



# OUR SAVIOUR'S

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Bringing Christ to the people and the people to Christ.*

### VESPERS FOR MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

**April 9, 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.

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Please Stand (in body or in spirit)

#### **OPENING HYMN**

*"O GLADSOME LIGHT" (LBW #279)*

Oh, gladsome light of the Father immortal  
And of the celestial,  
Sacred, and blessed  
Jesus, our Saviour!

Father omnipotent!  
Son, our life giver!  
Spirit, our . . comforter!  
Worthy at all time of worship and  
wonder.

Now to the sunset again you have brought us,  
And seeing the evening  
Twilight, we bless you,  
praise you, adore you!

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

Daniel 3:14-28

Reader: A reading from Daniel, the 3rd Chapter

King Nebuchadnezzar said: "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you will not serve my god, or worship the golden statue that I set up? Be ready now to fall down and worship the statue I had made, whenever you hear the sound of the trumpet, flute, lyre, harp, psaltery, bagpipe, and all the other musical instruments; otherwise, you shall be instantly cast into the white-hot furnace; and who is the God

who can deliver you out of my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "There is no need for us to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If our God, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us! But even if he will not, know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue that you set up."

King Nebuchadnezzar's face became livid with utter rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times more than usual and had some of the strongest men in his army bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and cast them into the white-hot furnace.

Nebuchadnezzar rose in haste and asked his nobles, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" "Assuredly, O king," they answered. "But," he replied, "I see four men unfettered and unhurt, walking in the fire, and the fourth looks like a son of God." Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent his angel to deliver the servants who trusted in him; they disobeyed the royal command and yielded their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God."

R: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### **A PSALM from Daniel 3**

**C: (52b) Glory and praise for ever!**

R: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;  
And blessed is your holy and glorious name,  
praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages."

**C: Glory and praise for ever!**

R: "Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

**C: Glory and praise for ever!**

R: "Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever."

**C: Glory and praise for ever!**

R: "Blessed are you who look into the depths  
from your throne upon the cherubim;  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever."

**C: Glory and praise for ever!**

R: "Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven,  
praiseworthy and glorious forever."

**C: Glory and praise for ever!**

Please Stand

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 16<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 16:19-31

<sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, <sup>23</sup>and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. <sup>24</sup>And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. <sup>26</sup>And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house — <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers — so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ <sup>30</sup>And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

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 HADES...HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

Please Stand

**HYMN: "ALL PRAISE TO THEE, MY GOD, THIS NIGHT" (LBW #278)**

All praise to thee, my God, this night,  
For all the blessings of the light.  
Keep me, Oh keep me, King of kings,  
Beneath thine own almighty wings.

Teach me to live, that I may dread  
The grave as little as my bed.  
Teach me to die, that so I may  
Rise glorious at the awe someday.

Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
The ill that I this day have done.  
That with the world, myself, and thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Oh, may my soul in thee repose,  
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
Sleep that shall me more vig'rous make  
To serve my God when I awake!

## 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.**

Oh, Gladsome Light Text: Greek hymn, 3<sup>rd</sup> cent.; tr. Henry W. Longfellow, 1807-1882, atl. Tune: Allan Mahnke, b. 1944

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night Text: Tomas Ken 137-1711 Tune: Thomas Tallis c.1505-1585

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

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