

Midweek Lenten Services

"The Hands of Christ"

March 12, 2025

11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

PRELUDE

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

setting by Peter P. Stearns

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

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

People: **Amen.**

Leader: You have made us with Your own hands, O God.

People: **We are content in Your loving hands, O Lord.**

Leader: Your hands were the skilled hands of a carpenter. By Your labor You have dignified the work of our own hands.

People: **We are content in Your loving hands, O Lord.**

Leader: But our hands have often been at work doing evil. Sometimes our hands are caught in the very act of sin. It is in Your hands that we find mercy.

People: **We are content in Your loving hands, O Lord.**

Leader: It was Your sinless hands, which were spread wide in blessing and nailed high on a cross to cancel our sinful deeds.

People: **We are content in Your loving hands, O Lord.**

(continued on next page)

Leader: The salvation You have given to us has made us unafraid of death, for when we shed these earthly tents You will give us a permanent dwelling in Your kingdom.

People: **Your hands provide all we need, and they comfort us by Your holy touch.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: O God, by the suffering and death of Your Son You redeemed this fallen world. Grant eternal joy to Your faithful people, whom You have delivered from the danger of everlasting death, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN

553 O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire

**1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,
Creation's mighty Lord,
Redeemer of the fallen world,
By holy love outpoured:**

**2 How vast Your mercy to accept
The burden of our sin
And bow Your head in cruel death
To make us clean within.**

**4 O let Your mighty love prevail
To purge us of our pride
That we may stand before Your throne
By mercy purified.**

Text: Public domain

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens-- ⁵ and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground-- ⁷ the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 31:1-8



Leader: ¹In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
 let me never be | put to shame;*
 in your righteousness de- | liver me!

People: ²**Incline your ear to me; rescue me | speedily!***
Be a rock of refuge for me,
 a strong fortress to | save me!

Leader: ³For you are my rock and my | fortress;*
 and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me;

People: ⁴**you take me out of the net they have hidden | for me,***
 for you are my | refuge.

Leader: ⁵Into your hand I commit my | spirit;*
 you have redeemed me, O Lord, | faithful God.

People: ⁶**I hate those who pay regard to worthless | idols,***
 but I trust | in the Lord.

Leader: ⁷I will rejoice and be glad in your | steadfast love,*
 because you have seen my affliction;
 you have known the distress | of my soul,

People: ⁸**and you have not delivered me into the hand of the | enemy,***
 you have set my feet in a | broad place.

¹ Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. ⁶ Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ We live by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Beneath The Cross of Jesus”

Getty

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy That calls me as I am.
For hands that should discard me, Hold wounds which tell me, “come.”
Beneath the cross of Jesus My unworthy soul is won.*

*Beneath the cross of Jesus His family is my own.
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams, Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus See the children called by God.*

*Beneath the cross of Jesus, The path before the crown,
We follow in His footsteps Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us, To be His perfect bride.
Beneath the cross of Jesus We will gladly live our lives.*

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter:

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:38-41

³⁸ Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

⁴⁰ When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹ Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

574 Before the Throne of God Above

1 Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea:
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

2 My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

3 When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.

4 Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

The Hands of Christ

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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

And 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.

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the whole body of Christ and for all people according to their needs. For all nations of the world, that their hands may be productive, peaceful, and full of charity, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Into Your hands, O Lord, we commit them.**

Leader: For Your body, the church, that our hands may carry the Gospel to all people, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Into Your hands, O Lord, we commit them.**

Leader: For our congregation, that our hands may join in fellowship with those whose need for Your love is unfulfilled, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Into Your hands, O Lord, we commit them.**

Leader: For all who are caught in sin, that they may be reconciled by the forgiveness for which Your hands were pierced, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Into Your hands, O Lord, we commit them.**

Leader: For the sick that Your hands which so often reached out to strengthen the infirm and to heal the ill will also touch them with Your healing power, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commit them.

Leader: For all who have died in the faith, we give You thanks and ask for Your consolation to those who grieve, for ourselves that at the time of our death our hands will be clasped in Your own as You welcome us into the kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commit them.

Leader: Into Your care, O Lord, we commit all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

setting by John Leavitt

OFFERTORY

(Tune: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded)

**The hands of Christ, our brother,
Reach down from heav'n above
As we touch one another
With Spirit-given love.
May we, such grace receiving,
Become with one accord,
In all our daily living,
The Body of the Lord.**

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER (11:00 a.m.)

Leader: Let us pray,

People: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER (6:30 p.m.)

Leader: Let us pray,

People: 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.

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.

BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord take your hand and lead you.

The Lord place His hands upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

421 Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing

POSTLUDE

“Fantasy in A Minor”

J. S. Bach

Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	11:00 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
	6:30 p.m.	Samuel Wondemu
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	
Soloist:	Ryan Meyer	
Acolyte:	6:30 p.m.	Grace Meyer

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.

Bulletin cover Artwork © 2013 Ian M. Welch, paramentics.com. All Rights Reserved.

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" CCLI Song # 4610917 Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty
© 2005 Thankyou Music Ltd For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use.
All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 11301522*

