

# God's Gift of Forgiveness

*Against You and For Me – Psalm 51*

**Midweek Lenten Service  
March 11, 2026  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

*Pastor is available for private confession after the service.*

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March 11, 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:** Ron Young

**LIVESTREAM:** Paul Fisher

**SOUND:** Gerald Nolte

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Ron Young

**ELDER OF THE DAY:** Gene Breitenkamp

**USHERS:** Gene Breitenkamp, Rick Lunday, Ralph Kroll & Ron Young

## Hymn – “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” – LSB #440 v. 1-3



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;  
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,  
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.  
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;  
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish  
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,  
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.  
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.  
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.

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## 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. 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 51

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

P For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**

P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

C **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

P Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

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

P Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

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

- P Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- C **Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**
- P O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- C **For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**
- P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- C **Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;**
- P then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.
- 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.**

**The Reading of the Passion of our Lord: *The Third Part – The Palace of the High Priest***

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> portion)**

*What is Confession?*

**Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.**

**Hymn – “Glory Be to Jesus” – LSB #433**



- 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!

## Sermon – Against You and For Me – Psalm 51

### 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.  
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.

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 – “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” – LSB #440 v. 4-6



4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.



How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

5 If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

6 Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

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**Following the service, Pastor is available for private confession in the dressing room. 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.*