

THE GOOD NEWS OF A SAVIOR WHO GIVES US A NEW BEGINNING

March 19, 2025

AS WE GATHER

What are the odds of getting a do-over in our lives? In the world of sports, as in many other arenas, a second opportunity to begin again in a race or other type of competition is generally not possible. A false start in a race can lead to disqualification. Repositioning a move after completing one in a chess match is simply not permitted. Rules are rules, and that's the way it is. There is no room for mercy. But it is different with our God, who offers forgiveness again and again to those who repent and turn to Him with contrite hearts. In his explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism, Martin Luther confidently writes, "In this Christian Church He [God] daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers" (*LSB*, p. 323). Thank God for His most gracious do-overs!

HYMN #915

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 130

P Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

C **O LORD, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

P If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

C **my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

C **And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

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.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, by the death and resurrection of Your only Son, You have shown the world that the way of self-sacrifice is the way of life. Give us such a strong faith in Your providence that we will not shrink from any sacrifice You ask of us but rejoice to offer our lives to Him who gave His life for us—that is, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN INTRODUCTION

P The image of the freely flowing and life-giving fountain appears in a number of favorite Bible passages and hymns. The psalmist speaks of the Lord as he poetically writes, “For with You is the fountain of life” (Psalm 36:9), and hymn writer Johann Heermann describes God as the

“true fountain ever flowing” in his hymn text “O God, My Faithful God” (*LSB* 696:1). In the first stanza of the Lenten hymn “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain,” author James Montgomery invites sinners to come to the “pure and healing fountain” (*LSB* 435:1) that flows from Jesus, our Savior. In the third stanza, Montgomery affirms that “Health this fountain will restore,” reminding us that Lent is a time for restoration and renewal in Christ.

A “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” first came into Christian Church usage in an English hymnbook called *A Selection of Psalms and Hymns for Public and Private Use*. The stanzas were simply titled “A fountain opened for sin and uncleanness” when first printed in 1819. James Montgomery wrote over 400 hymns. While still in his teens, he supported himself by publishing poetry, and later in life he was granted a literary pension by the British government. Though more than two hundred years old, his hymn stanzas compel us to come to the fountain of our Savior, with the promise “They that drink shall thirst no more” (*LSB* 435:3).

HYMN #435

“Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain”



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87

FIRST READING

Genesis 6

When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven.

Everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. Also take with you every sort

of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.” Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PRAYER RESPONSE

P Let us pray.

We praise You, O God, for hearing our cries for mercy and answering them in Your forgiving grace. While You could justly keep a record of our sins, You instead wash them away in the cleansing flood of Jesus’ blood. Kept safe in the ark of Your church, help us daily to find new hope in Your promises, for You have shown us Your unfailing love in the gift of Your Son, in whom there is full redemption; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13–22

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE**1 Peter 5:6–7**

C Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

HOLY GOSPEL**Luke 17:22–37**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

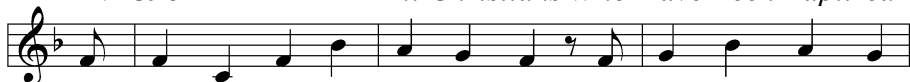
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And he said to the disciples, “The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, ‘Look, there!’ or ‘Look, here!’ Do not go out or follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left.” And they said to him, “Where, Lord?” He said to them, “Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN #596

"All Christians Who Have Been Baptized"



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
 2 You were be-fore your day of birth, In-deed, from your con-
 3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-merged and drowned for-
 4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
 cep-tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-
 ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-
 cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
 out-ex-cep-tion. For like your par-ents' flesh and blood, Turned
 gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-destroyed And
 for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
 in-ward from the high-est good, You con-stant-ly de-nied Him.
 all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.
 makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

O Christian, firmly hold this gift
 And give God thanks forever!
 It gives the power to uplift
 In all that you endeavor.
 When nothing else revives your soul,
 Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
 And then in death completes you.

So use it well! You are made new—
 In Christ a new creation!
 As faithful Christians, live and do
 Within your own vocation,
 Until that day when you possess
 His glorious robe of righteousness
 Bestowed on you forever!

SERMON “A Savior Who Gives Us A New Beginning” Genesis 6

HYMN #422

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev-er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

The Passion of Our Lord According to Luke – Part 2

Jesus: Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

Narrator: Peter said to Him,

People: **Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.**

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know Me.

