

CHESHIRE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
660 WEST MAIN STREET  
CHESHIRE, CT 06410

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023  
7:30 P.M.

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**PRELUDE** - “*The Cross of Jesus*” tune *Vulpinus*; setting by *J. S. Bach*

**HYMN 439 vs 1, 3, 5, 12** - *we sing, standing*

**INVOCATION & OPENING VERSICLES**

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

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

The Lord is gracious and merciful, **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

He will not always chide, **nor will he keep his anger forever.**

He does not deal with us according to our sins, **Nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, **so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

As far as the east is from the west, **so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

As a father shows compassion to his children, **so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

**GREETING, followed by PRAYER**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Almighty God, even though Paul persecuted your church, still you called him to be a messenger for your kingdom and sent him into the world to spread the good news of salvation in Jesus. As you have looked on us in grace and forgiven our sins, help us to live in repentant humility and ever seek your mercy. By the power of your Spirit, lead us to grow in faith and in the knowledge of your Word, so that we too can serve as faithful witnesses to our Savior’s love. Hear our prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

**FIRST LESSON** - Isaiah 53:1-6

**SECOND LESSON** - 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Page 173 - **VERSE FOR LENT**-*all standing*

**GOSPEL** - Mark 2:13-17

*Before all shout: **Glory to you, O Lord!***

*After, all shout: **Praise to you, O Christ!***

**HYMN 590** - *we sing, seated*

**SERMON**

**OFFERTORY**

*The Bell Choir plays “Jesus, Keep me Near the Cross” by Doane; setting by McChesney*

**PRAYERS & LORD’S PRAYER**

*all may kneel*

Almighty God, you showed grace to Paul, who called himself the foremost of sinners. You have shown grace to us, even though we are sinners undeserving of your love and forgiveness. During this Lenten season and always, lead us by your Spirit to true repentance. Gracious Lord, **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you sent your Son to be our Savior. He carried our sins in his own body to the cross and by his wounds we are healed. Lead us to forgive others as we have been forgiven, so that by the witness of our words and our lives, they too will come to believe in Jesus and receive your healing forgiveness. Gracious Lord, **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we pray for your servants who are in need of physical healing. Hold them in your loving care and shield them from doubt and fear. Comfort them through the promises of your holy Word and lead us to find ways to serve them in their time of need. Gracious Lord, **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you called Paul, who once persecuted your church, to be an ambassador for Christ the King. You have called us to reflect the light of our Lord in this dark world and to defend the hope that we have in him. By the power of your Spirit make us bold witnesses for Jesus so that others will believe in him as their Savior. Gracious Lord, **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in the life of your servant Paul and in our own lives, you have displayed your mercy and perfect patience. We rejoice in your love and grace as we seek to witness to our Lord with our words and actions until we live forever in your presence. Gracious Lord, **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **Our Father, who art in heaven....**

**BENEDICTION**

**HYMN 744 vs 1 - 4**

**POSTLUDE** - “*Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name we Raise*” tune *Ellers*; setting by *Hopkins*

