



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
March 5, 2023  
10:00 AM**

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**Second Sunday in  
Lent**

Welcome



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** Following COVID safety protocols

**Livestream on YouTube.** Live at 10am then available on our channel



**"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast.** On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



## Ways to Give

**Text Your Gift.** 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

**PayPal.** [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchpot/display/externalitem?item_id=STPETERUCCSKOKIE) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

**Check or Cash.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

**Vanco GivePlus App.** Contact the church office to set up regular giving



## Open Communion

**All Christians** and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



## About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we invite all people to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



## Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

**Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor):** [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

*Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!*



**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 10:00am**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

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*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE** Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Ever-present God, forever seeking us and always teaching us:

**C: Open our minds to the truth of your care.**

P: Open our hearts to the gentle power of your love.

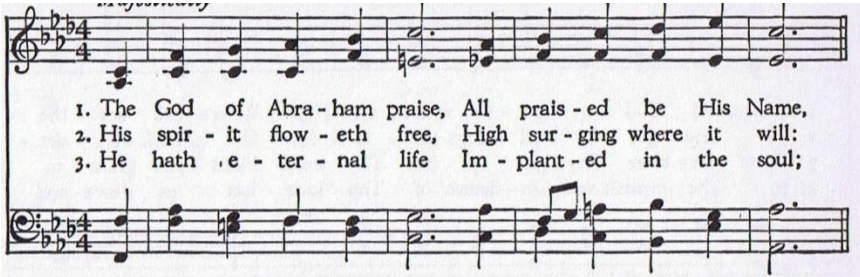
**C: Open our lips to share stories of faith.**

P: Open our hands to create beauty, to do justice and to show kindness.

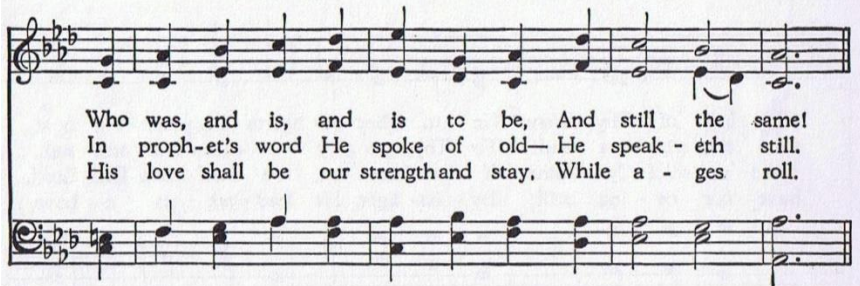
**C: Open our souls to the breath of your Spirit.**

**A: Open our mouths to sing boldly and loudly your praises.**

# RESPONSE "The God of Abraham Praise" #61 (v.1)



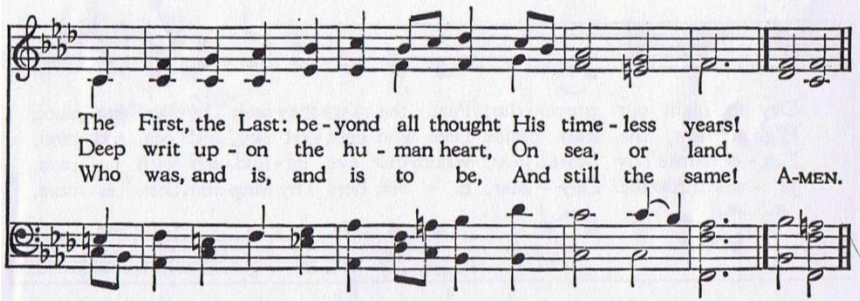
1. The God of Abra - ham praise, All prais - ed be His Name,  
 2. His spir - it flow - eth free, High sur - ging where it will:  
 3. He hath e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same!  
 In proph-et's word He spoke of old— He speak - eth still.  
 His love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The one e - ter - nal God, Ere aught that now ap - pears;  
 Es - tab - lished is His law, And change-less it shall stand,  
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be His Name,



The First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!  
 Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.  
 Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same! A-MEN.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

- P: Lent arrives, and we are looking for direction. Our fragmented lives and self-concern pull at our intentions, unsettling our faith and diluting our commitment.
- C: We want to change. Where do we begin? With confession.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- P: Lord God, we will hear the Scripture about Abram's pilgrim faith, following Your call to follow, without knowing where You would lead him but trusting in Your promises of provision and a family line by whom the world would be blessed. We wish we had such faith when You called us to an open-ended journey, but we confess we rarely if ever do!
- C: We also will hear of Jesus' talk with Nicodemus, of being born of the Spirit and seeing the realm of God. We will hear the great John 3:16, and yet admit, is Your love really so broad and deep? Have we let it really find a home in us; do we believe in it for the world?**
- A: Help us to believe and have enough belief to follow Jesus anywhere he calls us, and when. Forgive our wavering faith in Your love and Your promises, and transform us so we, too, can be a blessing to others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

