

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
First Sunday in Lent – February 18, 2024  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service**

**Guided to the Cross – Guided to Hope**

**Theme verses:** *He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again,*  
**2 Corinthians 1:10**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Call to Worship**

A: When Jesus chased the money changers and merchants from the temple, the religious leaders who opposed him asked for a sign of his authority to do such things. Jesus answered, “Destroy the temple and in three days I will raise it up”. He spoke of the temple of his body. He would be killed and raised to life again on the third day after his death. The sign would be his death and resurrection. The sign would be the cross.

**C: In a world of confusion, temptation and loss, we look for a sign to guide us.**

A: When the time of his death drew near, Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem. There he would take up his cross for the sake of our salvation. As we follow his path during this Lenten season, the cross stands before us as a marker, a signpost, to guide our steps.

**C: As Jesus kept his focus on what lay ahead for him, we too, look to his cross.**

A: The cross signified a terrible death. Yet through faith in Jesus our Savior, for us the cross is a sign of triumph in the face of death. The cross is a sign of life and hope.

**C: Lord Jesus, set your cross always before us to guide us to the hope of forgiveness and new life. Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**  
**O Lord, throughout These Forty Days– ELW #319**

**Invocation**

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

**C: Amen.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection.*

L: Almighty God,

**C: we have the cross of our Lord before us to guide us, but we often turn away from following in his steps. We listen to the temptations of the world instead of gladly hearing your Word. We turn from the hope we have in Jesus to follow our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Amen.**

L: God has mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus was nailed to the cross, suffering the penalty of death that we deserve for our sins. Our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Lord God, set the cross before us and guide us in the way of hope. Amen.**

## **Greeting**

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

**C: And also, with you.**

## **Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## **Lenten Response**

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus – ELW # 338 vs 1 & 2**

## **Prayer of the Day**

A: Lord Jesus, we follow you on your path to the cross, guide our steps in the way of hope.

**C: By grace through faith in your holy name, we have forgiveness for our sins and live in the hope of eternal life in your presence.**

A: When we are struggling with fear or loss, set your cross before us as a sign of hope.

**C: Lead us to be witnesses for you and to share the hope you bring the world in the Holy Spirit.**

A: Hear our prayer.

**C: Amen.**

## The Word

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22**

<sup>7</sup>Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you. <sup>8</sup>O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night?

<sup>9</sup>Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!

<sup>10</sup>Thus says the LORD concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. <sup>19</sup>Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead. <sup>20</sup>We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you. <sup>21</sup>Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. <sup>22</sup>Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is in Corinth, including all the saints throughout Achaia: <sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, <sup>4</sup>who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. <sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. <sup>6</sup>If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for

your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering.

<sup>7</sup>Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. <sup>8</sup>We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup>Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup>He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again, <sup>11</sup>as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel: Luke 23:32-47**

\*The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>32</sup>Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." <sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup>When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

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

### **Message – Tim Leitner, SAM**

<https://youtu.be/IN15GTTHDdg?si=LXt9K-tcMsBOJ5dq>

### **Hymn of the Day – Jesus, Still Lead On – ELW #624**

#### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead,  
on the third day, he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

L: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people, especially Martin Luther, renewer of the church. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, afraid, in pain or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are ill, homebound, hospitalized, convalescing or traveling (especially). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## Offering

### Offertory Hymn

**Take My Life, That I May Be - ELW #685 vs 2, 3 & 4**

### Offertory Prayer

A: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

**C: Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.**

A: Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

**C: We pray this in your name. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Words of Institution



## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth, as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

## Communion

### Post Communion Blessing

L: Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

### Post Communion Prayer

A: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

**C: As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread; now make us one loaf to feed the world;**

A: in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**C: Amen.**

## Benediction

L: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may live in hope. In the name of the Father and the +Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn –I Want Jesus to Walk with Me– ELW #325**

### **Dismissal**

A: Living in hope, we share God's good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**