



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran
Church

*A Lenten Journey to
the Easter Vigil*

March 15, 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

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

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW# 338

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Gloria Stubitsch

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Wade In the Water”

ELW #459

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.

and day. In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom. Enlighten our 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

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were

divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

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.