in thanksgiving.*