

WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE | MARCH 13, 2024 | 7 PM

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL ✠ SEEK THE THIRSTY ✠ TEACH THE WORD

“Empty Words”

✠ AS WE GATHER ✠

✠ You are daily assailed by empty words: idle small talk, advertising slogans, and news reports that play on your fears. Political and business leaders spew cant, clichés, and spin. Perhaps even your friends and family get in on the act, betraying you with flattery and falsehoods. King David was only too familiar with such afflictions: “When one comes to see me,” he said, “he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad” (Psalm 41:6). Our Lord’s powerful Word was David’s refuge from vain and malicious talk. It is your refuge too. In Baptism, Jesus Christ has lifted you out of the verbal cesspool and placed you firmly on the rock of His Word. That Word is never empty, but it shall accomplish that which He purposes for you.

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



✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LSB 427

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing, Light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance;
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no

sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
 mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

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

Psalms 145:10-13

P All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,

C And all Your saints shall bless You!

P They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and tell of Your power,

C To make known to the children of man Your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.

P Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

C The LORD is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.

CALL TO CONFESSION

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



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
 5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
 Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
 In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
 Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P O pitying Lord Jesus, grant us of Your gentleness and forbearance, of Your compassion and love, and of Your tenderheartedness, that filled with Your grace we may always find fitting and salutary words to speak and willingly forgive the wrongs and evils done us. This we ask in Your precious and mighty name.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 52:1-9

¹Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?

The steadfast love of God endures all the day.

²Your tongue plots destruction,

like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

³You love evil more than good,

and lying more than speaking what is right.

⁴You love all words that devour,

O deceitful tongue.

⁵But God will break you down forever;
 He will snatch and tear you from your tent;
 He will uproot you from the land of the living.
⁶The righteous shall see and fear,
 and shall laugh at him, saying,
⁷"See the man who would not make God his refuge,
 but trusted in the abundance of his riches
 and sought refuge in his own destruction!"
⁸But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.
 I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.
⁹I will thank You forever, because You have done it.
 I will wait for Your name, for it is good,
 in the presence of the godly.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SERIES PSALM

"Be Gracious to Me"

Psalm 41:3-5

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 3:1-10

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be

tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *(Please rise)*

Matthew 26:57-62

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵⁷Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸And Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶²And the high priest stood up and said, "Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?"

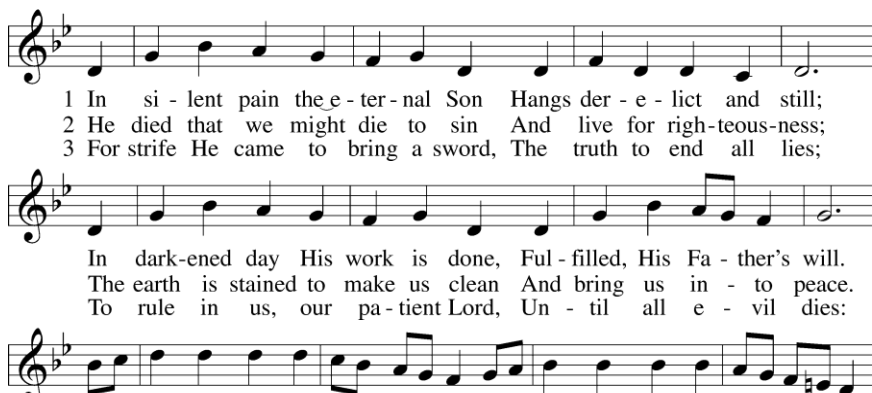
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

In Silent Pain the Eternal Son

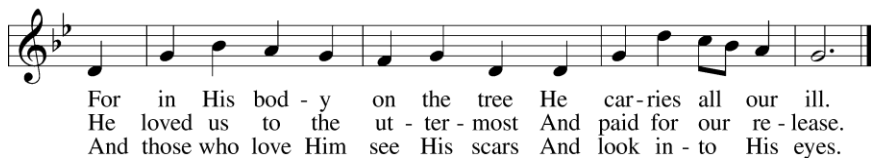
LSB 432



1 In - si - lent pain the e - ter - nal Son Hangs der - e - lict and still;
 2 He died that we might die to sin And live for righ - teous - ness;
 3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;

In dark - ened day His work is done, Ful - filled, His Fa - ther's will.
 The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us in - to peace.
 To rule in us, our pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies:

Up - lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang - est vic - to - ry,
 For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Him - self to save the lost;
 For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our wars,



SERMON

"Empty Words"

Rev. Shawn Deterding

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

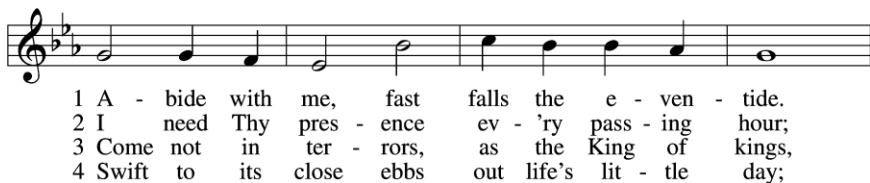
C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your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

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

Abide With Me

LSB 878



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid.
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;

Help of the help - less, O a - bid with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bid with me.
 Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bid with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bid with me.

- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
 Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
 I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.



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