

WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE
APRIL 2, 2025 ❖ 7 PM

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL ✠ SEEK THE THIRSTY ✠ TEACH THE WORD

THE HAND OF THE LORD
Who Raises the Dead

Lent is about repentance of sin and faith in God's forgiveness. When we confess our sins, we normally think about the wrongs we have committed, whether in thoughts, words, or deeds, as well as the good things we have failed to do. But sin is no simple or temporary issue. Sin is a matter of life and death; as we were reminded on Ash Wednesday, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ultimate punishment for sin is death. God's ultimate salvation is, as we confess in the Nicene Creed, "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. When Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the tomb, it could no longer be denied who Jesus is. Jesus finally proved that He is, as He said, "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25) by His own resurrection. In the resurrection, God has turned death from enemy into the remedy in our deliverance from sin. The risen, ascended, and reigning Lord promises to raise us daily in repentance and faith, and on the Last Day, free us from sin in eternal life in our human bodies. "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another" (Job 19:25-27).



✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

SERIES HYMN

The Word That Spoke in Darkness

(printed below)



1 The Word that spoke in dark-ness And prom-ised com-ing light
2 The Sav-ior came to con-quer And meet His mis-sion's aim:
3 The Christ pro-claimed His vic-t'ry With ev-ry act of grace:
4 The Prince of Peace con-tin-ued With each new task com-plete



Kept guid-ing through the a-ges Un-til the time was right
Up-end-ing Sa-tan's ter-ror, Cre-a-tion to re-claim
The out-cast shown com-pas-sion And God's own ho-ly face
At cross and tomb and glo-ry Up-on His roy-al seat,



To take on flesh and fol-low The Fa-ther's good com-mand
By walk-ing on the wa-ters So we by faith may stand
As Jes-us looked with fa-vor On all from ev-'ry land
De-liv-er-ance ac-com-plished Ex-act-ly as He planned;



And dwell a-mong His peo-ple, The king-dom now at hand.
With trust in Him whose res-cue Is of-fered by His hand.
Who need-ed life and heal-ing From His al-might-y hand.
Our King will raise in wel-come His pierced and ris-en hand.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalms 102:1; 118:14-18

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; Let my cry come to You!

C The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

P Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,

C "The right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"

P I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

C The LORD has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death.

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

Isaiah 12:2b-6

C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

P With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted."

C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

P Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

✠ Readings ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 17:8-24

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, ⁹"Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹²And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." ¹³And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.'" ¹⁵And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that He spoke by Elijah.

¹⁷After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!" ¹⁹And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰And he cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have You brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?" ²¹Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again." ²²And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives." ²⁴And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:11-17

¹¹Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. ¹²As He drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴Then He came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited His people!" ¹⁷And this report about Him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.



P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life

LSB 552, v. 1, 7-8, 4



1 O Christ, who shared our mor - tal life And
2 The ranks of death with tro - phy grim Through
3 The ranks of death, the Lord of Life Stood
4 Death's pow - er holds us still in thrall And



end - ed death's long reign, Who healed the sick and
an - cient streets once trod - And sud - den - ly con -
face to face that hour; And You took up the
bears us toward the tomb. Death's dark - 'ning cloud hangs



raised the dead And bore our grief and pain: We
front - ed You, The might - y Son of God. A
age - old strife With words of awe - some pow'r. "Young
like a pall That threat - ens earth with doom. But



know our years on earth are few, That death is
wid - ow's tears e - voked Your Word; You stopped the
man, a - rise!" You or - dered loud, And death de -
You have bro - ken death's em - brace And torn a -



al - ways near. Come now to us, O
bear - ers' tread. "Weep not!" in pit - y
feat - ed lay. The wid - ow's son cast
way its sting. Re - store to life our



Lord of Life; Bring hope that con - quers fear!
then You spoke To her whose son was dead.
off his shroud And strode from death a - way.
mor - tal race! Raise us, O Ris - en King!

SERMON "The Hand of the Lord Who Raises the Dead" Rev. Deterding

OFFERING

✠ Prayer ✠

COLLECTS

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with You.

2 Timothy 4:22

P Heavenly Father, You sent Jesus with a compassionate hand to stop death in its tracks. Bless us that we may ever hold fast to His promises for us. Help us to always remember our Baptism, where we have been united to both Christ's death and resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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.

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven

LSB 877



1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, Dark - ness and light:
2 And when morn a - gain shall call us To run life's way,
3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, And when we die,
△ 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav - en, All - ho - ly Son,



You the day for work have giv - en, For rest the night. May Your
May we still, what - e'er be - fall us, Your will o - bey. From the
May we in Your might - y keep - ing All peace - ful lie. When the
Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, Blest Three in One: Grant us



an - gel guards de - fend us, Slum - ber sweet Your mer - cy send us,
pow'r of e - vil hide us, In the nar - row path - way guide us,
last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,
grace, we now im - plore You, Till we lay our crowns be - fore You



Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.
Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.
But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.
And in wor - thier strains a - dore You While a - ges run.



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