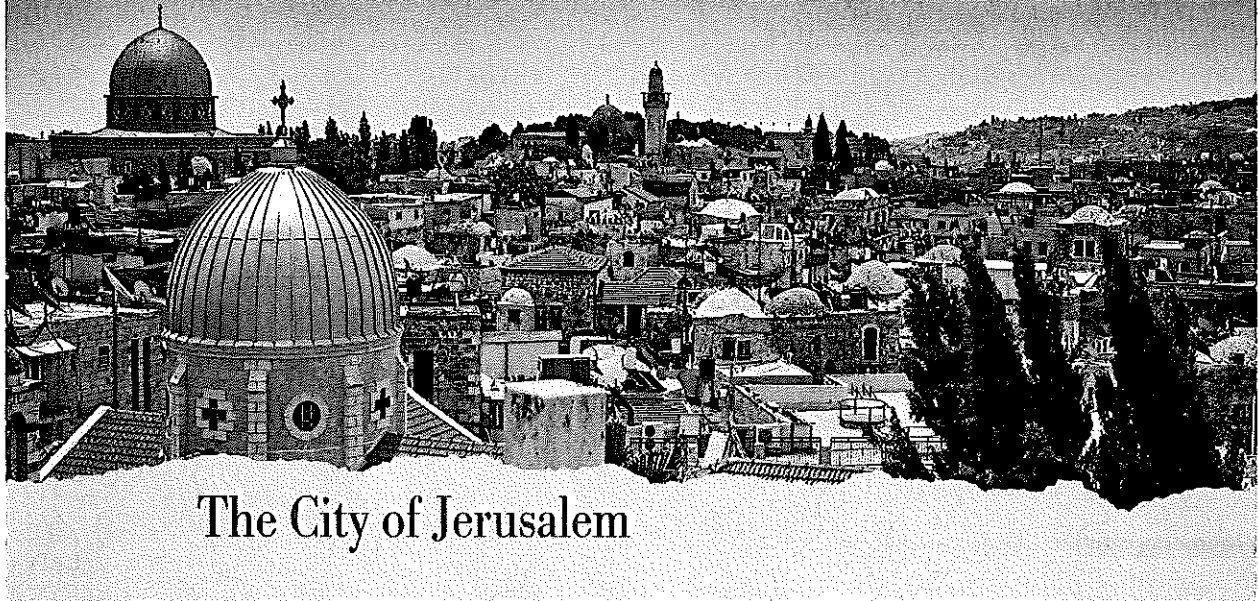


PLACES *of the* PASSION



The City of Jerusalem

MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2025  
ASH WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK SERVICES  
11AM & 7PM

---

---

***SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

4660 West 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040

Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

[www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)

Director of Music: Jeff Kiel

---

---

Today is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. On this day Christians around the world go to church and have ashes placed on their foreheads. The ashes symbolize our sorrow and sadness for sin.

# ✠ Divine Service: Places of Passion Ash Wednesday: The City of Jerusalem ✠

*See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes. Matthew 20:18*

In this service for Ash Wednesday, we go to Jerusalem, the place of the Passover, where Jesus gathers with the crowds and sacrifices himself for us. The meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with this location are highlighted, as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, while contemplating the places where Jesus stood on his path to salvation.

## 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 City of Jerusalem.

**P** Because Passover is coming.

**C** And the Son of Man will be crucified.

**P** Faithful Lord, with me abide.

**C** I shall follow where you guide!

*Sit*

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.

## ✠ Confession and Forgiveness ✠

- P** Magnificent and merciful Father, because I walk into dark and dangerous places, hear me as I confess my sins.
- C** **My feet take me to places of compromise and sinful ambition.**
- P** My heart lingers in places of lust and lies.
- C** **My words take me to places of anger, rage and hatred.**
- P** My ears delight in going to places of gossip, deceit and ridicule.
- C** **My mind takes me to places of selfishness and pride.**
- P** My eyes lead me to places of envy and greed.
- 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** Almighty and everlasting God, send forth your Holy Spirit that this Lent we may ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure, through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure. We pray 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 12: 1-13*

#### The Passover

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup>And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

<sup>7</sup>“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

**Choir Anthem (7pm only)** *“My Faith Looks up to Thee” – arr. M. Pooler*

**Epistle**

*1 Corinthians 5:6-8*

<sup>6</sup>Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup>Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

