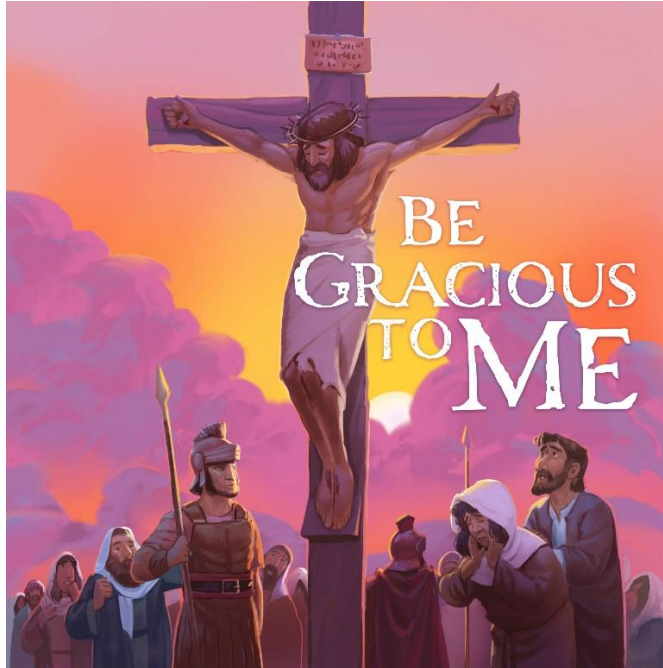


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Lenten Vespers

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

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.

Rev. Eric J. Edwards † Rev. Christopher Beck † Rev. Liwei Sui

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OPENING VERSICLES

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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

✠ ✠ ✠ PSALMODY ✠ ✠ ✠

SERIES PSALM – Psalm 41:6-8; antiphon: 67:1

The cantor sings the refrain and the congregation repeats it.

The congregation repeats the refrain after the verses.

May God be gra - cious to us and

bless us and make His face to shine up - on us.

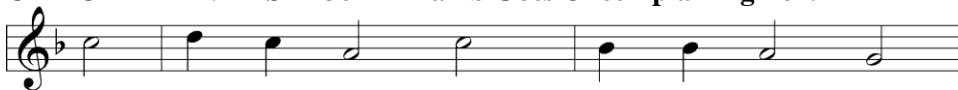
Cantor: And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,
while his heart gathers in- | iquity;*
when he goes out, he tells | it abroad.
All who hate me whisper together a- | bout me;*
they imagine the | worst for me.
They say, “A deadly thing is poured | out on him;”
he will not rise again from | where he lies.”

C Refrain

Cantor: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

C Refrain

OFFICE HYMN – LSB 438 – A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth



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 ✠ ✠ ✠

FIRST READING – *Psalm 52:1-9*

P A reading from Psalms, the fifty-second chapter.

- ¹Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?
 The steadfast love of God endures all the day.
- ²Your tongue plots destruction,
 like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.
- ³You love evil more than good,
 and lying more than speaking what is right.
- ⁴You love all words that devour,
 O deceitful tongue.
- ⁵But 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.
- ⁶The righteous shall see and fear,
 and shall laugh at him, saying,
- ⁷"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!"
- ⁸But I am like a green olive tree
 in the house of God.
 I trust in the steadfast love of God
 forever and ever.
- ⁹I 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – James 3:1-10

P A reading from James, the third chapter.

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

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR LENT

P 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.

P 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.

P 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.

HYMN – LSB 432 – In Silent Pain the Eternal Son



1 In si - lent pain the e - ter - nal Son Hangs der - e - lict and still;
2 He died that we might die to sin And live for righ - teous - ness;
3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;



In dark - ened day His work is done, Ful - filled, His Fa - ther's will.
The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us in - to peace.
To rule in us, our pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies:



Up - lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang-est vic - to - ry,
 For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Him - self to save the lost;
 For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our wars,



For in His bod - y on the tree He car-ries all our ill.
 He loved us to the ut - ter - most And paid for our re - lease.
 And those who love Him see His scars And look in - to His eyes.

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SERMON – *Empty Words* – Psalm 41:6

Psalm 41:6

“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.”

✠ ✠ ✠ **CANTICLE** ✠ ✠ ✠

ANTIPHON

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

MAGNIFICAT – LSB 934



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
 2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
 3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
 4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
 maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
 those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
 leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
 light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
 tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
 el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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OFFERING

✠ ✠ ✠ PRAYER ✠ ✠ ✠

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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.

BENEDICAMUS

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

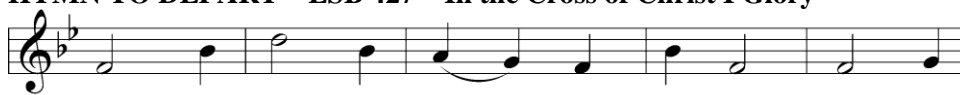
BENEDICTION

L The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.



HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 427 – In the Cross of Christ I Glory



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.

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SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent 2024

Wednesdays through March 20: Midweek Lenten Fellowship & Worship

✠ Personal confession/absolution in the office 30 mins before & immediately after each service ✠