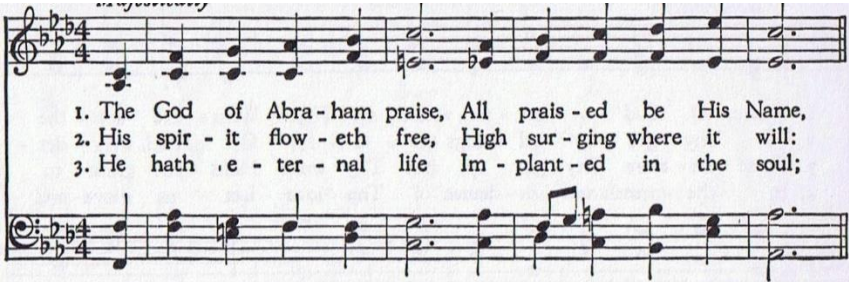
**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *John 1:14, 16*

P: “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth . . . From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”

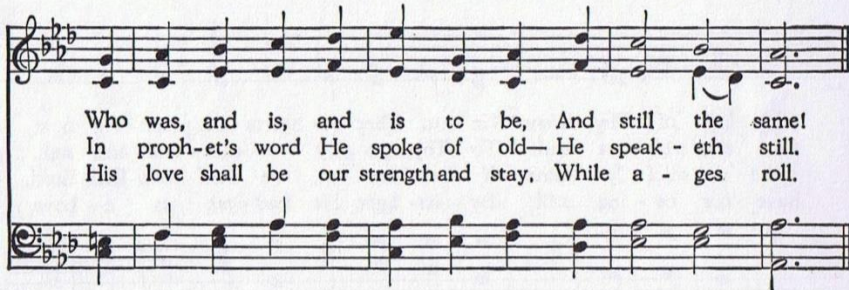
Jesus is the Word become flesh, and He was and is full of grace and truth. The amazing part is that we have all received this grace, this unmerited love and mercy, upon grace! Grace upon grace, gift upon gift, from the love and light of God, to pardon us and change us more and more into children reflecting that same grace and truth. Please join me in laying hold of this gospel and say together . . .

**A: Thanks be to God!**


## HYMN "The God of Abraham Praise" #61 (vv. 2, 3)



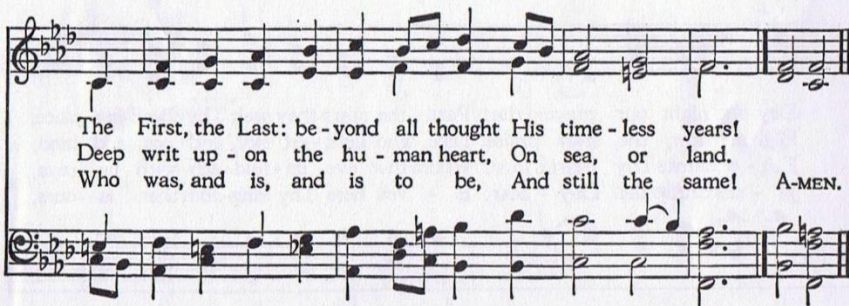
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Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same!  
 In proph-et's word He spoke of old—He speak - eth still.  
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 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be His Name,



The First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!  
 Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.  
 Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same! A-MEN.

*The congregation may be seated*

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rich Schneider

Old Testament:

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Gospel

John 3:1-17

**CHOIR ANTHEM** “God So Loved the World” by Stainer

## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

## **HOMILY**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

#### **Exhortation and Invitation**

#### **Sursum Corda:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: *And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts!

**C: *We lift them up to the Lord!***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Prayer of Consecration**



**RESPOND**  
**153**      **Eat of This Bread**

The musical score is written in G minor, 4/4 time, with a tempo marking of quarter note = 65. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; come and be fed, come now and dine. Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; here all are fed, here all may dine." The chords are: Eb, Ab, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, Bbsus, Bb, Eb, and Ebb.

Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;  
come and be fed, come now and dine.  
Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;  
here all are fed, here all may dine.

## The Words of Institution Participation

### CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Will the congregation please rise and sing*

#### **HYMN**      "Nicodemus Sought Out Jesus"

*Please sing to the tune of "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*

**Nicodemus sought out Jesus at a lonely, quiet hour.**

**He said, "Teacher, God is with you! For in you we see God's power."**

**Jesus turned and gave an answer filled with challenge and with love:**

**"You can never see God's kingdom till you're born from heav'n above."**

**"Born again!" said Nicodemus. "Is that something one can do?"**

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**Jesus said, "Don't be surprised now that you must be born anew.**

**And it's not by your own doing; wind and Spirit will blow free!**

**They are not for your controlling; trust in God for what will be."**

**God, your Spirit still surprises like an ever-changing wind, Bringing life and love and justice where despair and death have been.**

**May we see your Spirit working as a gift from heav'n above. Blest, may we then be a blessing to this world that you so love.**

*Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by personal permission.*

## **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**C: Amen!**

## **POSTLUDE**

**"Nettleton"**

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.*

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## **FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

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# News in the Pews

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**No matter our circumstances, “[our] help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2, NRSV). We gather to worship our loving Creator. Welcome.**

**Everyone is invited downstairs after worship** to enjoy a Coffee Hour hosted by Rich and Jenn Schneider!

**About Communion:** If you picked up a pre-filled Communion cup and wafer, you’re ready to partake at the Pastor’s prompting. We suggest you start to peel back the lid to get to the wafer before his prompting! If you did not pick one up, and you are with us on-line, we ask you to please have some bread, roll or some food meaningful you (for the bread / body to be consecrated during the service) and likewise juice, water or other beverage (for the wine / blood of Christ) and likewise, partake when the minister prompts us. Thank you!

