



*God made him who had
no sin to be sin for us, so
that in him we might
become the righteousness
of God*

2 Corinthians 5:21



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

Lenten Midweek Worship

March 12, 2025

Invocation and Verse

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

C Amen.

P God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,

C **So that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace

LSB 580 v 1-3,6 (tune 551)

- 1 The Gospel shows the Father’s grace,
Who sent his Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That we might thus be justified.**
- 2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
Who made the atoning sacrifice,
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed
To come and find eternal rest.**
- 3 It brings the Savior’s righteousness
To robe our souls in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release
And gives the troubled conscience peace.**
- 6 May we in faith its message learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;**

**May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord, our righteousness.**

First Reading

Genesis 18:22-25

²² The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

L God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,

C So that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Opening Versicles

P God of all mercy and consolation,

C Come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

P The people confess:

C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own

fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 3:10-26

¹⁰ As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

¹¹ there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.

¹² All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.”

¹³ “Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice deceit.”

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

¹⁴ “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at

the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

L God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,

C So that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

Prayer of Martin Luther

P Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

C My lord, fill it.

P I am weak in faith;

C Strengthen me.

P I am cold in love;

C Warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.

P I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

C O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

P In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor;

C You are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.

P I am a sinner;

C You are upright.

P With me, there is an abundance of sin;

C In you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 12:27-32

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

P God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,

C So that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

If Your Beloved Son, O God

- 1** If Your beloved Son, O God,
Had not to earth descended
And in our mortal flesh and blood
Had not sin's power ended,
Then this poor, wretched soul of mine
In hell eternally would pine
Because of my transgression.
- 2** But now I find sweet peace and rest;
Despair no more reigns o'er me.
No more am I by sin oppressed,
For Christ has borne sin for me.
Upon the cross for me he died
That, reconciled, I might abide
With you, my God, forever.
- 4** All righteousness by works is vain;
The Law brings condemnation.
True righteousness by faith I gain;
Christ's work is my salvation.
His death, that perfect sacrifice,
Has paid the all-sufficient price;
In him my hope is anchored.
- 5** My guilt, O Father, you have laid
On Christ, your Son, my Savior.
Lord Jesus, you my debt have paid
And gained for me God's favor.
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace,
The good in me to you I trace;
In faith and hope preserve me.

Homily

Creed

- P** We 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. What does this mean?

- C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death, that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Invitation to Prayer

- P** We do not know how to pray as we ought, Paul says. (*Romans 8:26*) Our prayers easily become routine and meaningless.
- C** We worry and doubt.
- P** We wonder if God really listens.
- C** We trust our own sincerity.
- P** We try to impress God with our dedication.
- C** We cannot pray as we should.
- P** But God has said that we may pray, God has commanded us to pray, God has taught us to pray, and God himself prays for us. The Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words, Paul says. (*Romans 8:26*)
- C** So we pray confidently, certain that our loving Father hears us and promises to dwell with us. We pray the words our Lord Jesus taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Evening Prayer

- C** I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no

power over me. Amen.

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563

- 1 Jesus, thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.
- 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
- 3 Lord, I believe thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.

Verse

- P** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,
C So that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

Benediction



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**Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people,
proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.**

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