



"...For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20b

*-a congregation of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten Wednesday**

**February 25, 2026**

## AS WE GATHER - REDEMPTION OF OUR WORSHIP

Tonight, our Lord sets before us the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector from Luke 18:9–14, calling us away from self-confidence and into honest repentance. Lent is not a season for comparing ourselves to others, but for standing humbly before God, confessing our sin, and trusting His mercy alone. Here, the Lord meets sinners with forgiveness, justifies the humble, and lifts up those who cry out, “God, be merciful to me.”

### +PREPARATION+

## 555 SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME

sts. 1–3, 9



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and  
2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could  
3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had  
9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone And rests in Him un -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They  
ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For  
giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And  
ceas - ing; And by its fruits true faith is known, With



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus  
man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those  
by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a  
love and hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the  
pure de - sires The spir - it of the  
mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred  
jus - ti - fy; Works serve our neigh - bor



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.  
Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.  
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.  
and sup - ply The proof that faith is liv - ing.

## INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

**P** As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

**C** I have come down to deliver them.

**P** If anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.

**C** In [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

**P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

## PSALM

*Psalm 41*

<sup>1</sup>Blessèd is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him; <sup>2</sup>the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessèd in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies. <sup>3</sup>The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health. <sup>4</sup>As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!" <sup>5</sup>My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?" <sup>6</sup>And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad. <sup>7</sup>All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. <sup>8</sup>They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies." <sup>9</sup>Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. <sup>10</sup>But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them! <sup>11</sup>By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. <sup>12</sup>But you have upheld me because of my integrity and set me in your presence forever. <sup>13</sup>Blessèd be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

## 437 ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED

*st. 1*

1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And  
did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that  
sa - cred head For such a worm as I?

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824 Text and tune: Public domain

## FIRST READING

Luke 7:36–50

<sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. <sup>37</sup>And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, <sup>38</sup>and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup>Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." <sup>40</sup>And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." <sup>41</sup>"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" <sup>43</sup>Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." <sup>44</sup>Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup>You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. <sup>46</sup>You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup>Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." <sup>48</sup>And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." <sup>49</sup>Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" <sup>50</sup>And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.      **C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

Luke 18:9–14

<sup>9</sup>[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

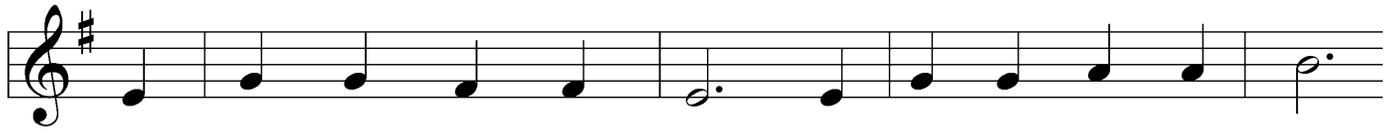
**L** This is the Word of the Lord.      **C** Thanks be to God.

## DRAMA INTRODUCTION

### DRAMA PRESENTATION: Simon, The Upstanding Pharisee

## 431 NOT ALL THE BLOOD OF BEASTS

sts. 1-3



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,



Could give the guilt - y con-science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591 Text and tune: Public domain

### PRAYERS

- L** Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.
- C** Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.
  
- L** Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.
- C** Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.
  
- L** Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.
- C** Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.
  
- L** Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.
- C** Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.
  
- L** Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.
- C** Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.
  
- L** Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.
- C** Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.

- L** O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land.
- C** **Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Christ, our Lord.**
- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
- C** **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**
- L** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## NICENE CREED

*The Nicene Creed*

- C** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**  
**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**  
**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

## OFFERING & VIDEO

*As good stewards and as an act of worship we thankfully bring our tithes & offerings to the Lord who gave ALL of Himself for us. If you prefer to give electronically, you can scan this QR Code which will take you to our Peace Conway Clover Give link.*



*At this time, please fill out the attendance sheet in the colored bulletin and place it in the offering plate.*

## 956 CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12; Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583–1651, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

## 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.

## 431 NOT ALL THE BLOOD OF BEASTS

*sts. 4–5*

4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;  
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591; Text and tune: Public domain

## BENEDICTION

*Hebrews 13:20-21*

**L** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING PEACE

**L** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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