**Easter Flower Orders are being taken now** until March 20<sup>th</sup>! Find a form in this bulletin or in our March [Announcer](#), out next week.

**Thank you to everyone who stayed** last Sunday morning to help sort and bag / box up the beautifully many donated items in our Heart for Veterans Collection! They were picked up last Monday, also with some of you helping.

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**We still have Lenten devotionals!** Find them outside the Office and in the Narthex.

**The Board of Elders has a Zoom meeting scheduled for this Thursday the 9th at 4 PM.**

**NAMI holds its 2nd Family-to-Family session** in our Memorial Room this Saturday from 10 AM to Noon.

**ALSO this Saturday (night) the 11th is the Annual Silent Auction by the Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society,** held in our building from the afternoon until 10 PM. Please see the March Announcer article for details; there are also some flyers promoting the event posted around the church.

**The Cub Scouts Pack # 85** meet in our building this Tuesday at 6:30 PM.

**The Women's Guild meets this Wednesday,** starting at 10:30 AM to put the Kitchen through its annual cleaning!

**The Lenten Soup-n-Study continues this Wednesday evening, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, this time looking at John 1:32-51.**

**The Micah 6:8 Committee** meets today at 6 PM on Zoom.

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# Our People

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**Congratulations to the Christianson family!** Parents Erik & Liesl gave birth to Alexander on 3-2-23 at 10:02 PM. All are doing well!

**We are collecting wrapped CANDY and tiny kids' toys for our Egg Hunt!** No chocolate please. Items can be left in a designated container in the Memorial Room or given to Jenn Schneider.

**NEXT SUNDAY** starting at 2 AM, our clocks spring forward one hour!

**According to the schedule,** next week's Lector will be Mark Loach and the Nursery Attendant, Mike Ryan.

**Birthdays this week** belong to Britta Christianson, Phil Lindroth, Rich Schneider, Don Kahn, Jamie Iannotti, Jeff Loach, Ray Erdman and Lana Kahn. Blessings to all of you on marking the anniversary of your earthly birth.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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## Regular Reminders!

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**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.** No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

**Donations always needed for our food pantry.** There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

**Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms-** iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

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# 2023 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS



**Please find below the order form for the Easter plants that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. Sometimes there are limited quantities of plants available, and G & E will substitute an equal value plant (Orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please write a separate check for your flower order made out to St Peter's UCC.**

**Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 20, 2023.**

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Easter Lily 6" pot</b>	<b>10.50</b>	
	<b>Azalea 6"pot</b>	<b>19.00</b>	
	<b>Hyacinth 6" pot</b>	<b>8.00</b>	
	<b>Tulip 6" pot</b>	<b>7.00</b>	
	<b>Rieger Begonia 6" pot</b>	<b>10.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>			

**Name**

**Phone**

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**In Honor/In Memory:**

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**March 5, 2023**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**John 3:1-17**

**Bold Blessing**

**UCC Women's Week, March 5-11**

Today we meet Nicodemus, a leader and teacher of the law. As a leader and teacher, Nicodemus is the one who other people come to for answers. If a conundrum is too complicated for the average person to unravel, Nicodemus knows what to think.

But although he is the teacher, Nicodemus knows he is not done learning yet. Whatever discomfort or even danger compels him to visit Jesus in the dead of night, his questions are even stronger than his fear. Because of his practice of learning and teaching in the temple, Nicodemus knows that the very best way to learn is in communities of other learners. He does not try to answer the unanswerable questions by himself. He is an example and a model of what it means to be a lifelong learner.

Like Nicodemus, participants in the United Church of Christ's Nollau Leadership Institute are life-long learners, ready to take the risks associated with seeking community to answer life's biggest questions. According to their website, the institute "is

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designed to cultivate today's leaders who are committed to creating a just, caring, and compassionate world. It is a program that acknowledges the many ways this hoped-for world is alive in each one of us, and how it comes into fuller expression when we journey together...Through in-person retreats, online interactions, and peer mentoring, Nollau provides leadership formation through a variety of learning modalities and within a community of practice. Small group work, journaling, art, embodiment, and spiritual practices are all part of the program alongside the interactive didactic sessions. The program culminates with a capstone project and consecration as a Diakonal Minister at the CHHSM Annual Gathering.

If you are interested in examining what it means to be a leader by exploring what it means to be human, to be in relationship, and to be part of something larger than yourself, CHHSM welcomes you to apply to this transformative year-long program:

<https://www.chhsm.org/leadership/nollau/>".

"Nollau Institute." CHHSM, 25 Feb. 2022,  
<https://www.chhsm.org/leadership/nollau/>.

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**Genesis 12:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.”

**John 3:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to

him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”