

Rethinking Religion



SUFFERING UNDER THE CROSS

Second Sunday in Lent

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

February 25, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lord Jesus Christ, you took up your cross to save me and give me life. As I now take up my cross and follow you, give me a right attitude toward the crosses I bear. Help me see your love at work in the difficulties and sufferings I have because of my connection to your name, and continue to use them to draw me closer to you and the joyous eternal life I will have forever in heaven thanks to you. In your name I pray this. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

THANK OFFERING

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



SETTING ONE

p.154

The Service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church that highlights the Word of God and the forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

GRADES 3-8 CHOIR (8:00 am)

His Cross, My Life

OPENING HYMN (10:00 am)

817 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart



1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee,
2 Yea, Lord, 'twas thy rich boun - ty gave my bod - y,
3 Lord, let at last thine an - gels come, to A - br'ham's



ne'er from me de - part, with ten - der mer - cy cheer me.
soul, and all I have in this poor life of la - bor.
bos - om bear me home that I may die un - fear - ing;



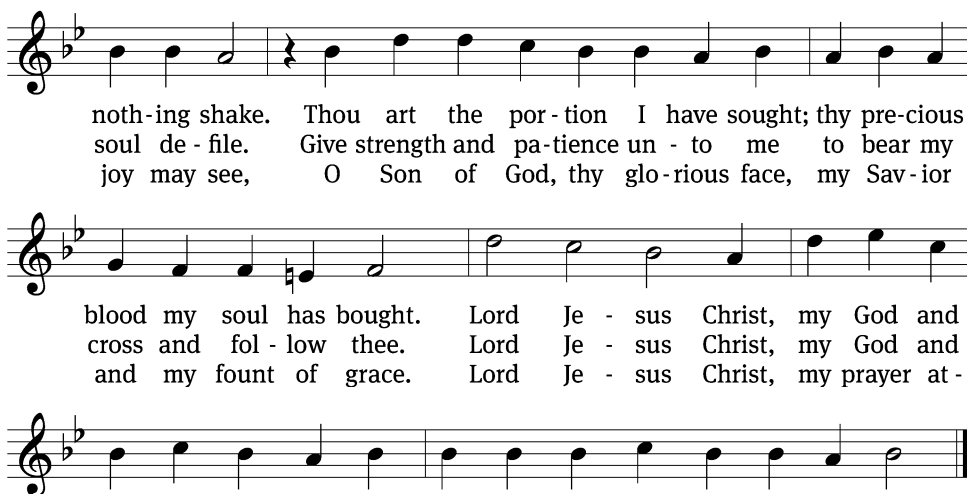
Earth has no plea - sure I would share; yea, heav'n it -
Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place may glo - ri -
and in its nar - row cham - ber keep my bod - y



self were void and bare if thou, Lord, wert not near me.
fy thy lav - ish grace and help and serve my neigh - bor.
safe in peace - ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.



And should my heart for sor - row break, my trust in thee can
Let no false doc - trine me be - guile; let Sa - tan not my
And then from death a - wak - en me that these mine eyes with



noth-ing shake. Thou art the por-tion I have sought; thy pre-cious
 soul de-file. Give strength and pa-tience un-to me to bear my
 joy may see, O Son of God, thy glo-rious face, my Sav-ior

blood my soul has bought. Lord Je-sus Christ, my God and
 cross and fol-low thee. Lord Je-sus Christ, my God and
 and my fount of grace. Lord Je-sus Christ, my prayer at-

Lord, my God and Lord, for-sake me not! I trust thy Word.
 Lord, my God and Lord, in death thy com-fort still af-ford.
 tend, my prayer at-tend, and I will praise thee with-out end.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin M. Schalling, 1532–1608

Tune: Zwey Bücher . . . Tablatur, Strassburg, 1577

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

**We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

DECLARATION OF GRACE

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

HYMN

529 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* sts. 1–2, 4

(short musical intro)



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the cross for -
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that knows no



sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bid.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Job 1:13–22

¹³One day when Job's sons and daughters were were eating and drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the female donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵when the Sabeans swooped down and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the flocks and the servants and consumed them, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and plundered the camels and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and were drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother. ¹⁹Suddenly a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it collapsed on the young people, and they died, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

²⁰Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshipped. ²¹Then he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. May the name of the LORD be blessed."

