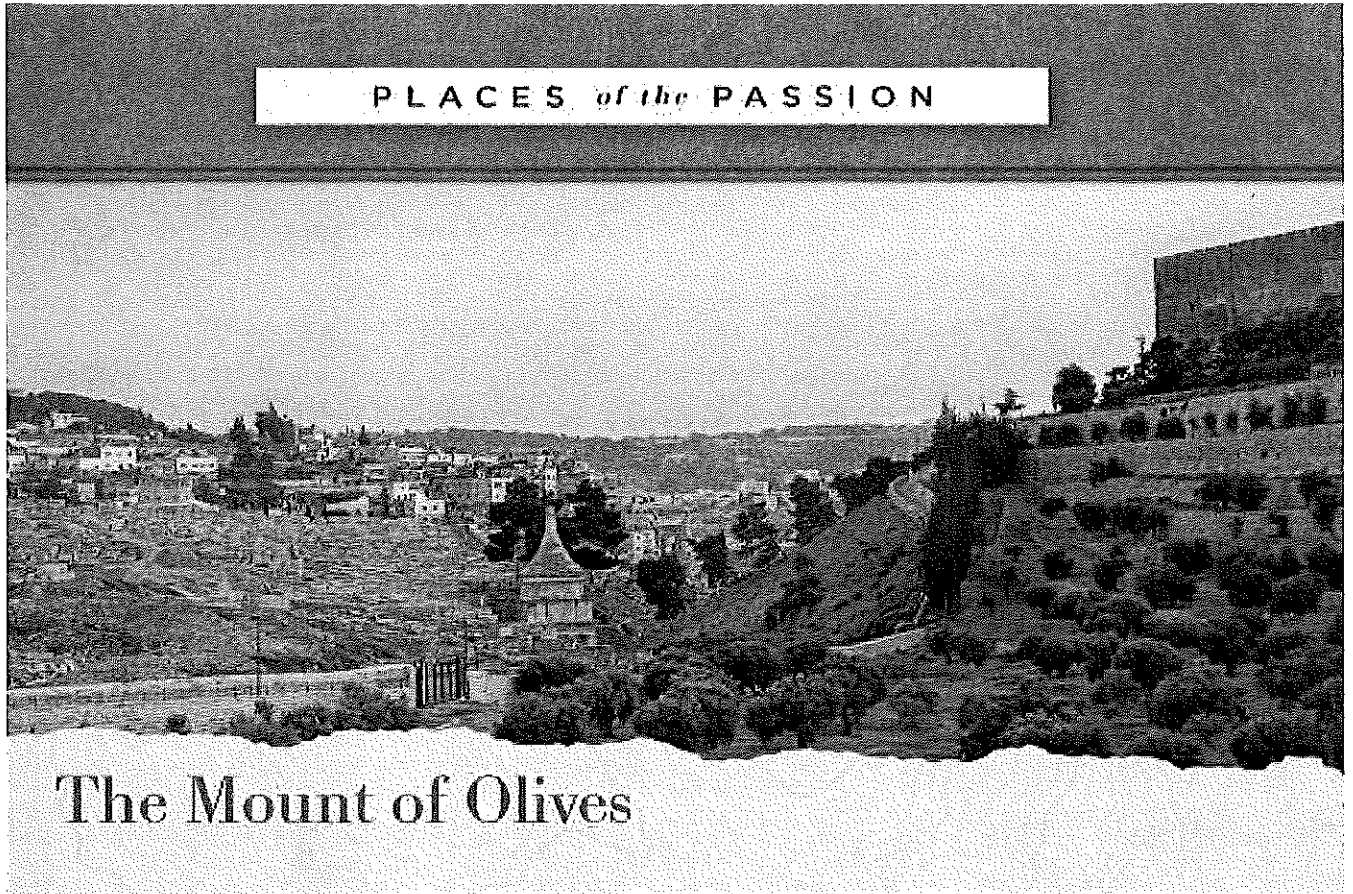


PLACES *of the* PASSION



The Mount of Olives

MARCH 19TH, 2025

WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK LENT 2

7PM SERVICE

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

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www.stpauloaklawn.org

Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

Director of Music: Jeff Kiel

Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Week 2 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 2: The Mount of Olives ✠

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Matthew 26:30

In this service we go to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus went to pray. We are called to find places to pray this Lent and seek the will of the Lord in our lives.

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 the Mount of Olives.

P He sang a hymn overflowing with hope.

C For though the sheep will be scattered –

P After Christ is raised, he will go before them into Galilee.

C Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where you guide!

Opening Hymn “Let us Ever Walk with Jesus” (verses 1 & 3 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.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered
death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

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✠ Confession and Forgiveness ✠

- P** Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father, trusting in his forgiveness and grace in Jesus Christ.
- C** Heavenly Father, hear us as we confess –
- P** That we fail to honor you in our worship and songs.
- C** Instead, we hide in our pride and prejudice.
- P** We find cover in the darkness of deceit and denial.
- C** We lurk in the shadows of pettiness and greed,
- P** Believing that there is finally no grace for us –
- C** Or anyone else.
- P** Our hearts and homes have become places filled with bitterness.
- C** Backbiting.
- P** And endless blame.
- C** We have no song to sing. 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 Jesus Christ, in the darkness of that night so long ago on the Mount of Olives, with your disciples you sang songs of hope. Place those same songs into our hearts and mouths, for you have won the battle; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

2 Chronicles 20: 1,2 & 14-22

¹After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. ²Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi).

¹⁴And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

¹⁵And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat:

Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you." ¹⁸Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. ¹⁹And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. ²⁰And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed." ²¹And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever." ²²And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26: 30-35

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³²But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ³³Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." ³⁴Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn (*Sit*) "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" (verses 1-3 only) #940

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign. | 2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim, | In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord!

3 Lo, the apostles' holy train
Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun
Through the Church the song goes on. |
|---|--|---|

Text: Public domain

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, Heavenly Father, thank you for the privilege and importance of singing your praises and celebrating your goodness. That's why we say, "and from morn to set of sun" —

C Through the church the song goes on!

P Heavenly Father, to worship you through Jesus and in the Spirit is our greatest delight and most solemn obligation. That's why we believe, "and from morn to set of sun" —

C Through the church the song goes on!

P Heavenly Father, forgive us for dismissing worship so easily and taking it so lightly. Because it's you we meet with, may we then come expectant and evermore grateful, so we are prepared to sing, "and from morn to set of sun" —

C Through the church the song goes on!

P Heavenly Father, continue to feed our minds with your Word, fill our hearts with your presence and empower our worship by your Spirit. May we not be selfish consumers, looking to be pleased; but be true worshipers, longing to be consumed with your glory and grace. Empower us to believe, "and from morn to set of sun" —

C Through the church the song goes on!

P Heavenly Father, through our corporate songs and praises, we pray that we will be humbled, gladdened and transformed; and that the nations will be drawn to your saving love.

C Jesus let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.

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 Jesus invites us to walk with him to the Mount of Olives, 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

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

#918

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,

Pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but Thou art mighty;

Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

Feed me till I want no more;

Feed me till I want no more.

Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,

Be Thou still my strength and shield;

Be Thou still my strength and shield.

2 Open now the crystal fountain

Whence the healing stream doth flow;

Let the fiery, cloudy pillar

Lead me all my journey through.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,

Bid my anxious fears subside;

Death of death and hell's destruction,

Land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises

I will ever give to Thee;

I will ever give to Thee.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Guest Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

Lector: David Witkosky

Organist: Jeff Kiel

Elder on Duty: John Lilja

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