



"...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

"Peace Conway is a loving Christian family, faithfully serving all people by sharing the good news of Jesus and caring for people in need."

5th Lenten Wednesday

March 18, 2026

AS WE GATHER - DINAH

Tonight, we gather beneath the searching words of John 8, where a woman is dragged before Jesus by those ready to accuse and condemn. It is not only her who stands exposed, but every heart that knows the weight of guilt or the slow burn of resentment. We live in a world quick to point fingers and slow to forgive, and we often carry both the sting of accusation and the burden of our own grudges. Yet here, in the midst of judgment, Christ speaks a better word. He silences the voices of condemnation and lifts the fallen with mercy. As we enter this time of worship, we come honestly before Him, laying down both our sins and our bitterness, trusting that in Christ there is forgiveness for the accused and freedom for those bound by resentment.

+PREPARATION+

844 LORD OF ALL NATIONS, GRANT ME GRACE

sts. 1-4



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred
4 Give me Thy cour - age, Lord, to speak



To love all peo - ple, ev - 'ry race;
Thy chil - dren, Lord, on ev - 'ry side.
By love - less act and thought - less word.
When - ev - er strong op - press the weak.



And in each per - son may I see
My neigh - bor's good let me pur - sue;
Make me to see the wrong I do
Should I my - self the vic - tim be,



My kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by Thee.
Let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.
Will grieve my wound - ed Lord a - new.
Help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring Thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, 1916-2018, alt. Tune: Georg Joseph, 17th cent., adapt. Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000223Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

L O God, be not far from me;

C O my God, make haste to help me!

L O God, from my youth You have taught me,

C and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.

L So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

C until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.

L 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,

C and nothing will be impossible for you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L Though Jesus is our great High Priest, we have lived as if we did not need Him, as though our sin was not dire and deadly. Despite our self-centered failures, our heavenly Father is merciful, and because of Jesus, He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

(Silence for reflection)

L Heavenly Father,

C we have sinned against our neighbors and against You. We have sought to be served. We have demanded others sacrifice for us. Forgive us, renew us, and humble us, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

L Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world to be our great High Priest, who came to serve and offer His life as a ransom for us. Christ died and is risen for you. As a servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore announce His forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. We are forgiven. Christ has sacrificed His life for us.

PSALM 36

¹Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes. ²For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. ³The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good. ⁴He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil. ⁵Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. ⁷How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. ⁸They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. ⁹For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light. ¹⁰Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright of heart! ¹¹Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away. ¹²There the evildoers lie fallen; they are thrust down, unable to rise.

437 ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED

st. 4

4 Thus might I hide my blushing face While
 His dear cross appears, Dissolve my heart in
 thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.

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

FIRST READING

Matthew 9:2–13

²And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” ³And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” ⁴But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? ⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” ⁷And he rose and went home. ⁸When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. ⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. ¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

John 8:2–11

²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

DRAMA INTRODUCTION

DRAMA PRESENTATION: DINAH, THE FORGIVEN ADULTERESS

569 IN ADAM WE HAVE ALL BEEN ONE

sts. 1–3

(TUNE: 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns)

- 1 In Adam we have all been one, One huge rebellious man;
We all have fled that evening voice, That sought us as we ran.
- 2 We fled Thee, and in losing Thee, We lost our brother too;
Each singly sought and claimed his own; Each man his brother slew.
- 3 But Thy strong love, it sought us still, And sent Thine only Son
That we might hear His Shepherd’s voice, And, hearing Him, be one.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New HavenText: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000223Tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us. Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children, and grant that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

L May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need and those who have requested our prayers, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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 ✠ 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.

PEACE CHOIR

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

by Claudia Hernaman & John Leavitt

RESPONSORY

- L** We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
- L** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
- L** We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

569 IN ADAM WE HAVE ALL BEEN ONE

sts. 4–6

(TUNE: 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns)

- 4 O Thou who, when we loved Thee not, Didst love and save us all,
Thou great Good Shepherd of mankind, O hear us when we call.
- 5 Send us Thy Spirit, teach us truth; Thou Son, O set us free
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways, To make us one in Thee.
- 6 Then shall our song united rise, To Thine eternal throne,
Where with the Father evermore, And Spirit Thou art one.

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BENEDICTION

- L** The Lord, who protected His people throughout the exodus, bless you.
The Lord, who sustained them in the desert, bless you.
The Lord, who led them and you to the Promised Land, bless and keep you, now
and forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING PEACE

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

C Thanks be to God.

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