²²In all this, Job did not sin or blame God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 22C

This psalm will be unfamiliar to you. Join as comfortable.

Refrain

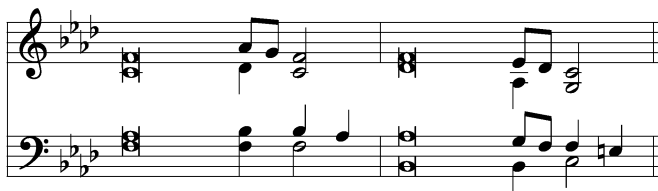


Tone



My God, my God, why have you for- / saken me?
Why are you so far from / saving me?

Tone



I am a worm and / not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the / people.
All who see me / mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking / their heads.
"He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD / rescue him.
Let him deliver him, since he de- / lights in him."

Refrain



My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof / of my mouth;
you lay me in the / dust of death.
A pack of villains en- / circles me;
they pierce my hands / and my feet.
They divide my clothes a- / mong them
and cast lots for my / garment. *Refrain*

But you, LORD, do not be / far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to / help me.
I will declare your name to my / people;
in the assembly I will / praise you.
All the ends of the earth will remember and turn / to the LORD,

continued...

and all the families of the nations will bow down be- / fore him.
They will proclaim his / righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn: He has / done it!
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Tune: Dale Witte

Setting: Dale Witte

Music: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1–11

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God.

³Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, ⁴and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. ⁵And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

⁶For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 8:34

**Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me.
Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31–38

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. ³²He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men."

³⁴He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶After all, what good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸In fact, whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children who are in grade four and younger may come forward and sit on the front step for the children's devotion. Older children, parents, or other family members may come forward to encourage the younger children's participation.

HYMN OF THE DAY

583 God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, him - self did
5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me free.
deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I owed.
ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite

Tune: German

Text and tune: Public domain

With Christ Comes the Cross

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

OFFERING

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits from your entire harvest" (Proverbs 3:9).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added here.

Hear us as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on
Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is
God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and
you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and
swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!
friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.
clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.
heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Stand

PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

409 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest Re - deem - er,
 2 Dare we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re -
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent



whom we love, foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior
 pent - ant vow, as we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your
 love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be -



from the world a - bove, of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Since your sin - less death has brought us
 hold your cross a - new, till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; yet, up - on the
 life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest, on - ly what your
 from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, you en - dured the pain of all.
 grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 hearts for - ev - er dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

Text: tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–1896, alt.; Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–1498

Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745

Text and tune: Public domain

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LUTHER'S SOUND FOUNDATION BLESSING OUR WORSHIP

On Wednesday, March 6, Luther High School's Sound Foundation will be blessing our midweek Lenten worship with their musical talents. Come hear them sing to the Lord and join in praising Jesus our Savior.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY

The account of Jesus clearing the temple serves as today's lesson, "**A Temple Cleansing.**" Merchants and money-changers fill the outer courts of the temple in preparation for the Passover. Jesus overturns the tables and drives out the animals in His zeal to restore the temple to its proper PURPOSE. When the Jews question His authority, Jesus tells them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). Only after His resurrection do the disciples realize that Jesus was referring to His body as the new temple.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES

Our midweek Lenten worship this year is entitled *Scriptures Fulfilled*. It focuses on various Old Testament prophecies concerning the suffering and death of the Christ and how Jesus fulfilled them. We pray this series refreshes us in the truths that our God is all-knowing, powerful, and gracious. Come deepen your appreciation for our Lord Jesus Christ's love for you, me, and all people.



GRAPE JUICE NOW OFFERED AT COMMUNION

For those who cannot drink wine, we are now offering grape juice during the Lord's Supper. The grape juice will be **in the center of the tray in the purple-tinted cups**. Please reserve the cups with grape juice for those who need them. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Groth.

