

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

**A Community of Faith:** *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



## Midweek Lent 4

March 13, 2024 7:00 PM

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org

781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

## Midweek Lent 4

*Lenten Worship March 13, 2024*



### EMPTY WORDS

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.

# VESPERS

## Opening Versicles

LSB 229

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
  
- 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.**
  
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 25:1–2a, 4–6, 8*

- L** All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
- C** **and all your saints shall bless you!**
- L** 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.**
- L** 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.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 41*

- L** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
- C** **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**
- L** the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;
- C** **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**
- L** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.
- C** **As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I  
have sinned against You!”**
- L** My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”
- C** **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while  
his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**

- L** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
- C** **They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."**
- L** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
- C** **But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**
- L** By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
- C** **But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.**

**Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.**

## A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

LSB 438



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The  
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The  
 3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll  
 4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And



guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the  
 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther  
 bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to  
 taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al



sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes  
 chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go  
 Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O  
 robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When



pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -  
 forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren  
 won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers  
 I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall



out com-plaint, That spot-less life to of - fer. He bears the  
 from their dread Of guilt and con-dem-na - tion. The wrath and  
 up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how  
 be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in



stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and  
 stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion  
 strong You are to save! You lay the One in -  
 gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall



yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."  
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."  
 to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.  
 we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.

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## Readings

### Reading

*Psalms 52*

**L** A reading from Psalms, the fifty-second chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?

The steadfast love of God endures all the day.

<sup>2</sup>Your tongue plots destruction,  
 like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

<sup>3</sup>You love evil more than good,  
 and lying more than speaking what is right.

<sup>4</sup>You love all words that devour,  
 O deceitful tongue.

<sup>5</sup>But 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.

<sup>6</sup>The righteous shall see and fear,  
 and shall laugh at him, saying,

<sup>7</sup>"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!”

<sup>8</sup>But I am like a green olive tree  
in the house of God.

I trust in the steadfast love of God  
forever and ever.

<sup>9</sup>I 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.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

*James 3:1–10*

**L** A reading from James, the third chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup>Look 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. <sup>5</sup>So 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! <sup>6</sup>And 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. <sup>7</sup>For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

Matthew 26:57–62

**L** A reading from St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

<sup>57</sup>Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup>And 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. <sup>59</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup>but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup>and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" <sup>62</sup>And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



## Lent Responsory

LSB 231

**L** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**L** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**L** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

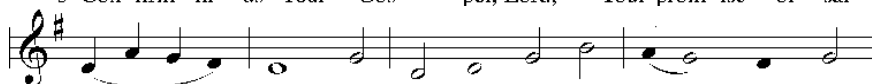
**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

# I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone

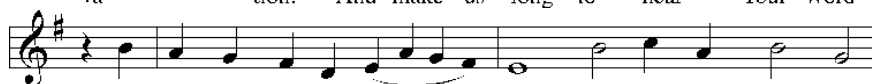
LSB 972



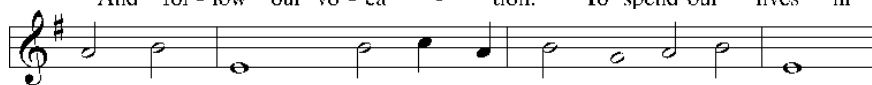
1 I trust, O Christ, in You a-lone; No earth-ly hope a-  
2 My sin and guilt are plagu-ing me; O grant me true con-  
3 Con-firm in us Your Gos-pel, Lord, Your prom-ise of sal-



vails me. You will not see me o-ver-thrown  
tri-tion And by Your death up-on the tree  
va-tion. And make us long to hear Your Word



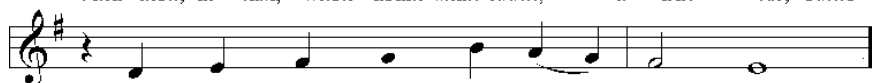
When Sa-tan's host as-sails me. No hu-man strength, no  
Your par-don and re-mis-sion. Be-fore the Fa-ther's  
And fol-low our vo-ca-tion: To spend our lives in



earth-ly pow'r Can see me through the e-vil hour,  
throna-bove Re-call Your match-less deed of love  
love for You And show Your love in all we do.



For You a-lone my strength re-new. I cry to You!  
That He may lift my dread-ful load, O Son of God!  
And then, at last, when death shall loom, O Sav-ior, come



I trust, O Lord, Your prom-ise true.  
I plead the grace Your death be-stowed.  
And bear Your loved ones safe-ly home.

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**Sermon**

**Empty Words**

*Psalm 41:6*

**Canticle**

**Antiphon**

*LSB 231*

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.



## Magnificat

LSB 231

- L** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
- C** **for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**
- L** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- C** **For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;**
- L** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
- C** **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**
- L** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
- C** **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**
- L** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

## Prayers

### Kyrie

LSB 233

- L** Lord, have mercy;
- C** **Christ, have mercy;**
- L** Lord, have mercy.

### Lord's Prayer

LSB 233

- 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.**

### Collects

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** **And let my cry come to You.**

## Collect

- L** 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.**

## Luther's Evening Prayer

*LSB 266*

- 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.**

## Collect for Peace

*LSB 233*

- L** 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.**

## Benedicamus

*LSB 234*

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

*LSB 234*

- L** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
- C** **Amen.**

# Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

LSB 880



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,  
2 The ra - diant sun has van - ished, Its gold - en  
3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in  
4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your  
5 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, For God this



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies,  
rays are ban - ished From dark - 'ning skies of night;  
star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;  
wings a - bove me And shield me from a - larm.  
night will surc - ly From per - il guard your heads.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic  
But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our  
And we, this mar - vel scc - ing, For - get our sclf - ish  
Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing  
Sweet slum - bers may He send you And bid His hosts at -



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise,  
sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.  
be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.  
o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.  
tend you And through the night watch o'er your beds.

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## Acknowledgments

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# Lent, Holy Week & Easter Worship

*Please join us in worship this Lent & Easter season*



## **Midweek Lent Services**

Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm



## **Palm Sunday Services**

Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am & 10:45 am



## **Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm



## **Good Friday Service**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm



## **Easter Services**

Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at

6:00 am (*sunrise service*)

8:00 am & 10:45 am