



HANDS THAT CREATE AND SAVE

THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN LENT
12 MARCH 2025
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

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).

PRELUDE

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “When Peace, like a River” *LSB* 763

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain**

**Refrain It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. Refrain**

**He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain**

**And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. Refrain**

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INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

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.

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!”

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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Joel 2:13*

P: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: Let us rend our hearts, confessing our sins to God, our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by our own hands, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. He has opened His hands in the free blessings of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST LESSON Psalm 77

¹I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. ²In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. ³When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. ⁴You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. ⁵I consider the days of old, the years long ago. ⁶I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart." Then my spirit made a diligent search: ⁷"Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? ⁸Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? ⁹Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" ¹⁰Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High." ¹¹I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. ¹²I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. ¹³Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? ¹⁴You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. ¹⁵You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. ¹⁶When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. ¹⁷The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. ¹⁸The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. ¹⁹Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen. ²⁰You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C:(spoken) Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

C:(spoken) Glory to You, O Lord.

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 worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C:(spoken) Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN "O Christ, You Walked the Road" *LSB* 424

**O Christ, You walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r And fought our ancient foe.**

**No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.**

**No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.**

**When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align.**

**O Christ, You walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour To fight our ancient foe.**

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MESSAGE

OFFERING + Solo “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” (7:00)

*Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to thy bosom fly
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide. Oh, receive my soul at last!*

*Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah, leave me not alone; Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed; All my help from thee I bring.
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of thy wing.*

*Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name; I am all unrighteousness.
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.*

*Plenteous grace with thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art; Freely let me take of thee.
Spring thou up within my heart; Rise to all eternity.*

PRAYERS

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 MORNING PRAYER (Noon)

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.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER (7:00)

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.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-11*

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift His countenance upon you and ~~+~~ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Abide with Me” *LSB* 878

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need Thy presence ev’ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev’ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**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!**

**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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POSTLUDE

Those Who Serve

Proclaimer Rev. Matthew Lynch

Liturgist Rev. Mark Goble

Organist Michella Novy

Soloist Mark Novy

Accompanist Michella Novy

Ushers Mike Watson, James Lewis, Kevin Washburn, Alex Weiss, Parker Magness

Sound Walt Kosman, Murph Ellard, Kim Goble, Jim Hofer, Peter Cothron, Aaron Winter

Live Streaming Kevin Madden