

PLACES *of the* PASSION



Bethany

MARCH 12TH, 2025

MIDWEEK LENT 1

7PM SERVICE

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Director of Music: Jeff Kiel

Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Week 1 of Lent, as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, contemplating the places where Jesus stood on his path to salvation.

✠ Divine Service: Places of Passion Midweek 1: The City of Bethany ✠

Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment. Matthew 26:6-7

In this service we go to Bethany to remember that Jesus is anointed for burial by his friend Mary, at her home in this small town. We are called to prepare our hearts for Christ's death as well, while still looking toward the fragrant surprise of the empty tomb.

Prelude and Pastoral Greeting

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. ✠

C Amen.

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C To see the depths of His love.

P To behold the gift of His forgiveness.

C To gaze upon the heights of His grace.

P To marvel at the magnitude of His mercy.

C We walk with Jesus to Bethany.

P And into the house of Simon the leper.

C Mary prepares Christ for his burial by anointing him with perfume.

P Faithful Lord, with me abide.

C I shall follow where you guide!

Opening Hymn "Let us Ever Walk with Jesus" (verses 1 & 2 only) #685

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive
us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

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✠ Confession and Forgiveness ✠

P Our Gospel reading states that, “Mary came up to Jesus with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as reclined at the table.”

Forgive us, kind Father –

C For too often, our giving is nothing like this.

P Our sinful nature prefers another word –

C Get...

P Get even, get back and get revenge.

C Get more, get ahead and get on top.

P We are consumed with consuming.

C Driven by selfish desires.

P Passionate about more possessions.

C We are too much like the disciples.

P And too little like Mary.

C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ’s love is greater.)

P Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death – for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha – for you. That’s why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C I shall follow where you guide!

Prayer of the Day

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank you for Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, for through her generosity we catch a glimpse of your joyful and generous kingdom. By your Spirit’s power enable us to live and give like her; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 36: 1-7

¹“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.”

²And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. ³And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing

the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, ⁴so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, ⁵and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do." ⁶So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, ⁷for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Encouragement to Give Generously

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:6-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

⁶Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? ⁹For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor." ¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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Sermon

Offering—may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Offerings may also be dropped off at the office or mailed, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please call the church office.

Prayers

- P** Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above. Full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray, Gracious God, give us generous hearts.
- C** **To give without counting the cost.**
- P** To share without expecting anything in return.
- C** **To hold all of our treasures with open hands.**
- P** To have Gospel priorities and align our life, our love and our time in their light.
- C** **To know the freedom that comes with generosity.**
- P** To give like the Israelites who continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning.
- C** **To give like the Macedonians who urgently pleaded for the privilege of sharing.**
- P** To give like Mary— joyfully, exceedingly and lavishly.
- C** **To give like Jesus— lovingly, faithfully and abundantly.**
- P** Father, we recall the words of our Savior, "I tell you the truth, wherever this Gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." And so we pray,
- C** **Take my love, my Lord, I pour.**
- P** At your feet its treasure store.
- C** **Take myself and I will be.**
- P** Ever, only, all for thee.
- C** **Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

G 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 Jesus invites us to walk with him to Bethany, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb— and resurrection victory.

C Let us ever walk with Jesus!

Closing Hymn

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

#783

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|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise. | 4 | Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose. |
| 2 | Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee. | 5 | Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne. |
| 3 | Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee. | 6 | Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee. |

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

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