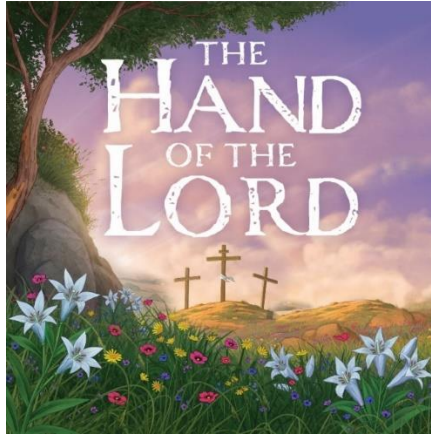


# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



## **Lenten Vespers**

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

### THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO RAISES THE DEAD

Lent is about repentance of sin and faith in God's forgiveness. When we confess our sins, we normally think about the wrongs we have committed, whether in thoughts, words, or deeds, as well as the good things we have failed to do. But sin is no simple or temporary issue. Sin is a matter of life and death; as we were reminded on Ash Wednesday, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ultimate punishment for sin is death. God's ultimate salvation is, as we confess in the Nicene Creed, "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." Already in the Old Testament, the hand of the Lord raised individuals who had died, as at the hands of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. Everyone believed that the Messiah, the Savior, would raise the dead when He came. Today we hear of one such incident: Jesus raising the widow's son in Nain (Luke 7). When Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the tomb, it could no longer be denied who Jesus is. Jesus finally proved that He is, as He said, "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25) by His own resurrection. In the resurrection, God has turned death from enemy into the remedy in our deliverance from sin. The risen, ascended, and reigning Lord promises to raise us daily in repentance and faith, and on the Last Day, free us from sin in eternal life in our human bodies. "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another" (Job 19:25-27).

**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 ✠ ✠ ✠

PSALM – Psalm 118:14–18

- C** The LORD is my strength | and my song;\*  
He has become my sal- | vation.  
Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the | righteous:\*
- “The right hand of the LORD does | valiantly,  
the right hand of the | LORD exalts,\*  
the right hand of the LORD does | valiantly!”
- I shall not die, but | I shall live,\*  
and recount the deeds | of the LORD.
- The LORD has disciplined me se- | verely,\*  
but He has not given me o- | ver to death.
- 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.



# SERIES HYMN – The Word That Spoke in Darkness

Lisa M. Clark

KING'S LYNN

English

Coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958



1 The Word that spoke in dark - ness And prom - ised com - ing  
2 The Sav - ior came to con - quer And meet His mis - sion's  
3 The Christ pro - claimed His vic - t'ry With ev - 'ry act of  
4 The Prince of Peace con - tin - ued With each new task com -



light Kept guid - ing through the a - ges Un - til the time was  
aim: Up - end - ing Sa - tan's ter - ror, Cre - a - tion to re -  
grace: The out - cast shown com - pas - sion And God's own ho - ly  
plete At cross and tomb and glo - ry Up - on His roy - al



right To take on flesh and fol - low The Fa - ther's good com -  
claim By walk - ing on the wa - ters So we by faith may  
face As Je - sus looked with fa - vor On all from ev - 'ry  
seat, De - liv - er - ance ac - com - plished Ex - act - ly as He



mand And dwell a - mong His peo - ple, The king - dom now at hand.  
stand With trust in Him whose res - cue Is of - fered by His hand.  
land Who need - ed life and heal - ing From His al - might - y hand.  
planned; Our King will raise in wel - come His pierced and ris - en hand.

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## ✠ ✠ ✠ READINGS ✠ ✠ ✠

### FIRST READING – 1 Kings 17:8-12

**P** <sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him, <sup>9</sup>“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” <sup>13</sup>And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” <sup>15</sup>And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that He spoke by Elijah.

<sup>17</sup>After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. <sup>18</sup>And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” <sup>19</sup>And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. <sup>20</sup>And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have You brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” <sup>21</sup>Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child’s life come into him again.” <sup>22</sup>And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. <sup>23</sup>And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” <sup>24</sup>And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 15:12-28, 50-58

**P** <sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For “God has put all things in subjection under His feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all. . . .

<sup>50</sup>I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup>“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

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

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

### THIRD READING – Luke 7:11-17

**P** <sup>11</sup>Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. <sup>12</sup>As He drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup>And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” <sup>14</sup>Then He came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” <sup>15</sup>And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup>Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited His people!” <sup>17</sup>And this report about Him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

**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 423 – Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -  
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior  
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your  
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,  
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us  
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the  
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your  
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.  
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

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## SERMON

# ✠ ✠ ✠ CANTICLE ✠ ✠ ✠

## ANTIPHON

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

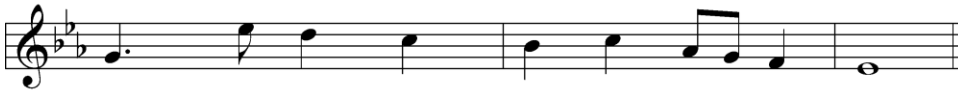
## MAGNIFICAT – LSB 934



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** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You sent Jesus with a compassionate hand to stop death in its tracks. Bless us that we may ever hold fast to His promises for us through His death and resurrection. Help us to always remember our Baptism, where we have been united to both Christ's death and resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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.

**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 421 – Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly  
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my  
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and  
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,  
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of  
sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new  
eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me  
is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing  
death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in  
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,  
weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.  
new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet  
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach-'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from  
Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was  
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -  
Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing  
Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.  
wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.  
ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.  
pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.  
tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

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## SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS



# Lent 2025

## Wednesdays through April 9

Midweek Lenten Fellowship & Worship:

Noon **Worship** † 12:30pm **Meal**

5:45pm **Meal** † 7pm **Worship**

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



## Holy Week

### Palm/Passion Sunday – April 13

8 & 10:30 am **Procession with Palms**

**Divine Service** *with Holy Communion*

11:30 am **Easter Egg Hunt**

5 pm **Divine Service** *with Holy Communion*

### Maundy Thursday – April 17

Noon & 7 pm **Worship** *with Holy Communion*

### Good Friday – April 18

Noon **Stations of the Cross**

8 pm **Tenebrae** (*Service of Darkness*)



## The Resurrection of our Lord

### Easter Vigil – April 19

8 pm **at Faith**

### Easter Sunday – April 20

8 & 10:30 am **Festival Worship** (*Holy Comm. & special music*)

9:15 am **Easter Breakfast**

5 pm **Worship** *with Holy Communion*