

GUIDED
to the
CROSS

Week 1
GUIDED TO HOPE

Guided to Hope

Midweek Lent 1
February 21, 2024

He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 2 Corinthians 1:10

AS WE GATHER

In this service for Week 1 of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to receive hope. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of hope as we remember that Christ went to the cross to save us forevermore.

Opening Hymn "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

LSB 435 Vss 1,3

1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C Amen.

P 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 this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). 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 and temptation and loss, we look for a sign to guide us.

P As the time of his death drew near, Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). 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.

P 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 life that are ours through faith in your name! Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us confess our sins to God, and ask for his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, 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.

P God has had 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 deserved for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus, as we follow you on your path to the cross, guide our steps in the way of hope. By grace through faith in your holy name, we have forgiveness for our sins and the sure and certain hope of eternal life in your presence. When we are struggling with fear or loss, set your cross before us as a sign of the hope that we have. Lead us to be witnesses for you and to share the hope you bring with everyone we meet, so that they, too, in the power of the Holy Spirit, may come to believe in you and worship you as Lord. Hear our prayer, and accept our praise, dear Savior. Amen.

Hymn

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

LSB 451 vss 1,3



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af-flict-ed, See Him dy-ing on the
3 Ye who think of sin but light-ly Nor sup-pose the e-vil
tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re-ject-ed; Yes, my
great Here may view its na-ture right-ly, Here its
soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long-ex-pect-ed
guilt may es-ti-mate. Mark the sac-ri-fice ap-
Proph-et, Da-vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
point-ed, See who bears the aw-ful load; 'Tis the
see suf-fi-cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith-ful Word.
Word, the Lord's a-noint-ed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 14:21-22

Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 1:9-10

Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."



Sermon Hymn

At The Cross (Love Ran Red) Vs 1, chorus, Vs 2, Chorus



1. There's a place where mer - cy reigns and nev - er dies,
2. There's a place where sin and shame are pow - er - less,



there's a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide;
where my heart has peace with God and for - give - ness;



Where all the love I've ev - er found comes like a flood, comes flow - ing down.
Where all the love I've ev - er found comes like a flood, comes flow - ing down.



At the cross, at the cross, I sur - ren - der my life. I'm in awe of You, I'm in



awe of You. Where Your love ran red, and my sin washed white. I owe all to You, I owe



all to You, Je - sus.

Sermon

“Guided to Hope”

Don Henry

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. T Amen.

Offering

Prayers

P Lord God, we have placed our hope in you. You are faithful, and you always keep your promises. We give you praise and thanks for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for the hope that is ours through faith in his name. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, in you we have hope for eternity and for our life today. You have promised to be with us and to guide us. We pray for those who are struggling today with illness, pain or grief. Fill them with hope, and comfort them with the promises found in your holy Word. Lead us to opportunities to serve and support them in their times of need. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, all of our hopes are fulfilled in Jesus, who is the "Yes!" to all of your promises. Through our Savior's suffering and death and through his triumphant resurrection, the powers of death and Satan have been crushed. By your grace, through faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, the thief on the cross recognized Jesus, crowned with thorns, as his King. The thief repented of his sins and asked that his King would remember him. Jesus promised, "Today you will be with me in paradise." That is our hope too. When we fall asleep in death, in that moment, we will be at home with you. Jesus' promise is for us. We will be with him in paradise. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Lord God, you have told us to be ready at all times to be witnesses for our Savior, to speak to others of the hope that we have. Fill us with your Spirit and with the eager readiness to share the good news of forgiveness and life that is ours through faith in Jesus. Set his cross always before us to guide us to hope. O Lord our God, your steadfast love will never fail;

C In you we have hope, now and for eternity.

P Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

The Blessing (Romans 8:23-25; Romans 15:13)

P We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

C But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;

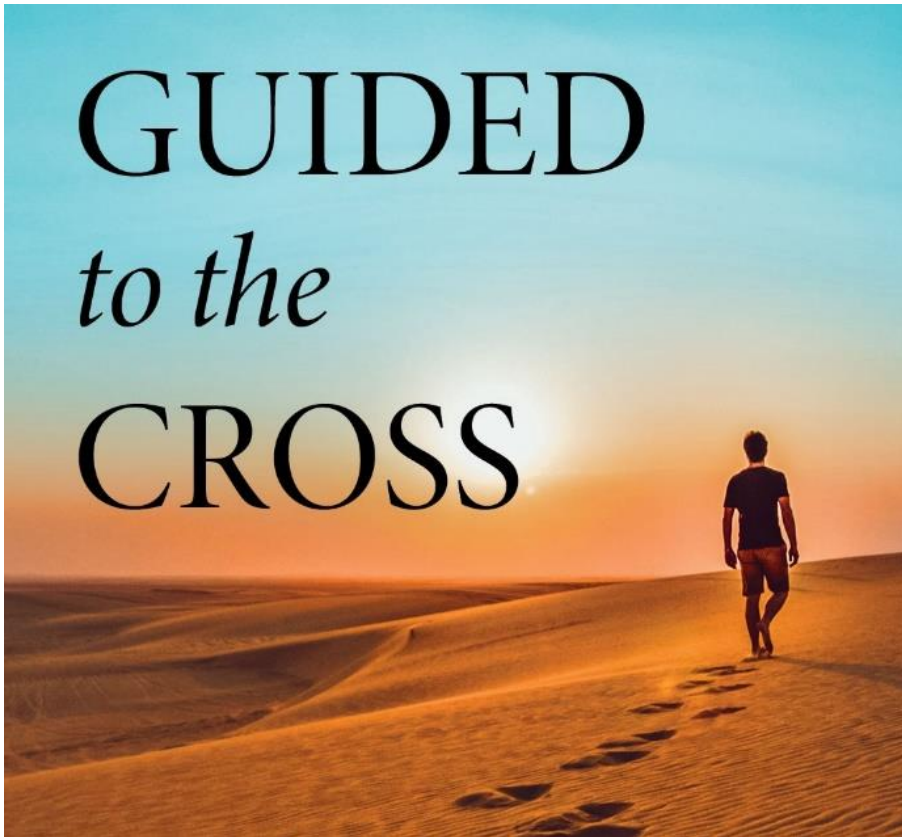


Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Midweek Lenten Worship



Wednesday Evenings at 7:30 PM

Midweek Lent 2	February 28	Guided to Love
Midweek Lent 3	March 6	Guided to Peace
Midweek Lent 4	March 13	Guided to Trust
Midweek Lent 5	March 20	Guided to Perseverance

CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION AND EGG HUNT!



Our annual EGG HUNT is one of our best community outreach events of the year. Please help this effort by donating pre-stuffed eggs. No chocolate please. Bring to the church office by Sunday, March 17.

Thank you!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online giving

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