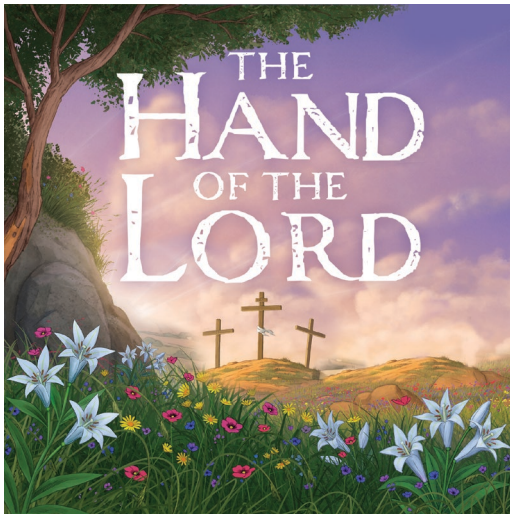


WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE
APRIL 9, 2025 ❖ 7 PM

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL ✠ SEEK THE THIRSTY ✠ TEACH THE WORD

THE HAND OF THE LORD
Who Holds All Things

All things are in the hands of Jesus. There is no authority that is above Him, and He will continue to exercise that authority for us until the end of the age. Salvation itself is in the hands of Jesus. As we have seen throughout this series, Jesus continues to use those hands for our good and, above all, for our salvation. He has given that authority to the church for the sake of making disciples by baptizing and teaching. As we prepare to enter into Holy Week, we see the specific ways that those hands, into which the Father has given all things, have worked forgiveness, life, and salvation. By faith in Jesus, we know that we are forgiven, renewed, redeemed, and destined for eternal glory.



✠ 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.

PSALMODY

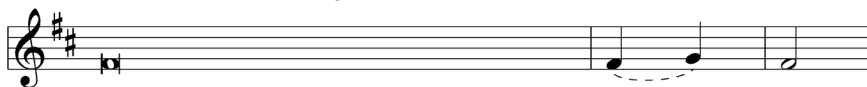
P Hear my prayer, O LORD;

C **Let my cry come to You!**

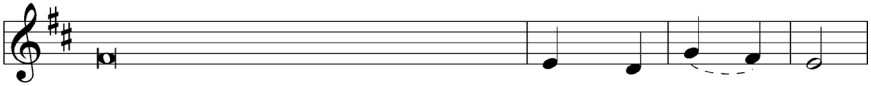
Psalm 102:1

VENITE ~ O Come, Let Us Sing

LSB 220-221

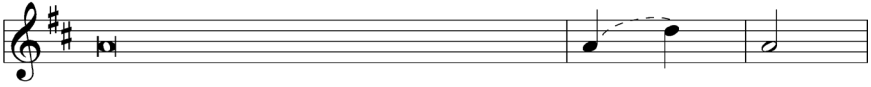


C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

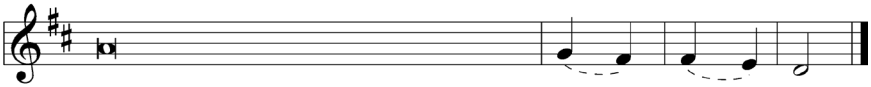


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

✠ Readings ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Daniel 7:13-14

¹³I saw in the night visions,
 and behold, with the clouds of heaven
 there came one like a son of man,
 and He came to the Ancient of Days
 and was presented before Him.

¹⁴And to Him was given dominion
 and glory and a kingdom,
 that all peoples, nations, and languages
 should serve Him;
 His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
 which shall not pass away,
 and His kingdom one
 that shall not be destroyed.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:9-20

⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. ¹⁴The hairs of His head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:11-18, 22-36

[Jesus said,] ¹¹"Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but

whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ...”

²²After this Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside, and He remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴(for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, He is baptizing, and all are going to Him.” ²⁷John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him.’ ²⁹The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease.”

³¹He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He bears witness to what He has seen and heard, yet no one receives His testimony. ³³Whoever receives His testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴For He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

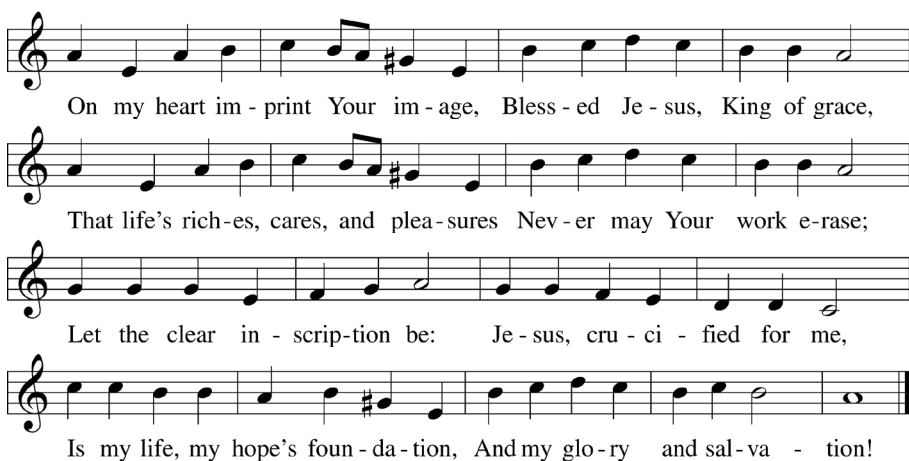
P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

OFFERING

✠ **Prayer** ✠

COLLECTS

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with You.

2 Timothy 4:22

P Heavenly Father, all things are in Your hands, both creation and our very lives. Turn our eyes to follow the finger of John the Baptist pointing to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus has received nails into His hands for our sins to bring us forgiveness. When and where You will, use us to point others to Jesus and where He promises to be found in His Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

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.



Lent

