

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RUMA
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, EVANSVILLE**

Joint Midweek Lenten and Holy Week Services

Rev. Randy Fischer, Pastor

March 8, 2023

6:30 p.m.



*He Leadeth Me in the Paths of Righteousness
PSALM 23:3*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE OPENING HYMN *LSB 439 vs. 1,6-8*
“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”

Stand

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

THE RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 119:105-112 *[ESV]*
The congregation reads responsively in bold.

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet
 and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
 to keep your righteous rules.

¹⁰⁷I am severely afflicted;
 give me life, O LORD, according to your word!

¹⁰⁸Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD,
 and teach me your rules.

¹⁰⁹I hold my life in my hand continually,
 but I do not forget your law.

¹¹⁰The wicked have laid a snare for me,
 but I do not stray from your precepts.

¹¹¹Your testimonies are my heritage forever,
 for they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹²I incline my heart to perform your statutes
 forever, to the end.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 As it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Let us pray.
O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

Sit

THE READING OF THE PASSION STORY

[accounts from all four Gospels]

THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 4:13-25 [ESV]

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should

become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Please stand for the Gospel – Matthew 9:9-13 [ESV]

⁹ As 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.

¹⁰ And as Jesus^[a] reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

THE 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.

Sit

THE HYMN *LSB 685* "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

THE SERMON

"He Leadeth Me in the Paths of Righteousness" *Psalms 23:3*

Stand

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: Our Gracious Heavenly Father, we admit that we are sheep who often stray. We do not follow You as we should, nor do we listen to Your Voice when you call.

C: **Forgive Your wandering sheep!**

P: We pray that You would give to us singleness of heart to stay on the Right path. Help us to follow You in faithfulness. Open our ears to hear Your Word.

C: **Lead us by Your gracious Hand!**

P: Protect us from danger. Graciously supply all that we need. Keep Your loving Eye upon us. And through our Lord Jesus Christ, our Great and Good Shepherd.

C: **Bring us to Your Heavenly Fold!**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

P: 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 every 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. *Hebrews 13:20-21*

C: **Amen.**

Sit

THE CLOSING HYMN

LSB 421 "Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing"

