



Just As ... I AM

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
(Ephesians 2:10)



Charlotte Elliott wrote the familiar hymn “Just As I Am” in 1834. Born in 1789, a severe illness at age 32 left her unable to care for herself. Charlotte thereafter lived with her younger brother, Henry.

The parish he pastored in the resort town of Brighton, England, decided to hold a bazaar. Its proceeds would fund a school building and scholarships for underprivileged children.

Charlotte felt herself useless because she could not assist with preparations.

This hymn’s stanzas embodied her cries in answer to the despair. She then offered it as encouragement in a collection she called *The Invalid’s Hymnbook* (1836).

THE 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY “SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY” JANUARY 28, 2024

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

The hymn, “Just As I Am...” testifies to the sanctity of every human life. Almighty God “receives, welcomes, pardons, cleanses, and relieves” each and every person without regard for age, appearance, or ability, impairment or illness. Not even guilt or grief can exclude anyone from having a place in His kingdom and a place in His family. If our Lord’s forgiveness can overcome our sinful failures, then His lavish love will more than make up for our human limitations. God Himself declares mankind righteous for the sake of Jesus Christ, making every life priceless. That means all humanity, from fertilization to final breath is priceless, because Jesus has taken on all of our challenges and carried all of our sorrows. We Lutherans love life because He first loved all!

Prelude

“Rondeau”

J. Mouret

✠ Divine Service Setting Four ✠

Stand

Opening Hymn

“May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

#698

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill
And do on earth our Father’s will
As angels do above;
Still walk in Christ, the living way,
With all Thy children and obey
The law of Christian love. | One is our calling, one our name,
The end of all our hopes the same,
A crown of life with Thee. |
| 2 | So may we join Thy name to bless,
Thy grace adore, Thy pow’r confess,
From sin and strife to flee. | 3 Spirit of life, of love and peace,
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Thy gracious help supply.
To each of us the blessing give
In Christian fellowship to live,
In joyful hope to die. |

Text: Public domain

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Invocation

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

We pause to remember our sins before our gracious Heavenly Father

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

† Service of the Word †

Introit

Psalm 8:1-9

P O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C You have set your glory above the heavens.

P Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

C When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

P what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

C Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

P You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,

C all sheep and oxen, and the beasts of the field,

P the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

C O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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.

Kyrie (*sung*)

p. 204

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis

p. 204

1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.

Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You have wondrously made us and all creation for Yourself and for eternity. In the incarnation of Your Son, You've redeemed Your people and united all mankind to You. As Your Holy Spirit continues to call and claim Your sons and daughters, make us now and always more like the image of Him who made Himself like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

✠ God's Covenant with Noah ✠

Genesis 9:1-15

...God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it." Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth.

I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Men's Choir Anthem

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

arr. M. Pooler

Epistle

✠ By Grace, Through Faith ✠

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Men's Choir Anthem

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

arr. M. Pooler

Holy Gospel

✠ Because I live, you also will live ✠

John 14:12-20

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Confession of Faith

First Article of the Apostles' Creed with Explanation

P The First Article of the Apostles' Creed is focused on our Creator. God the Father grants us life and places us into the vocations through which we are to serve Him and our neighbors. This is made clear in Dr. Martin Luther's explanation of the first article from his small catechism. We say together,

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.**

Sit

Sermon Hymn

"Just As I Am"

#570

1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...
...evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (*sung*)

p. 208

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:
C Our Father who art in heaven...

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

p. 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei (*sung*)

p. 210

1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

#622 sts. 1-4; 6-7

1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood,
And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,
We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.

3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined
To any habitation;
But You are present even now
Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.

2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,
Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold
Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see
Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,

4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true;
All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.

6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust,
And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears
Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.

7 Grant that we worthily receive
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins,
May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace
And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.

Text: Public domain

“Praise to You and Adoration”

#692

1 Praise to You and adoration,
Blessèd Jesus, Son of God,
Who, to serve Your own creation,
Came to share our flesh and blood.
Guide me that I never may
From Your fold or pastures stray,
But with zeal and joy exceeding
Follow where Your steps are leading.

2 Hold me ever in Your keeping;
Comfort me in pain and strife.
In my laughter and my weeping
Be with me throughout my life.
Give me greater love for You,
And my faith and hope renew
In Your birth, Your life, and passion,
In Your death and resurrection.

Text: Public domain

“How Can I Thank You, Lord”

#703 sts. 1-4

1 How can I thank You, Lord,
For all Your loving-kindness,
That You have patiently
Borne with me in my blindness!
When dead in many sins
And trespasses I lay,
I kindled, holy God,
Your anger ev’ry day.

3 Lord, You have raised me up
To joy and exultation
And clearly shown the way
That leads me to salvation.
My sins are washed away;
For this I thank You, Lord.
Now with my heart and soul
All evil I abhor.

2 It is Your work alone
That I am now converted;
O’er Satan’s work in me
You have Your pow’r asserted.
Your mercy and Your grace
That rise afresh each morn
Have turned my stony heart
Into a heart newborn.

4 Grant that Your Spirit’s help
To me be always given
Lest I should fall again
And lose the way to heaven.
Grant that He give me strength
In my infirmity;
May He renew my heart
To serve You willingly.

Text: Public domain

Stand

Communion Blessing

P The true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Nunc Dimittis

1 O Lord, now let Your servant
 Depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory
 Of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles
 Unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people,
 Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever Three in One;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.

Closing Prayer

P Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C for His steadfast love endures forever.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this gracious and saving gift of Your Son's body and blood. Having heard His Word and seen His goodness, give us courage to go from here into the world to share with others the joy of life and the forgiving love we have been blessed to receive; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

1 O Savior, precious Savior,
 Whom yet unseen we love;
 O name of might and favor,
 All other names above,
 We worship Thee, we bless Thee,
 To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
 We praise Thee and confess Thee,
 Our holy Lord and King.

3 In Thee all fullness dwelleth,
 All grace and pow'r divine;
 The glory that excelleth,
 O Son of God, is Thine.
 We worship Thee, we bless Thee,
 To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
 We praise Thee and confess Thee,
 Our glorious Lord and King.

2 O bringer of salvation,
 Who wondrously hast wrought
 Thyself the revelation
 Of love beyond our thought,
 We worship Thee, we bless Thee,
 To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
 We praise Thee and confess Thee,
 Our gracious Lord and King.

4 O grant the consummation
 Of this our song above
 In endless adoration
 And everlasting love;
 Then shall we praise and bless Thee
 Where perfect praises ring,
 And evermore confess Thee,
 Our Savior and our King!

Text: Public domain

Postlude

“Postlude in F Major”

J. Kindermann



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Organist: Ruth Sievers

Men's Choir Anthems directed by Ruth Sievers

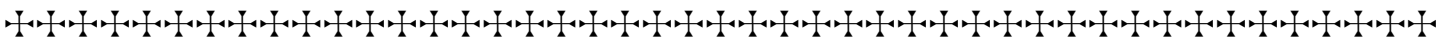
Lector: Marilyn Bitner

Altar Care: Sunday: Ruth Diver; Wednesday: Sandy Barry

Elders: Sunday: Dave Kandel, Bill Leise, David Witkosky; Wednesday: Dave Kandel

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Announcements & Notes

As we're observing Sanctity of Life Sunday today, our guest is Mr. Paul Dombrowski, Interim Executive Director of the Southside Pregnancy Center. He'll be with us for Adult Bible Class this morning to bring us up to date on what's been happening at Southside. Please join us!

As a part of that, we are again partnering with Southside Pregnancy to help support their ministry to families in need by collecting "All Things Baby" through Sunday, February 18. There are fliers on the tables in the narthex listing items they need, as well a display and information for you to check out. Any donations can be brought to the church any time and placed there on the tables.

Thursday Evening Bible Study has resumed at 7pm in the Timothy Room. The topic is the Travels and Events of Jesus and the Disciples. All are invited!

Soup and Bread Event benefiting Beds Plus is next Sunday, February 4th from 3-7pm at the Holiday Inn Countryside. Tickets are \$25 per person and children under 8 eat free! This family-friendly event will feature live music, approximately 20 soups from area restaurants/chefs, plus a variety of craft beers, wines and spirits. For tickets visit www.beds-plus.org or call (708) 354-0858.

Ash Wednesday is February 14. Please join us for worship at either of two services, at 11am and at 7pm. **A FREE Continental Breakfast** will be served by the Ladies Guild on Ash Wednesday at 10am in the Timothy Room before the morning service. Everyone is invited for food, fellowship, and inspirational singing! If you are able to help with a food donation for the breakfast, please sign the "Food Donation" sheet that's on the counter outside the church office.

Our midweek Lenten Suppers begin the following Wednesday, February 21, and will be served from 5:30 – 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall before each Lenten service through March 20. A hymn sing will follow in the church at 6:40pm before the 7pm service.

It's time to renew your subscriptions to The Lutheran Witness! This publication is written by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and is especially for the lay person and talks about living the Christian life, worldwide missions, ministries of various congregations and encourages you in your personal walk of faith. If you would like to become a subscriber or renew your subscription, please makes your checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church in the amount of **\$20.65**. Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2024.

Remembering our homebound friends is a caring ministry of St. Paul meant to help us stay in touch with our members who aren't able to be with us for worship. Please remember them in your prayers. You may also like to send a note or a card. This week our homebound friend is **Dolores Stegemann, Cordia Senior Residence, 865 N. Cass Ave., #114, Westmont, IL 60559.**

**For more information about Southside Pregnancy Center, go to southsidepregnancy.org
To learn more about Lutherans for life, go to lutheransforlife.org**

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family

Jan Janiszewski
Dawn Schumann
Rev. Daniel Gensch
Dorothy Pavella
Vic & Marty Both
George Oberg
Rich & Jan Przybycien
Rev. Paul and Judy Anderson
Bill Volk
Arthur Gerth
Ingrid Lesko
Jan Briede
Roy Hodgeman
Katherine Hice
Kurt Seehofer
Flora Jones
Graham Jackson
Kevin Hickey
Gloria Meyer
Elaine Lebron
Melva Smith
Delores Stegemann
Carol Small
Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski
Beverly Sellers
Betty Beegle
Warren Miller
Delphine Cherry
Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank
Betty Kruckow
Herta Iversen

Loretta Frank
George Dodaro, Sr.
Barbara Prendergast
Nancy Bundley
Rosa Richardson
Tammy & Carl Hoppe
Sarah Weber

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Roberta & Carlos Owens
Dorothy Kroll
Emily Feehan
LeRoy Bitner
Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta
Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow
Janet Trierweiler
Vicki Warren
Rhonda Scott
Michelle Mitchell
Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi
Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher
The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross
Louise Hrynkow
Gloria Folsom
Mary Beth Pasqua
Shirley Fairchild
Simeon Hoppe
Ron Lunt
Christopher Kosary

Sandy Plath
Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres
Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo
Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.
Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter
Fred Raddatz
Allyson Seehofer
Selma Carmichael
Bernadette & Rich Trusk
Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson
Guillermo Ramirez
Paul Noffke
Vern Howe
Shawn Harland
Ann Herold
Barb Potter
Wayne Volk
Lance Barrientos
Linda Shuman
Doris Potts
Doreen Holford
Judy Collins
Luke Pajowski
Phyllis Hicks
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Cathy Becker
Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel
Carol Loecherbach
Charley Heitz

Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Frank Cogliase
Gene Wawrzynikowski
Kimberly Rooney
Helena Hoffman
Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Audrey Metes
Richard DeSaga
Ken Wenten
Margaret Lundgreen
Julie King
Sharon Bryant
Anika Seger
Monica Kato
Herb Kleeman
Debra Kleeman
Sarah Skelton
Barbara Apt
Bob & Gloria Freeman
Carrie Aspan
Lisa Anglin
Devon Apt
Tristan Ferry
LaNell Mauler Koenig
Todd, Sofia & Grace Lynam
Hillary Pittelko
Sue Berg
Carol Jean & Tim McPhillips
Donna Santi
Evelyn & Ron Konieczki
Katherine Zeleny
Elmo Schultz
Jose Urena
Mike Feyerer
Edward Cyga

We pray for those who grieve:

For Marian Strassner and family on the death of her husband, Roy, called from this life to his eternal rest with Jesus on January 24. Visitation for Roy will be at Zion Lutheran Church, 11007 Brook Road in Naperville on Sunday, January 28, from 1:30-5pm. The funeral service will also be held at Zion Lutheran Church on Monday, January 29, 2024 at 10am with an hour visitation prior to the service.

**Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over.
(708) 423-1040**