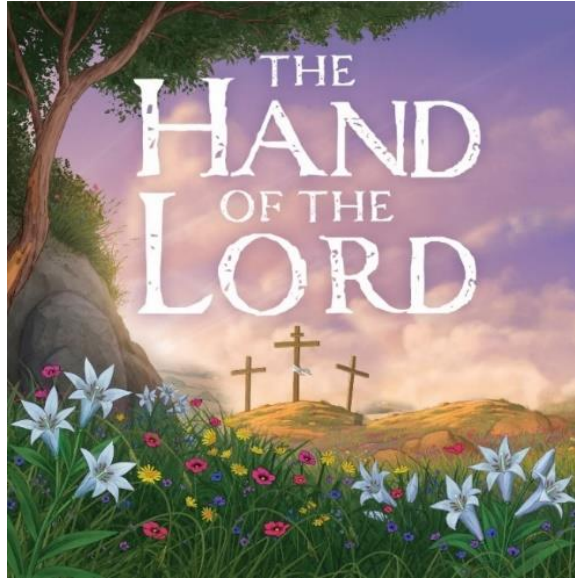


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Lenten Vespers

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO HOLDS ALL THINGS

To the faithless, unrepentant world, taken together with the climax of the events of Holy Week, it appears that, after all, Jesus ends up only a disappointment, dead and gone! To the eyes of faith, however, all His deeds, including His suffering and death, describe the most powerful and mighty act of God, by which He redeems and saves the world and us!

The Christian liturgy preserves certain words in their original language to express their full meaning. For instance, we do not end prayers saying, “Yes, yes, it shall be so,” but the original “Amen.” Likewise, every Sunday we sing the Sanctus, “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth.” *Tsebaot* in Hebrew means “hosts” or “armies.” “Lord God of hosts” is a way of saying God is over all—all powerful. So also, Greek art depicts the risen, ascended, and reigning Lord Jesus as *Pantokrator*, “the Almighty!” The church has always claimed that, before and after all, Jesus Christ indeed holds all things. By faith in Jesus, we know that we are forgiven, renewed, redeemed, and destined for eternal glory.

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

2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✠ 812-332-1668 ✠ office@faithbtown.org

7:00 PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *Shall We Gather at the River* (arr. Sandra Eithun)

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.

Thank you to the First Presbyterian
Church Handbell Choir under the
direction of Brian McNulty for
their musical offerings in our
evening worship.

✠ ✠ ✠ **PSALMODY** ✠ ✠ ✠

PSALM – *Psalm 95:1–7a*



- C** Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;*
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!
Let us come into His presence with thanks- | giving;*
let us make a joyful noise to Him with | songs of praise!
For the LORD is a | great God,*
and a great King a- | bove all gods.
In His hand are the depths | of the earth;*
the heights of the mountains are His | also.
The sea is His, for He | made it,*
and His hands formed the | dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;*
let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!
For He | is our God,*
and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep | of His hand.
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 – Daniel 7:13-14

P ¹³I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and He came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before Him.
¹⁴And to Him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve Him;
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and His kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – Revelation 1:9-20

P ⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. ¹⁴The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am

alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING – John 3:11-18, 22-36

P ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak of what We know, and bear witness to what We have seen, but you do not receive Our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. . . .

²²After this Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside, and He remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴(for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, He is baptizing, and all are going to Him.” ²⁷John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him.’ ²⁹The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease.”

³¹He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He bears witness to

what He has seen and heard, yet no one receives His testimony. ³³Whoever receives His testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴For He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

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 802 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
 All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

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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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7:00 OFFERING – *My Lord, What a Morning* (arr. Jason W. Krug)

✠ ✠ ✠ 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, all things are in Your hands, both creation and our very lives. Turn our eyes to follow the finger of John the Baptist pointing to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus has received nails into His hands for our sins to bring us forgiveness. When and where You will, use us to point others to Jesus and where He promises to be found in His Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

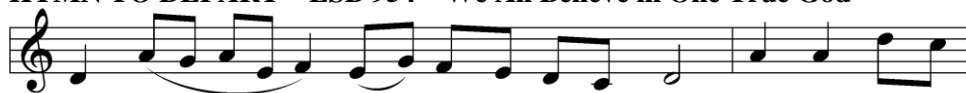
L Let us bless the Lord.

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 954 – We All Believe in One True God



1 We all be - lieve in one true God, Who cre - at - ed
 2 We all be - lieve in Je - sus Christ, His own Son, our
 3 We all con - fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who, in high - est



earth and heav - en, The Fa - ther, who to us in love
 Lord, pos - sess - ing An e - qual God - head, throne, and might,
 heav - en dwell - ing With God the Fa - ther and the Son,



Has the right of chil - dren giv - en. He in soul and
 Source of ev - 'ry grace and bless - ing; Born of Mar - y,
 Com - forts us be - yond all tell - ing; Who the Church, His



bod - y feeds us; All we need His hand pro - vides us;
 vir - gin moth - er, By the pow - er of the Spir - it,
 own cre - a - tion, Keeps in u - ni - ty of spir - it.



Through all snares and per - ils leads us, Watch - ing that no
 Word made flesh, our el - der broth - er; That the lost might
 Here for - give - ness and sal - va - tion Dai - ly come through



harm be - tide us. He cares for us by
 life in - her - it, Was cru - ci - fied by
 Je - sus' mer - it. All flesh shall rise, for and



day and night; All things are gov - erned by His might.
 all our sin And raised by God to life a - gain.
 we shall be In bliss with God e - ter - nal - ly.



A - men, a - - - 10men.

SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

7:00 POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *What Wondrous Love is This* (arr. Jason W. Krug)



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*

Acknowledgments

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