

_____Midweek Lent 5_____

Hands of Self-Preservation



March 17th, 2021



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

— MINISTRIES —

CHURCH • SCHOOL • CHILDCARE



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As Christians united in common faith, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to nurture believers and bring the lost to faith in Jesus through God's Holy Word and Sacraments.

Welcome!

- All worshipers are asked to complete an online 'Connection Card' on our website www.stpaulappletonwi.com.
 - Restrooms are in the church basement located just at the bottom of the front stairs. Changing tables are available to parents.
 - An elevator is available on the north side of the church entrance.
 - The basement is available to parents needing to quiet small children. The area is equipped with closed circuit TV.
 - Out of respect for all who worship today, please silence all electronic devices.
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Hands of Self-Preservation

Opening Hymn

My Song Is Love Unknown – **CW 110**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

C: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

P: If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness,

C: We lie and do not live by the truth.

P: If we claim to be without sin,

C: We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of the Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for private confession.

P: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer

P: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Refrain

Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

Psalms tone

Teach me, O LORD, to follow *your* decrees;*
then I will keep them *to* the end.

Give me understanding, and I will *keep* your law*
and obey it with *all* my heart.

Direct me in the path of *your* commands,*
for there I *find* delight.

Refrain

Turn my eyes away from *worthless* things;*
preserve my life according *to* your Word.

Fulfill your promise to your *servant*,*
so that you *may* be feared.

How I long for your *precepts*!*
Preserve my life in your *righteousness*.

**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*.**

Refrain

Psalms Prayer

P: O Lord, your Word is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. Guide our footsteps by your Word so that we may remain steadfast in faith, love you with all our hearts, and love our neighbor as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Passion Reading

Seasonal Response

All: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

Hymn

In the Hour of Trial – **CW 116**

Sermon Text

Matthew 27:15-26

Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. ¹⁹While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." ²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ²¹"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. ²²"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" ²³"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" ²⁴When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" ²⁵All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" ²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

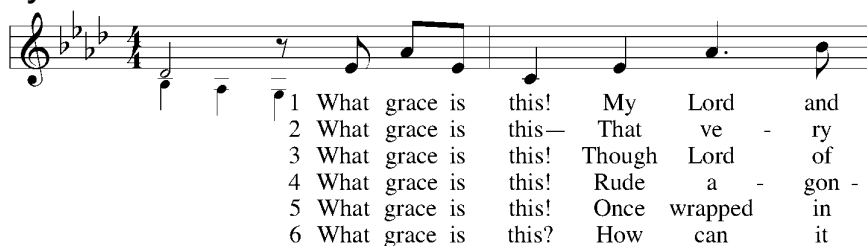
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

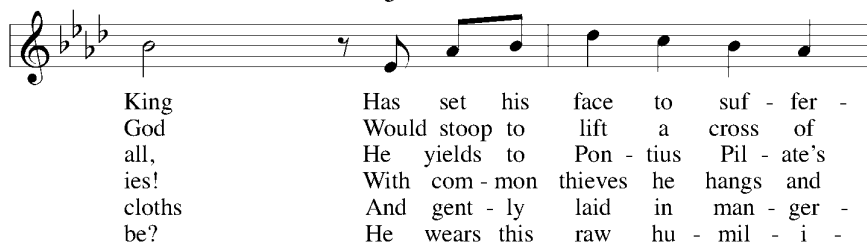
now and forever. Amen

Hymn

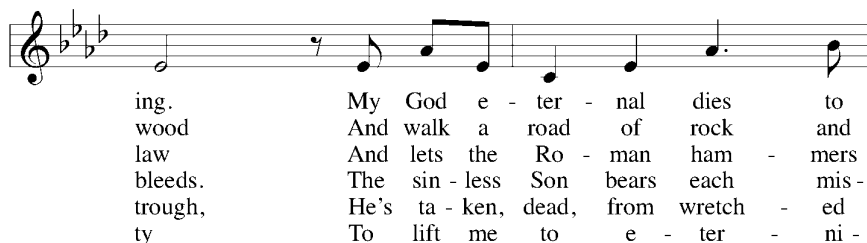
What Grace is This! – CWS 715



1 What grace is this! My Lord and
 2 What grace is this— That ve - ry
 3 What grace is this! Though Lord of
 4 What grace is this! Rude a - gon -
 5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in
 6 What grace is this? How can it



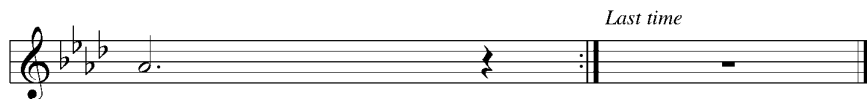
King Has set his face to suf - fer -
 God Would stoop to lift a cross of
 all, He yields to Pon - tius Pil - ate's
 ies! With com - mon thieves he hangs and
 cloths And gent - ly laid in man - ger -
 be? He wears this raw hu - mil - i -



ing. My God e - ter - nal dies to
 wood And walk a road of rock and
 law And lets the Ro - man ham - mers
 bleeds. The sin - less Son bears each mis -
 trough, He's ta - ken, dead, from wretch - ed
 ty To lift me to e - ter - ni -



bring	E -	ter -	nal	life	to
blood,	A	sin -	ner's	road,	for
draw	A	rush	of	blood	for
deed.	He	pays	for	all,	for
cross	And	wrapped	a -	gain	for
ty.	Such	grace—	sweet	grace—	for



me.
me.
me.
me.
me.
me.

This hymn helps us recognize the nature of divine grace, which is entirely independent of anything we are or can offer to God. God's grace willingly acts on behalf of rebellious sinners, as especially displayed in the suffering and death of our Savior.

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Tune: WHAT GRACE (44 886) G. A. Hennig, b. 1966 © 2005 G. A. Hennig. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Evening Prayer

All: All praise to you, our God, this night for all the blessings of the light. Keep us, yes, keep us, King of kings beneath your own almighty wings. Forgive us, Lord, through your dear Son for sins that we this day have done, that as we sleep, peace we would hold with all, with you, within our souls. Amen.

Blessing

P: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

C: Amen.

Hymn

Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing – **CW 111**

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Worship Notes

Presiding Minister:	Arno Wolfgramm
Organist:	Nancy Zander
Service Teams:	3:45pm Team Fischer
	6:00pm Team Hoh