Narrator: And He said to them,

Jesus: When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?

Narrator: They said,

People: **Nothing.**

Narrator: He said to them,

Jesus: But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one.

For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in Me: “And He was numbered with the transgressors.” For what

is written about Me has its fulfillment.

Narrator: And they said,

People: Look, Lord, here are two swords.

Narrator: And He said to them,

Jesus: It is enough.

Narrator: And He came out and went, as was His custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed Him. And when He came to the place, He said to them,

Jesus: Pray that you may not enter into temptation.

Narrator: And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying,

Jesus: Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.

Narrator: And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and He said to them,

Jesus: Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.

Narrator: While He was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them.

He drew near to Jesus to kiss Him, but Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

Narrator: And when those who were around Him saw what would follow, they said,

People: Lord, shall we strike with the sword?

Narrator: And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

Narrator: But Jesus said,

Jesus: No more of this!

Narrator: And He touched His ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against Him,

Jesus: Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Narrator: Then they seized Him and led Him away.

OFFERING

RESPONSIVE LITANY

- P** Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C** Let our cry come to You.
- P** Almighty God, grant us true repentance over our sins
- C** and steadfast faith in Your forgiveness,
- P** knowing that while we justly deserve Your punishment,
- C** You are a God who freely pardons.
- P** When we are weighed down by guilt or despair, lift us up in Your mercy
- C** and grant us a new beginning, standing in Your grace.
- P** As You once gave the rainbow as a sign of Your mercy,
- C** draw our eyes to the cross of Christ,
- P** that we may see in Him the assurance that Your mercies are new every morning
- C** and Your faithfulness to us is great.
- P** Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

Silent prayer

- P** Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

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 The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.

C Amen.

HYMN #886

"The Day Thou Gavest"



1 The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
2 We thank Thee that Thy Church, un-sleeping
3 As o'er each con-ti-nent and is-land
4 The sun, that bids us rest, is wak-ing
5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall nev-er,



The dark-ness falls at Thy be-hest;
While earth rolls on-ward in-to light,
The dawn leads on-an-oth-er day,
Thy saints be-neath the west-ern skies,
Like earth's proud em-pires, pass a-way;



To Thee our morn-ing hymns as-cend-ed,
Through all the world her watch is keep-ing,
The voice of prayer is nev-er si-lent,
And hour-by-hour, as day is break-ing,
Thy king-dom stands and grows for-ev-er,



Thy praise shall sanc-ti-fy our rest.
And nev-er rests by day or night.
Nor dies the strain of praise a-way.
Fresh hymns of thank-ful praise a-rise.
Till all Thy crea-tures own Thy sway.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-93, alt. Tune: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Soup & Sandwich Supper will be held each Wednesday from 6:00 to 6:45 PM. Thank you to 6th grade for serving this week. ACT is serving the soup supper next Wednesday.

Pick up a Lenten Devotion book in the narthex.

The Library Used Book Sale is going on during Lent. Books are available for a freewill donation.

ACT Envelope Fundraiser is taking place now. Take an envelope and support our youth. If you fill out the label on the back you will receive a postcard during the Gathering.

Singles Share and Care Day will be this Friday, March 21 at 1:30 PM. There will be a devotion, time for sharing and visiting, a short activity and refreshments. Anyone wanting to bring a snack item is welcome to do so. All singles are welcome.

Women's Bible Study led by Peggy Winter meets Mondays at 6 PM in the Ed building. All women are invited.

Funeral Service for Paul Peterson will be tomorrow at 11 AM.

PPHS Speech Family & Friends Night is Monday, March 24 at Immanuel. Come for a potluck supper at 7 PM, followed by opportunities to hear some of the speech team members give their speeches, including several Immanuel members. Everyone is welcome.

PPHS Solo/Ensemble Music Recital is March 25 at 6 PM in our fellowship hall. Come and hear several vocal and instrumental solos and small group pieces which they will be presenting at contest. Several Immanuel musicians are participating. The recital is from 6-7 PM.

LWML is sponsoring a bakesale on March 30 after worship. Proceeds go towards sending our delegate to the national LWML convention this summer. They welcome any baked goods for the bakesale. Bring baked goods on Saturday by 3 PM.

Passion Drama at Zion, Alexandria, will be Palm Sunday, April 13 from 12-4 PM.

ACT Brunch & Silent Auction will be Palm Sunday, April 13.