

PLACES *of the* PASSION



The Garden of Gethsemane

MARCH 26TH, 2025

WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK LENT 3

7PM SERVICE

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

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Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

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Director of Music: Jeff Kiel

Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Week 3 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 3: The Garden of Gethsemane ✠

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." Matthew 26:36

In this service, we head toward Gethsemane, where Jesus is betrayed and arrested in this garden under cover of darkness. We witness Jesus being taken away by soldiers, but we know that his journey toward the cross will take away our sins.

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 Garden of Gethsemane.

P Where he is betrayed by Judas.

C And arrested by the Jews.

P So that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.

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

Opening Hymn "Let us Ever Walk with Jesus" (verses 1 & 4 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.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

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✠ Confession and Forgiveness ✠

- P** Paul writes in today's Epistle lesson, "Christ came proclaiming peace to those who were far off and to those who were near." (Ephesians 2:17) Heavenly Father, this proclamation has reached our ears, but we confess it has not settled into our hearts.
- C** **We confess that we do not live in the light of Christ's peace.**
- P** We prefer being peace-fakers and peace-breakers.
- C** **We are more ready to worry than to trust.**
- P** More ready to fret than to have faith.
- C** **More ready to blame than to believe.**
- P** Forgive our hard hearts.
- C** **And make us more alive to the depths of your love.**
- P** Show us what it cost to give up your Son.
- 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** Heavenly Father, because Jesus walked into the perfect storm— betrayal, arrest, assault with a sword and then all his friends ran away— you are able to bring your perfect peace into the storms of our lives. Empower us to believe it and receive it; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53:1-5

¹Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 2:11-18

One in Christ

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:47-56

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” ⁴⁹And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. ⁵¹And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn *(Sit)*

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

#436

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless
clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

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, you haven't promised us a storm-less life. You don't offer quick fixes or shallow solutions. But you do promise perfect peace, in the midst of whatever happens. Lord in your mercy, —

C Grant us your peace.

P Heavenly Father, when we're out of bootstraps to pull up and come to the end of our rope and feel like quitting, you are with us and for us. Thank you for being a Father who will never forget or abandon us in our storms. Thank you for working all things together for the good of those who love

you. Lord, in your mercy, —

C Grant us your peace.

P Heavenly Father, thank you for your perfect peace— a peace perfectly suited for the moment. Our calling is not to take control, but to mine the riches of the Gospel and never lose sight of your wonderful love. You are the Rock that is higher than us, the Rock of Refuge, the Rock of Ages. Lord in your mercy, —

C Grant us your peace.

P Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for your peace that surpasses all understanding. Anchor us in hope, strengthen us in grace and fortify us with resolute courage.

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 Garden of Gethsemane, 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

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

#715

1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

2 As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will

When Thou say'st to them, “Be still!”
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

3 When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
“Fear not, I will pilot thee.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Guest Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

Lector: David Witkosky

Organist: Jeff Kiel

Elder on Duty: David Witkosky

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