

The Sign Of Jonah

Saved In The Storm

Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 15, 2023



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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Hymn: 715 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?**

P When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

C **Though an army besieges me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.** (From Psalm 27)

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And with you also.**

Prayer of the Day

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C Amen

Confession and Absolution

- P** Lent. A sad and bleak season of the Church year; a time for confession and renewal.
- C** **We know we're supposed to examine our lives and confess our sins; we may even want to give something up as we follow Christ to the cross.**
- P** As we begin our Lenten worship this evening, we continue our voyage with Jonah.
- C** **He is the one who heard God's command and went the other way.**
- P** He is the one who begrudged God for giving his grace to others.
- C** **He is the one who was caught in a storm and thrown overboard.**
- P** He is the one who was sure that he could get away from God and avoid his responsibility.
- C** **But let us also examine our own lives and see how we run from God's call in our lives. Forgive me, O Lord, when I doubt that you actually love the world. Forgive me when I make excuses to avoid making any commitment to you. Forgive me when I run away from you and doubt that you really care about me. Forgive me when I disobey your commandments, and I am satisfied with living in my sin.**
- P** As Jonah ran away, we often run away from you, Father, because we are sure that we have a better plan for our life which selfishly does not include others. As we consider your gracious plan for salvation in Jesus Christ, we look to you for forgiveness of our sins and for your renewal. Forgive us, Heavenly Father.
- P** Upon this your confession to God our Father who knows our going out and our lying down and who is familiar with all our ways, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalm 139, selected verses

- P** O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.
- C** **You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**
- P** You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
- C** **Before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.**
- P** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
- C** **Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?**

- P** If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- C** **If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**
- P** For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. I know that full well.
- C** **Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Solo by: Tracey Gribbon

accompanied by Henry Sella on guitar .

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 1:4-16

- A** The Old Testament Reading for This Wednesday in Lent is from the first chapter of Jonah.

Jonah 1:4-16

But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they called out to

the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 8:23-27

P The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus Calms a Storm

²³And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." ²⁶And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **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.**

Hymn: 702 My Faith Looks Up To Thee

Sermon

Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

Musical Offering

Stand

806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give thanks to the
Ho-ly One, Give thanks _____ be-cause He's giv-en__ Je-sus
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give
thanks to the Ho-ly One, Give thanks _____ be-cause He's giv-en__
Je-sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am
strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be-cause of
what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am
rich," Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

Text and tune: Henry Smith, 1952

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Prayers

- P** What shall we fear? "The LORD is our light and our salvation - what shall I fear?" Shall we fear the storm of illness? "Our flesh and our hearts may fail, but God is the strength of our heart and our portion forever." Lord In Your mercy
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Shall we fear the storm of poverty? "The Lord has been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm." Lord In Your mercy
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Shall we fear the storm of depression and a broken heart? "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Lord In Your mercy
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Shall we fear the storm of becoming old? "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding? To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his." Lord In Your mercy
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Shall we fear the storms of family life? "The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you." Lord In Your mercy
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Shall we fear the storm of death? "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me." Lord In Your mercy
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, Your Son has shown Your love to the world in His death and resurrection. Give Your people hearts to remember Your gracious works and to proclaim Your name in all things and to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, You promise us an inheritance not because of Your law but because of Your promise to the Old Testament Prophets, such as Abraham and Jonah and to us. When you call us, give us your strength to answer. In Your grace, nourish us in the faith unto life eternal. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, as Jonah was thrown into the sea and remained in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights, so your Son spent three days in the heart of the earth and rose to life. Your perfect love casts out our fear. We will not be afraid, but find confidence in you. "The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" Amen.

P Hear us as we pray in His name of Him who has taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

Benedicamus


A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and  give you His peace.

C **Amen.**

878 Abide with Me

sts. 1, 3, 5

The Sign of Jonah will continue with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Acknowledgments

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