CARE COMMITTEE BEING FORMED

St. Paul's is starting a Care Committee (a subcommittee of Stewardship-Evangelism). Mission Statement: The Care Committee seeks to spread the love of our Lord Jesus Christ through celebration, support, comfort, and care for members, visitors, guests, and friends in activities of

fellowship and community. Vision of what the Care Committee will offer: send cards and make phone calls; provide meals, grocery/prescription pick up, child care, transportation; volunteer our time with whatever the need may be. Right now, we are looking for members to join the committee. If you would be interested in joining, please sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby with your name, phone number, and email. What we envision is when a need arises the committee members would be contacted to see who can help in what capacity, meal trains, transportation needs, etc. The responsibilities of the committee members will depend on what the need is of the individual that is reaching out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church for help. The goal is the Care Committee will grow and in return be able to offer more support in various ways not only within our congregational walls but extend to our Bangor community.

CAMM LETTER

The February letter of the Central Africa Medical Mission can be found printed in the lobby.

DIVINE CALL EXTENDED

A divine call has been extended to Miss Deborah Buelow to serve as our 1st and 2nd grades teacher beginning this fall. Miss Buelow currently serves at First Lutheran School in Elkhorn, WI. Please keep her in your prayers as she deliberates where she can best use the gifts and abilities the Lord has given her.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Once every other year we seek input from the congregation regarding our ministry and its various facets. Your feedback is very much appreciated by the leadership and extremely valuable to the direction of our church. Please provide your **anonymous** input via the congregational survey that has been prepared. You can find it at the following URL (link provided in email News): <https://forms.gle/PzEVxZUxt7uKsG3h6>. If you'd prefer, you can also find printed copies in the narthex and turn them into pastor or the church office.

MIDWEEK STUDY

Our midweek study is an evangelism module called *In Season & Out of Season*. In his second letter to Timothy, apostle Paul wrote, "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season" (4:2). Although originally written as an encouragement to a first-century pastor, Paul's words are equally applicable to twenty-first-century Christians. We have



the same message to share with sinners who desperately need to hear it. *In Season & Out of Season* seeks to encourage and equip God's people to share that message in any and every situation.

ST. PAUL'S LADIES' PAINT NIGHT

On Saturday, March 2nd, from 5:30-7:00 pm, all ladies of St. Paul's (and their friends!) are invited to join us in the church basement for an evening of painting with Katie Meyer, owner of The Art Room. No experience required! Participants will choose their own color pallet then add a botanical painting on top. The cost is \$25/person payable the evening of the event. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and we can enjoy an evening of painting and snacking together! Sign up is required by February 24th. Contact Heather Groth at (608) 351-1025 with any questions.

LUTHER SPRING MUSICAL

Tickets are now on sale for Luther's Spring Musical, *The Secret Garden*. Head to lutherhigh.org/arts/box-office to purchase your tickets. Questions? Talk to Miss Schmidt (schmemil@luther.k12.wi.us).

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2024 Weekly Budget: \$11,826.00	Budget to Date: \$82,782.00
Received Last Week: \$5,364.26	Rec'd to Date: \$58,740.80

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Ash Wed: 112 Online Viewers: 14 Total: 126
8:00 am: 96 Online Viewers: 68 10:00 am: 82 Total: 246
Sunday Bible Study: 27 Sunday School: 6 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 26
Midweek Lenten Service: 109 Online Viewers: 18 Total: 127

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship
MONDAY	6:00 pm	Bible Basics Class
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	3:30 pm	Public School Catechism Class
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship
THURSDAY	2:00 pm	Ladies Aid
SATURDAY	5:30 pm	St. Paul's Ladies Paint Night
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion
	6:30 pm	PACE Meeting

SERVING IN WORSHIP

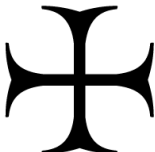
Presiding Minister
Accompanist

Pastor Brock Groth
Irene Bakken

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THE
LORD IS MY
REFUGE AND MY
FORTRESS
MY GOD IN WHOM I
TRUST





WiFi: SPLC_Guest
Password: gracealone

608-486-2754

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