



OUR SAVIOUR'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bringing Christ to the people and the people to Christ.

VESPERS FOR MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

April 2, 2025

Welcome to our mid-week Lenten Worship Service. Our Lenten Journey continues each Wednesday evening with a meal starting at 5:30 pm and Vespers Service at 6:30 pm.

Please Stand (in body or in spirit)

OPENING HYMN

"O CHRIST, YOU ARE THE LIGHT AND DAY" (LBW #273)

O Christ, you are the light and day;
You drive the gloom of night away;
Grant, Light of light, your Word to show
The light of heav'n to us below.

Arise, O God, our shield, repel
The darts and subtleties of hell;
Let your right hand, outstretched above,
Guard those who serve the Lord they

All holy Lord, in humble prayer
We ask tonight your watchful care
And pray that our repose may be
A quiet night, from perils free.

To God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Be glory in the highest giv'n
By all on earth and all in heav'n!

P: Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

P: Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense; and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2

CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

P: Almighty and most merciful Father,

C: We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from thy grace, there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name.
Amen.

P: Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE INVITATORY

All stand.

P: O Lord, open thou our lips;

C: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

P: O God, make speed to save us;

C: O Lord, make haste to help us.

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

P: Praise ye the Lord.

C: The Lord's Name be praised.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Isaiah 49:8-16

Reader: A reading from Isaiah, the 49th Chapter

⁸ Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, ⁹ saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.' They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; ¹⁰ they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind

nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. ¹¹ And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. ¹² Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene." ¹³ Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. ¹⁴ But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." ¹⁵ "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶ Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

FROM PSALM 145

C (8a) The Lord is gracious and merciful.

P: The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

C: The Lord is gracious and merciful.

P: The LORD is faithful in all his words
and holy in all his works.
The LORD lifts up all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

C: The Lord is gracious and merciful.

P: The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

C. The Lord is gracious and merciful.

Please Stand

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 5th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."
18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father[e] does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. 25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be Seated

MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD

Blaine Davis

HE DESCENDED INTO HELL - THE EXODUS FROM HADES

Please Stand

HYMN: "O CHRIST, OUR KING, CREATOR, LORD" (LBW #101)

O Christ, our king, creator, Lord, Redeeming all who trust your word; You come to those who seek your way; Now come and hear us as we pray.	Creator of the stars of night, For us you veiled in flesh your light, And deigned our mortal form to wear, And shared our human want and care.
--	---

Lord in your cross true grace is found; It flows from ev'ry streaming wound; Its pow'r our inbred sin controls, And breaks our bonds and frees our souls.	All trembling nature quaked to see Its dying king up on the tree; And when you drew your final breath The dark'ning skies confessed your death.
---	--

MAGNIFICAT: THE SONG OF MARY

P: My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

**C: For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.**

P: For behold, from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.

**C: For he that is mighty hath magnified me; *
and holy is his Name.**

**And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.**

P: He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

**C: He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.**

P: He hath filled the hungry with good things; *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

**C: He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; * as he promised to
our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever.**

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS

(The people kneel or stand)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit

P: Let us pray.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

P: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

C: And grant us thy salvation.

P: O Lord, guide those who govern us;

C: And lead us in the way of justice and truth.

P: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

C: And make thy chosen people joyful.

P: O Lord, save thy people;

C: And bless thine inheritance.

P: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

C: And evermore mightily defend us.

P: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

C: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

P: O God, make clean our hearts within us;

C: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

A COLLECT FOR PROTECTION

P: O God, who art the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank thee for the timely blessings of the day and humbly beseech thy merciful protection all the night. Bring us, we pray thee, in safety to the morning hours; through him who died for us and rose again, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

C: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful: and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

HYMN: "TO YOU, BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE DAY" (LBW #277)

To you, before the close of day,
Creator of the world, we pray!
Your grace and peace to us allow
And be our guard and keeper now.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From all the terrors of the night,
From all deluding thoughts that creep
On heedless minds disarmed by sleep.

O Father, this we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son,
Who with the Holy Ghost and you
Shall live and reign all ages through.
Amen

A PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

P: Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bless the Lord. Go in Peace

C: Thanks be to God.

O Christ, You Are the Light and Day LBW 273Text: Latin hymn, 6th cent. Sts. 1-3; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, st.4; tr. William J Copeland, 1804-1885, sts. 1-3, alt. Tune: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1533

O Christ, Our King, Creator, Lord LBW 101 ©Text: Gregory I, 540-604; tr. Hymnal version, 1978 © Tune: R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

To You, before the Close of Day LBW 277 Text: compline office hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John M Neale, 1818-1866, adapt. Tune: Benedictine plainsong, mode VI

Liturgy: LBW, © 1978, Augsburg Fortress; and/or With One Voice, © 1995, Augsburg Fortress License #SBL10722L, CCLI #1757129, CSPL073328, & Reprinted/Podcast/streamed with permission under One License A-743210. All rights reserved.