

THE GOOD NEWS OF A SAVIOR WHO GIVES HIMSELF IN OUR PLACE

March 26, 2025

AS WE GATHER

One of the newest jobs on offer today is being a “tasker.” A tasker does jobs that people do not have the time or the inclination to do—like holding a place in line for a concert, sports event, or any kind of sale. Websites and apps invite potential customers to describe their task, choose their tasker from the list provided, and thus get their job done. They list locations where taskers can be hired across the United States and even internationally. Then, taskers can choose from a list of jobs where they might take the customer’s place. Throughout the season of Lent, we tell and retell how Jesus, the very Son of God, took our place and became a sacrifice to pay the price of our sins. This greatest of tasks He did not for any material payment but because of His dying love for us!

HYMN #702

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 32

- P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- C** **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- P** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- C** **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- P** I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- C** **Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**
- P** You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- C** **I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.**
- P** Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
- C** **Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.**
- P** Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!
- 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.**

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
God of love, You lifted up Your Son on the cross so that You could draw all people to Him. Fill us with thanksgiving for this incredible love that we dare to believe is ours. Help us to be faithful servants of Your new covenant, reaching out to all those whom You claim; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**


HYMN INTRODUCTION

L Although located in the “Redeemer” section of the hymnal, the contemporary hymn “The Lamb” is appropriate to the Lenten season as it highlights the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Recalling the story of Abraham’s sacrifice of a ram on the mountain in place of his son Isaac, the hymn’s refrain is an ascription of praise that echoes the heavenly praise of Christ the Lamb recorded in the book of Revelation: “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9). The praise of the Lamb is a never-ending song for His faithful people.


A Although some hymns are written over a long period of time and are frequently revised, “The Lamb” was not. Author Gerald Coleman wrote the text during a three-hour summer school class at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in the mid-1980s. The author felt that the work should remain as he initially wrote it. The text has never been amended or changed. A gifted musician as well as an inspired writer, Coleman composed the tune for the text and named it Winter in honor of a Nebraska family who had shown him Christian hospitality.

HYMN #547

"The Lamb"

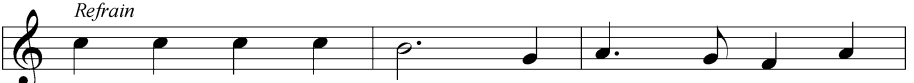


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.




Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

FIRST READING

Genesis 22:1–18

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PRAYER RESPONSE

P Let us pray.

Gracious Father in heaven, in countless ways we have sinned against You, but You have been merciful to us and have forgiven our transgressions. As Your Son covered Himself in our guilt that our sins may be covered in His redeeming blood, help us to find our peace in Him, who gave Himself for us, for in Him we are protected from trouble, and Your grace is our hiding place; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SECOND READING

Galatians 3:7–14

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Romans 10:17

C Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:16–17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN #438

"A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The
2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The
3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll
4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And



guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the
Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther
bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to
taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al



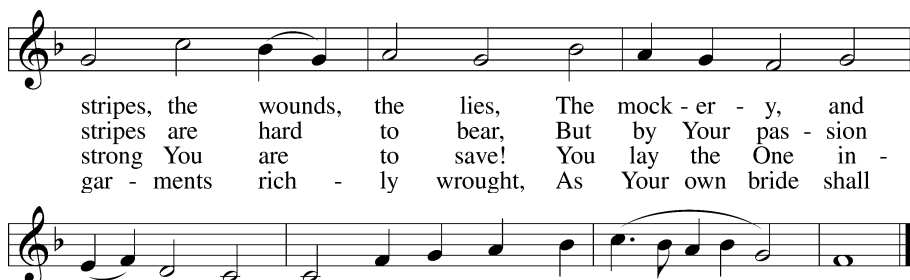
sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes
chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go
Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O
robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When



pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -
forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren
won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers
I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall



out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the
from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and
up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how
be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in



