



OPEN DOOR POLICIES

God's Surprising Strategies for Getting Sinners Back Home

ONE STANDS; EVERYONE ELSE SITS

First Sunday in Lent

March 9/10, 2025

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

Restrooms: are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP SERIES: OPEN DOOR POLICIES

When a wayward child wanders far from home, how does a loving parent pursue them without driving them further away? One thing that parent does is let the child know that there is an ongoing open-door policy. The child knows they will always be welcomed back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn't just passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home.

TODAY'S THEME: ONE STANDS; EVERYONE ELSE SITS

Normally in a family everyone must do their part. . . pitch in. . . pull their weight. In God's family, he assigns and accepts the work of one on behalf of all. In God's house, God's Son—our brother, Jesus—stands alone on the field of battle against our enemies in our place. He fights vicariously. He fights victoriously.

This week we see one man, Jesus Christ, stand against Satan. We simply sit and watch with eyes full of wonder and repentant faith. Because Christ fought that battle as one of us, he won that battle for all of us. The door to heaven stands wide open for those who believe in him.

OPENING HYMN

721 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

STAND

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: The Word of God urges us to confess to the Lord all the evil that is in us. This is something we ought to be always doing with a heart full of humility and penitence. But we should especially do so when we gather for worship. So come with me now to God's throne of grace, and let us confess our sins together.

Almighty and merciful Father, we confess that we have wandered from your way like lost sheep. We have followed our own sinful desires, and have disobeyed your laws. We have done things you have forbidden, and we have ignored things you have commanded. We are sinful by nature. Lord, show us mercy. You promised to do this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Having confessed your sins before Almighty God, be strengthened in faith, remembering that he does not want any sinner to die, but would rather have him turn from his evil ways and live. God has commanded his called ministers to declare the forgiveness of sins to all who are penitent. Rest assured, therefore, that your sins have been covered up by the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ, your Savior. May God's peace be with you.
Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

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.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BE SEATED

PSALM

Psalm 91D – On Eagle's Wings

Verse

1 You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, who a -
bide in his shad - ow for life, say to the Lord: "My
ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!" *Refrain*

Refrain



And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,
 bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
 sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Verses

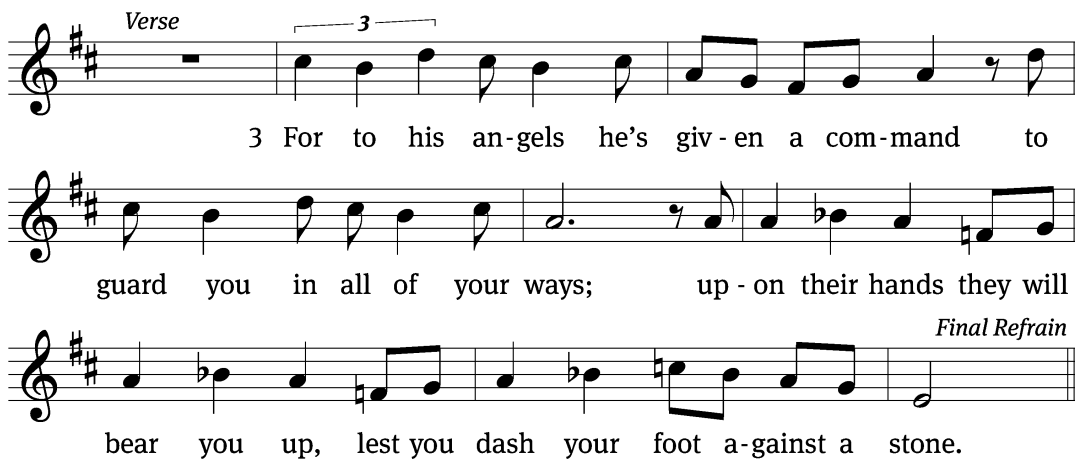
Verse



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and
 fam - ine will bring you no fear; un - der his wings your
 ref - uge, his faith - ful - ness your shield.

Refrain

Verse



3 For to his an-gels he's giv-en a com-mand to
 guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will
 bear you up, lest you dash your foot a-against a stone.

Final Refrain

Final Refrain

And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the
 breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and
 hold you in the palm of his hand. And hold you,
 hold you in the palm of his hand.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 17:4–11, 32–40, 45–49

David's victory over Goliath is as much a spiritual victory as a military one. It teaches us that the battle is the Lord's.

⁴A challenger who represented the Philistines came out from the camp of the Philistines. He was named Goliath of Gath. He was nine feet, six inches tall. ⁵He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he wore scaled body armor, which was made of more than one hundred pounds of bronze. ⁶He had bronze greaves on his shins and a bronze spear slung between his shoulders. ⁷The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spearhead was made of fifteen pounds of iron. His shield bearer went out ahead of him.

⁸He would stand up and shout to the armies of Israel, “Why have you come out to line up in battle formation? I am a Philistine, and you are servants of Saul, aren't you? Choose a man to represent you, and let him come down to me. ⁹If he is able to fight with me and kill me, we will be your servants. But if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our servants, and you will serve us.” ¹⁰The Philistine would say, “I defy the ranks of Israel today! Give me a man, and we will fight each other!” ¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.

...

³²David said to Saul, **“Do not let anyone lose heart because of this Philistine! Your servant will go and fight him.”**

³³But Saul said to David, “You cannot go against this Philistine to fight with him, because you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior since he was a youth.”

³⁴David said to Saul, “Your servant has been taking care of his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I went after it and struck it and rescued the lamb out of its mouth. When the lion reared up against me, I grabbed it by its mane, struck it, and killed it. ³⁶Your servant struck both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the ranks of the living God.” ³⁷David added, **“The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”**

Saul said to David, “Go then! May the LORD be with you.” ³⁸So Saul dressed David in his own gear. He placed a bronze helmet on his head and dressed him in scaled body armor. ³⁹David strapped his sword over his gear. David tried to walk around in them, since he had never trained with this kind of equipment before.

David said to Saul, “I cannot go in these, because I have never trained with them.” So David took them off.

⁴⁰Then David took his staff in his hand and picked five smooth stones out of the stream bed and put them into the pouch of his shepherd's bag. He took his sling in his hand and approached the Philistine.

...

⁴⁵Then David said to the Philistine, **“You come against me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶Today the LORD will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth. Then all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷and all those gathered here will know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear, for the battle belongs to the LORD, and he will deliver you into our hand.”**

⁴⁸Then, when the Philistine started advancing to attack David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹David put his hand into his bag, took a stone from it, shot it from his sling, and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown to the ground.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4:14–16

Jesus has stood in our place, facing temptation that we have faced. Yet he did not sin.

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God, let us continue to hold on to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. ¹⁶So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 John 3:8

Sung by the minister.

Refrain: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God.

*The reason the Son of God appeared
was to destroy the devil's work.*

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God.

Refrain

Jesus overcomes Satan's temptations, winning the victory for us.

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. He did not eat anything during those days. When they came to an end, he was hungry. ³The Devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’^{*}”

⁵The Devil led him up to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶The Devil told him, “I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, because it has been entrusted to me, and I can give it to anyone I want. ⁷So, if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written: ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’[†]”

⁹The Devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰because it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,
¹¹and they will lift you up with their hands,
 so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”[‡]

¹²Jesus answered him, “It says: ‘You shall not test the Lord your God.’[§]”

¹³When the Devil had finished every temptation, he left him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Young children are invited to the front for a brief devotion.

