

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

ELW# 324

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran
Church

*A Lenten Journey to
the Easter Vigil*

March 8, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father
and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Behold, now is the acceptable time;
Now is the day of salvation.
Turn us again, O God of our salvation,
That the light of your face may shine on us.
May your justice shine like the sun;
And may the poor be lifted up.

HYMN OF LIGHT AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

“Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory”

ELW #561

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord of God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom. Enlighten our

SERMON

Pastor Dawn Lindberg

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

ELW #617

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of suffering and healing, hope and hurt, hear the prayers from our mouths and hearts.

Bless those who are not among us now, that they may sense your abiding presence.

Protect and energize those who work this night, especially those whose jobs put them in danger.

Comfort those in hospitals and nursing homes, those recovering and those dying.

Awaken those who have let go of your hand and have wandered away from you.

Strengthen and give rest to caregivers, teachers, and all who are worn down.

Wrap in your comforting embrace all who grieve.

Give purpose and goals to those who wander aimlessly.

Give voice and heed to your prophets.

May students find strength and joy in learning.

Grant the abandoned and the forgotten the comfort of their hand in yours.

Heal the body, mind, and spirit of all.

Tonight, we pause to remember... *Silence for reflection*

These things, Holy God, we ask in the name of Jesus, our wilderness wandering Savior.

Amen.

there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

C: But in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, we are here tonight to join you, as we might, on your Lenten Journey. These weeks we will hear the stories of your creating and redeeming work through all human history. Show us again, your great love for all, and how even we fit into this story. Thank you, loving Jesus. Amen.

PSALM 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ **He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.**

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them;