**Holy Gospel**

Matthew 26:1-5

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

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

**The Plot to Kill Jesus**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

<sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup>and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. <sup>5</sup>But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Jesus, I will ponder now<br/>         On Your holy passion;<br/>     With Your Spirit me endow<br/>         For such meditation.<br/>     Grant that I in love and faith<br/>         May the image cherish<br/>     Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death<br/>         That I may not perish.</p> <p>2 Make me see Your great distress,<br/>         Anguish, and affliction,<br/>     Bonds and stripes and wretchedness<br/>         And Your crucifixion;<br/>     Make me see how scourge and rod,<br/>         Spear and nails did wound You,<br/>     How for them You died, O God,<br/>         Who with thorns had crowned<br/>     You.</p> | <p>3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone<br/>         Make me see Your passion,<br/>     But its cause to me make known<br/>         And its termination.<br/>     Ah! I also and my sin<br/>         Wrought Your deep affliction;<br/>     This indeed the cause has been<br/>         Of Your crucifixion.</p> <p>4 Grant that I Your passion view<br/>         With repentant grieving.<br/>     Let me not bring shame to You<br/>         By unholy living.<br/>     How could I refuse to shun<br/>         Ev'ry sinful pleasure<br/>     Since for me God's only Son<br/>         Suffered without measure?</p> |
|---|--|

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](http://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, Jesus, you will finally deliver us from every storm so we lift our prayers and raise our petitions to you.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** Deliver us from pride and arrogance, lest we fail to acknowledge our sins and confess them.

**C** Lord, hear our prayer.

**P** Deliver the world from the enemies of peace and from injustice and give us good and faithful leaders to protect the unborn and promote virtue.

**C** Lord, hear our prayer.

**P** Deliver the erring from their darkness, the doubting from their uncertainty, and the wandering from their ways, and return them to you.

**C** Lord, hear our prayer.

**P** Deliver us from the terror of death and the grave.

**C** Lord, hear our prayer.

**P** Deliver us from selfish desire, from the tyranny of things, and from the wasteful use of the resources you have entrusted to our care.

**C** Lord, hear our prayer.

**P** Deliver us from ingratitude for all your mercies and restore our hearts to hope and joy.

**C** Lord, hear our prayer.

**P** Jesus, deliver us and bring us to the table of your body and blood.

**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.

## A word about the Sacrament of the Altar...

We believe Jesus' own words that the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion are indeed His true Body and Blood and not just a representation of them. We also acknowledge St. Paul's instruction to the Church at Corinth that it is harmful for anyone to receive the Sacrament without recognizing the real presence of His Body and Blood. Because of this, in Christian love we ask anyone who does not understand these truths to please refrain from receiving the Sacrament until you've spoken with the pastor. (*Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-30*)

## ✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini (sung)**

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

**Agnus Dei (sung)**

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## $\text{✝}$ Imposition of Ashes and the Distribution of the Sacrament $\text{✝}$

*Sit*

"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

#637

1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

2 He who His saints in this world rules and  
shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry  
whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

3 Come forward then with faithful hearts  
sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks  
endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Public domain

"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.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,

Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;

Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**Communion Blessing**

*LSB 164*

**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**

*LSB 165*

**C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your Word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people:  
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

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. A-men.

**Post-Communion Collect**

*LSB 166*

**P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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** Jesus invites us to walk with him to Jerusalem, 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**

“O Christ, You Walked the Road”

#424

1 O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand'ring feet must go.  
You faced with us temptation's pow'r  
And fought our ancient foe.

2 No bread of earth alone  
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.  
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,  
The food Your grace imparts.

3 No blinding sign we ask,  
No wonder from above.  
Lord, help us place our trust alone  
In Your unswerving love.

4 When lures of easy gain  
With promise brightly shine,



Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;  
Our wills with Yours align.

5 O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand'ring feet must go.  
Stay with us through temptation's hour  
To fight our ancient foe.

Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001400

### ***A SPECIAL Announcement:***

***\*\*\* Attention Voters! There will be a Special Voters Meeting on SATURDAY, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10AM to place a call for our new Pastor. All Members, especially Voters, are urged to attend. \*\*\****

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS**

**Guest Pastor:** Rev. Gregg Ramirez

**Organist:** Jeff Kiel

**Lector:** 11am Joanna Cauffman/ 7pm-Pastor

**Altar Care:** Sandy Zarod and Cathy Kumke

**Elders on Duty:**

11am: John Lilja, Dave Kandel & Rich Przybycien

7pm: Bill Leise, David Witkosky & Kevin Kenealy

Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV<sup>®</sup> Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version<sup>®</sup>), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns taken from the Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Created by Reed Lessing. © 2021 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Drive, Fenton, MO 63026.

800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved