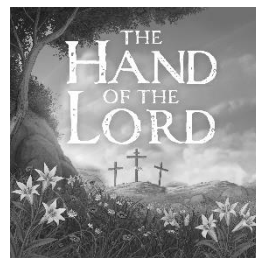
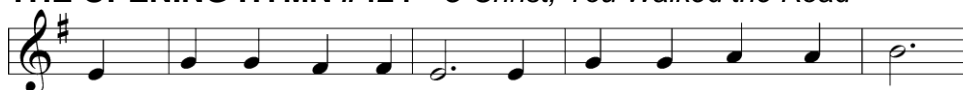


**The Hand of the Lord**  
**“The Hand of the Lord Who Casts Out Demons”**  
**Lent Midweek III, March 19, 2025**

In repentance we are compelled to take sin seriously. All people have inherited sin; it is the cause of our fallen condition. Human nature was created perfect, sinless, and at one with our Creator. “I’m only human” does not explain or excuse sin. When we seek where this deadly infection originated, we are directed by God’s Word to the reality of the fallen angel Satan and his minions. Satan is real. Temptation is real. Demonic activity is rampant and powerful. True repentance and faith require us first to admit that we are powerless on our own to defeat the devil. His grasp is too much for us. Faith then looks to our Lord, who took sin and Satan seriously for us. By the bloody battle He waged on the cross, He has defeated the old evil foe for us. With His victory at hand, given to us by the hand of His ministers in Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion, our hands are empowered now to wield the instrument of prayer. In that victory, we have the sure deliverance and salvation of the Crucified One, now risen and ascended and ruling for us from the right hand of the Father.



**THE OPENING HYMN #424 “O Christ, You Walked the Road”**



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.  
 2 No bread of earth a - lone Can fill our hun - g'ring hearts.  
 3 No blind - ing sign we ask, No won - der from a - bove.  
 4 When lures of eas - y gain With prom - ise bright - ly shine,  
 5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp - ta - tion's pow'r And fought our an - cient foe.  
 Lord, help us seek Your liv - ing Word, The food Your grace im - parts.  
 Lord, help us place our trust a - lone In Your un - swerv - ing love.  
 Lord, help us seek Your king - dom first; Our wills with Yours a - lign.  
 Stay with us through temp - ta - tion's hour To fight our an - cient foe.

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*(please stand)*

**THE INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES** Joel 2:13; Isaiah 55:6–7

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

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents of disaster.**

**P:** Seek the Lord while He may be found;

**C: call upon Him while He is near.**

P: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

**C: let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.**

### **THE PSALM** Psalm 32 (ESV)

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**C: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

P: I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

**C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;

**C: surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**

P: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;

**C: You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

P: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

**C: I will counsel you with My eye upon you.**

P: Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,

**C: which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.**

P: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

**C: but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

P: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,

**C: and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

### **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You that Jesus has acted by the finger of God to overthrow Satan and his tyranny. In times of temptation, grant us the strength to resist the devil and entrust ourselves in Your protection, which was won for us at the cross of Calvary; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

### **THE READING OF THE PASSION HISTORY**

#### **THE LENT RESPONSORY**

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

## THE HYMN #436 "Go To Dark Gethsemane"



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
life ar - raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!  
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His  
Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.  
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

## THE SERMON "The Hand of the Lord that Casts Out Demons"

Text: Luke 9:37–43; 11:14–23. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met Him. And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only child. And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. And I begged Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astonished at the majesty of God. . . . Now He was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," While others, to test Him, kept seeking from Him a sign from heaven. But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has

come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(please stand)*

## **THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS** *(pages 192-193 in the hymnal)*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **The Kyrie**



**G** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **The Collects**

P: Almighty God, You justify the ungodly and desire not the death of the sinner. We humbly ask You to assist us by Your heavenly aid and to shield us always from the evil foe. Grant that we may not be separated from You by any temptation but, trusting in Your mercy, may serve You without ceasing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Ever-present God, stay with us, for darkness has come and the day is now past. Forgive, we pray, both our neglect in doing good this day and the wrongs we have done. Awaken us in the morning, bathed in the grace of our Baptism, so that we will be ready to love and serve You and our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father for all Your benefits. Bless us, and all the gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, including the food by which You give us our daily bread, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## THE BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## THE BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE CLOSING HYMN "Now the Light Has Gone Away" (LSB #887)



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,  
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;  
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;  
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.  
5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.  
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.  
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.  
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!  
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

## Acknowledgments

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