WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE | FEBRUARY 21, 2024 | 7 PM

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL 🕂 SEEK THE THIRSTY 🕂 TEACH THE WORD

"Sustained in Sickness"

✤ Since the fall into sin, no part of our human nature has escaped the ravages of original sin. Not only has sin separated us from God to our spiritual detriment, but our bodies, created for perfect health, endure sickness and injury. King David announces God's answer to this catastrophe in Psalm 41:3: "The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health." This is a beautiful promise, but what does it mean for you and your infirmities? As all the Scriptures bear witness to Jesus, the gifts contained in these words are only revealed by your Baptism into Him by whose wounds we are healed.

The service in its entirety is printed in this service folder.



🕆 IN THE NAME OF JESUS 🕆



INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

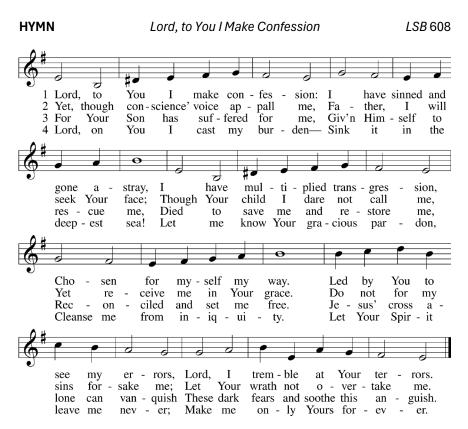
OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 30:1-5

- P I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
- C O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.
- P O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
- C Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.
- P For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.
- C Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Let us make our confession to our God, seeking His grace and forgiveness.



ABSOLUTION

- P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Let Your blessing be upon us, heavenly Father, as we pass through these holy days in which we remember the sufferings and death of our dear Lord. Grant that His holy example being ever before us, we follow Him in willing obedience, learn His gracious humility, and being filled with His love and spirit of self-sacrifice, learn the lessons of a life pleasing to You and helpful to all people; through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 103:1-14

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, ³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, ⁴who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, ⁵who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. ⁷He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. ⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. ¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him: ¹²as far as the east is from the west. so far does He remove our transgressions from us. ¹³As a father shows compassion to his children. so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. ¹⁴For He knows our frame: He remembers that we are dust. R O Lord, have mercy on us. С Thanks be to God.

SERIES PSALM

- P May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us.
- C May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us.
- P The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health. As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!" My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"
- C May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us.

EPISTLE READING

James 5:7-18

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. ¹²But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

¹³Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

- R O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL (Please rise)

Matthew 8:14-17

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighth chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴And when Jesus entered Peter's house, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve Him. ¹⁶That evening they brought to Him many who were oppressed by demons, and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

НҮМІ	N Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing LSB 421
2 3 4	Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion If the world my heart en - tic - es Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your
Ş	wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing death I trust, Know-ing death has lost its pow - er Since You
Ś	bod - y cour - age weigh the new life in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny
	Tempt my treach-'rous heart to sin, Let me then be on my guard, Help me flee all thoughts im - pure Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro-
Ş	sin - ning Keep me from its wound - ed," That the tempt - er ta - tion, Calm in prayer and pas - sion Has pro - cured my tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

OFFERING

KYRIE

- P Lord, have mercy.
- C Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father, who art in heaven...

COLLECTS

- P O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C And let my cry come to You.

(After each petition, Congregation responds "Amen".)

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN Glory Be to Jesus LSB 433 O 1 Glo ry be Je sus, Who in bit - ter pains to find; 2 Grace and life e ter nal In that blood I -3 Blest through end - less ges Be the pre-cious stream а _ 4 A bel's blood for Plead - ed skies: ven geance to the sa - cred veins! Poured for me the life blood From His -Blest be His com pas sion, In fi - nite - ly kind! _ the world re -Which from end - less tor Did deem! _ ment But the blood of Je sus For our par - don cries.

- 5 Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high, Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
 Louder still and louder
 Praise the precious blood!

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