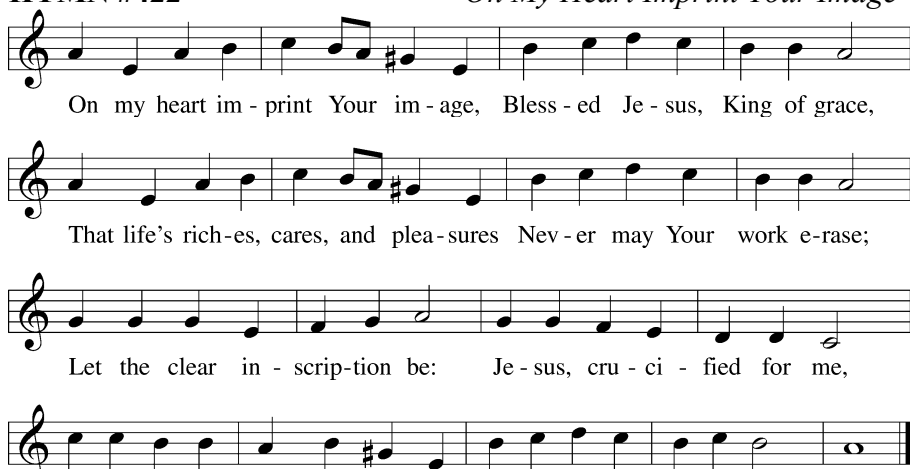
stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and
 stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion
 strong You are to save! You lay the One in -
 gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall
 yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."
 to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.
 we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553
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SERMON “A Savior Who Gives Himself in My Place”

Genesis 22:1-18

HYMN #422 *"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"*



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
 That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rise;
 Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
 Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

The Passion of Our Lord According to Luke – Part 3

Narrator: Then they seized Jesus and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said,

Women: **“This man also was with him.”**
Narrator: But he denied it, saying,
Peter: “Woman, I do not know him.”
Narrator: And a little later someone else saw him and said,
Men: **“You also are one of them.”**
Narrator: But Peter said,
Peter: “Man, I am not.”
Narrator: And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying,
Men: **“Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.”**
Narrator: But Peter said,
Peter: “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.”
Narrator: And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.
Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him,
People: **“Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?”**
Narrator: And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.
When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said,
People: **“If you are the Christ, tell us.”**
Narrator: But he said to them,
Jesus: “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”
Narrator: So they all said,
People: **“Are you the Son of God, then?”**
Narrator: And he said to them,
Jesus: “You say that I am.”
Narrator: Then they said,
People: **“What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”**

Narrator: Then the whole company of them arose and brought him
 before Pilate.

OFFERING

RESPONSIVE LITANY

P Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Let our cry come to You.

P Gracious God, heavenly Father, as You did not withhold Your
 Son, Your only Son,

C but gave Him up for us,

P grant us peace and assurance

C in the knowledge of Your saving love.

P For this is love—not that we have loved You but that You have
 loved us

C and have given Your Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

P Grant that this Good News spread throughout creation that more
 people in every place may know that You so loved the world that
 You gave Your only Son,

C that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have
 eternal life.

P Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

Silent prayer

P Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

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.

BENEDICTION

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

C Amen.

HYMN #880

"Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow"



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
2 The ra - dant sun has van - ished, Its gold - en
3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in
4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your
5 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, For God this



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
rays are ban - ished From dark - 'ning skies of night;
star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;
wings a - bove me And shield me from a - harm.
night will sure - ly From per - il guard your heads.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our
And we, this mar - vel see - ing, For - get our self - ish
Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing
Sweet slum - bers may He send you And bid His hosts at -



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.
be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.
o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.
tend you And through the night watch o'er your beds.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450-1517

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Soup & Sandwich Supper will be held each Wednesday from 6:00 to 6:45 PM. Thank you to ACT for serving this week. Carlos is serving the soup supper next Wednesday.

Pick up a Lenten Devotion book in the narthex.

The Library Used Book Sale is going on during Lent. Books are available for a freewill donation.

ACT Envelope Fundraiser is taking place now. Take an envelope and support our youth. If you fill out the label on the back you will receive a postcard during the Gathering.

Women's Bible Study led by Peggy Winter meets Mondays at 6 PM in the Ed building. All women are invited.

LWML is sponsoring a bakesale on March 30 after worship. Proceeds go towards sending our delegate to the national LWML convention this summer. They welcome any baked goods for the bakesale. Bring baked goods on Saturday by 3 PM.

Passion Drama at Zion, Alexandria, will be Palm Sunday, April 13 from 12-4 PM.

ACT Brunch & Silent Auction will be Palm Sunday, April 13. Bring any silent auction items on April 12.

Eggs may be available at the Fellowship Hall desk for a donation to the Jackson Drum family.

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday April 13, 9 AM

Friendship Sunday, Children Singing,

10 AM Brunch & Silent Auction

Maundy Thursday April 17, 7 PM

Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion

Good Friday April 18, 2 PM & 7 PM

Good Friday Tenebrae with Jesus on the Cross

Easter Vigil April 19, 7 PM

Easter Vigil Candlelight

Easter Sunday April 20, 7 AM, 9 AM

7:00 AM Easter Sunrise led by ACT Youth

9:00 AM Easter Celebration with Holy Communion