



# Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services Standing at the Cross

Week 2—Standing Unafraid  
March 15, 2017 7:00 p.m.

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Today in our Lenten worship we will stand together at the foot of the cross where our Saviour died to save us from death and every evil. In Him we can face both life and death unafraid, because He fearlessly faced death for us.

**presence. Help us by Your Spirit to share the Gospel of salvation with a hopeless world. Strengthen us in confident hope through Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear our prayer and accept our praise this day in His name. Amen. Amen.**

First Reading.....Joshua 1:6-9

Second Reading.....2 Timothy 4:16-18

\* Holy Gospel.....St. John 8:48-59

Sermon Hymn (*in unison*)

**I walk in danger all the way, the thought shall never leave me  
That Satan, who has marked his prey, is plotting to deceive me.  
This foe with hidden snares may seize me unawares  
If I should fail to watch and pray. I walk in danger all the way.  
I walk with angels all the way, they shield me and befriend me;  
All Satan's pow'r is held at bay when heav'nly hosts attend me;  
They bare my sure defense, all fear and sorrow, hence!  
Unharm'd by foes, do what they may, I walk with angels all the way.**

Sermon.....*Standing Unafraid*

Offering

\* Intercessory Prayer

The Pastor will offer prayer petitions, concluding with the words "Jesus, Light of the world." Please respond to each petition with "**Be our light in life and death.**"

\* The Lord's Prayer

\* Responsive Benediction

PASTOR: For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this:

**CONGR: That one has died for all, therefore all have died;**

PASTOR: And He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves.

**CONGR: But for Him who for their sake died and was raised.**

PASTOR: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**CONGR: Amen.**

\* Closing Hymn.....*My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*.....#597

\* Opening Hymn.....*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*.....#695

\* Invocation and Responsive Reading

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**CONGR: Amen.**

PASTOR: Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood.

**CONGR: Jesus Himself likewise partook of the same things,**

PASTOR: That through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.

**CONGR: And deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.**

\* Confession and Forgiveness

PASTOR: Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

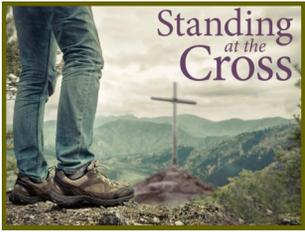
**CONGR: Almighty God, we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words and actions. We turn away from Your will to follow our own sinful and selfish desires. You have declared that "the wages of sin is death," and that is what we deserve for our rebellion against You. But You have also promised to give us forgiveness and life for the sake of Jesus. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

PASTOR: God has had mercy on us for the sake of Jesus His Son. "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus paid the penalty of death for our sins and by rising He defeated death and the devil. I announce to us that our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**CONGR: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

\* Prayer (*in unison*)

**Heavenly Father, of all of our many fears, we may fear death above all. We fear being separated from our loved ones and the life we know, and we may even be afraid that our sins will separate us from Your love. Comfort us with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, knowing that in Christ Jesus we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life in Your**



## Mid-Week Lenten Services

# Standing at the Cross

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.  
March 8—April 12

*As a Lenten lead-in to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, this year's Lenten Series focuses on portions of sermons Martin Luther actually preached during Lent, Holy Week and Easter in the parishes he served. As we stand with Luther at the foot of the cross each week, we contemplate the ways in which we stand in the faith as followers of Christ during this holy season.*

### **WEEK 3—March 22    STANDING IN SUFFERING**

As we stand together at the cross this week, we will see how Jesus suffered the penalty that we deserved for our sins. The Lamb of God suffered the penalty of death for us so that through faith in His name we have forgiveness and life.

### **WEEK 4—March 29    STANDING THROUGH PERSECUTION**

We have the freedom during this Lenten season and always to gather for worship. Many of our brothers and sisters around the world do not enjoy such freedom. As we stand together at the cross, we remember the suffering of the saints who endure persecution for the sake of the Savior who suffered for them, and for us.

### **WEEK 5—April 5    STANDING IN TRUTH**

In our world we are surrounded by many philosophies and religions, all claiming to have the truth. This week we will gather to worship Jesus our Savior, whose kingdom is a kingdom of truth and who is Himself the Way and the Truth and the Life.

### **WEEK 6—April 12    STANDING IN FORGIVENESS**

As we near the end of this Holy Week, we gather to remember our Savior's suffering and death. In obedience to His Father's will and out of His love for us, Jesus took His final steps to the cross. There He took our sins onto Himself and suffered and died so that we could be forgiven.



St. Stephen's E.L.C., 67 W. Washington Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18018-2433 †  
www.ststephensbethlehem.org † ststephensoffice@ptd.net  
Pastor: Rev. Werner M. Koch † Secretary: Roberta A. Moyer  
Organist/Choir Dir.: John M. Phillips, Jr. † Bell Choir Dir.: Evan Reese