* Deuteronomy 8:3

† Deuteronomy 6:13

‡ Psalm 91:11,12

§ Deuteronomy 6:16



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



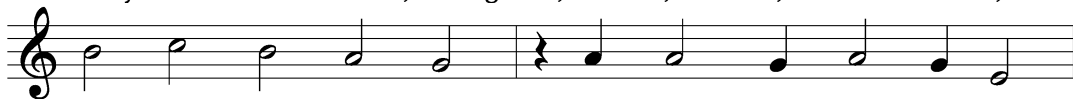
and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
 they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
 the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
 he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
 though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
 he holds the field for - ev - er.
 one lit - tle word can fell him.
 the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

"It Is Written!"

- 1. The temptation to doubt God's saving love.*
- 2. The temptation to doubt God's saving ways.*
- 3. The temptation to doubt God's faithfulness.*

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there 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.**

BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our refuge and fortress, our God, in whom we trust. You defeated Satan's schemes and won the victory for us. Help us when we are tempted and give us your grace to help us in every time of need.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Look on those who are in Satan's clutches, bound in sin and unable to free themselves. With your powerful Word, drive Satan from them, bring their hearts to life with your Holy Spirit and give them freedom in your victory.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Satan, the ancient serpent, seeks to lead the whole world astray. Govern and guide the leaders of the nations. Guard them against selfish ambition. Work through their flawed efforts to establish and maintain peace.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Look on Christians around the world who face temptations, trials and persecutions because of their faith. Keep them from all harm and danger. You know our human weakness and you are sympathetic to all our hurts and needs. Have mercy on all those who suffer in pain, weakness or illness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Listen, Lord, to the thoughts and cares of our hearts.

Silent prayer.

In your holy name we pray,

Amen.

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

OFFERING SONG

How Great Is Our God

By Chris Tomlin

HYMN

819 If God Himself Be for Me, sts. 1–2, 7



1 If God him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;
2 This I be - lieve, yea rath - er, of this I make my boast,
7 My heart for joy is spring - ing and can no more be sad;



for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con-found - ed, fly.
that God is my dear Fa - ther, the friend who loves me most,
my soul is filled with sing - ing, sees on - ly sun - shine glad.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove,
and that, what - e'er be - tide me, my Sav - ior is at hand
The sun that cheers my spir - it is Je - sus Christ, my King;



what foe or what dis - as - ter can drive me from his love?
thro' storm - y seas to guide me and bring me safe to land.
the heav'n I shall in - her - it makes me re - joice and sing.

STAND

Heavenly Father, have mercy on us who are tempted. We cannot stand in battles or dangers unless you fight by our side, defending us with your sword of the Spirit, covering us with the shield of faith, and hiding us under the shadow of your wings. You created us in your image. Renew that image in us, and preserve us pure and spotless, that our bodies may be your holy temple, and our souls a sanctuary where your holy Spirit, the Spirit of love and holiness, dwells.

Amen.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Ephesians 6:10; Numbers 6:24-26

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN

924 Abide, O Dearest Jesus



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace

6 A - bide, O faith - ful Sav - ior, a - mong us with your love;



that Sa - tan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.
grant stead-fast-ness and help us to reach our home a - bove.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Preacher: Pastor Dave Nottling (retired; Riverview, Appleton)

Presiding Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Ushers: Mark Welch (8:00), Tim Kruse (10:45)

Accompanist: Tessa Ray (Immanuel, Greenville)

Lectors: Jason Kempfert (8:00), Tim Kruse (10:45)

721 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–1886, alt. Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918 Text and tune: Public domain.

Psalm 91D On Eagles' Wings

Text: Michael Joncas Tune: Michael Joncas Text and tune: © 1979 OCP Publications. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

Gospel Acclamation (Setting Four)

Tune: © 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Text and tune: Public domain.

Prayer of the Church

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819 If God Himself Be For Me

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; (sts. 1, 7): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book, 1907; (st. 2): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887 Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt. Text and tune: Public domain.

Closing Prayer

Adapted by Bishop Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667).. Abbreviated and reprinted from *Prayers Ancient Made Modern (Annotated)* © 2024 Paul Stratman.

924 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615 Text and tune: Public domain.

Holy Bible

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