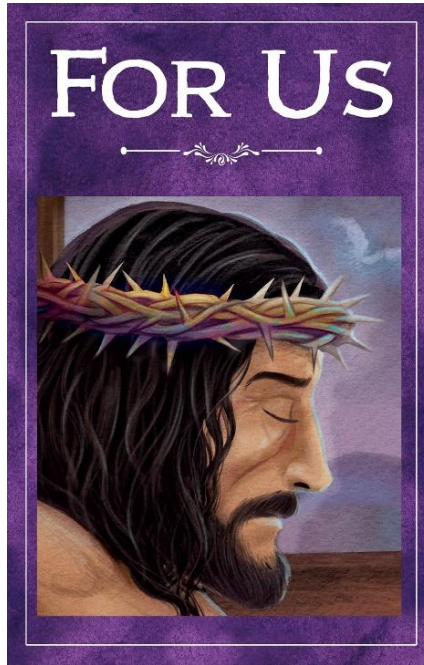


# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



## **Lenten Vespers**

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

## **HEALING FROM DEMONS**

We talked about angels during Midweek of Lent 1. Tonight, we will talk about the darker side of the story—that is, demons. Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God and His giving of Himself to us. Demons, with Satan chief among them, seek to undermine everything God is and does, even today. In our sermon tonight, we will hear how Jesus heals a man with a demon (Mark 5:1–13) and how that work of healing continues today.

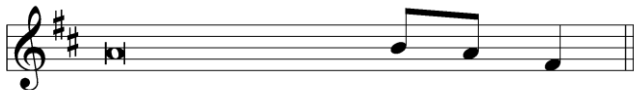
Many thanks to **Pastor Winterstein** (from University Lutheran Church)  
for leading our worship today.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) ✠ [Rev. Liwei Sui](#) ✠ [Dr. Priscilla Gabriel](#), Director of Parish Music  
2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✠ 812-332-1668 ✠ [office@faithbtown.org](mailto:office@faithbtown.org)

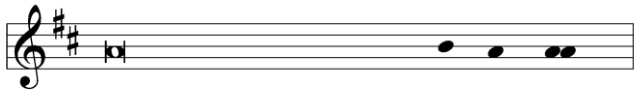
## OPENING VERSICLES



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

## ✠ ✠ ✠ PSALMODY ✠ ✠ ✠

### PSALM 71:1-8

*Cantor:* <sup>1</sup>In you, O Lord, do I take | refuge;\*  
let me never be | put to shame!



**C** <sup>2</sup>In your righteousness deliver me and | rescue me;\*  
incline your ear to me, and | save me!

*Cantor:* <sup>3</sup>Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may contin- | ually come;\*  
you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my | fortress.

**C** <sup>4</sup>Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the | wicked,\*  
from the grasp of the unjust and | cruel man.

*Cantor:* <sup>5</sup>For you, O Lord, | are my hope,\*  
my trust, O Lord, | from my youth.

**C** <sup>6</sup>Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;  
you are he who took me from my | mother's womb.\*  
My praise is continually | of you.

*Cantor:* <sup>7</sup>I have been as a portent to | many,\*  
but you are my strong | refuge.

**C** <sup>8</sup>My mouth is filled | with your praise,\*  
and with your glory | all the day.  
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.

### HYMN – LSB 432– In Silent Pain the Eternal



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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## ✠ ✠ ✠ READINGS ✠ ✠ ✠

### FIRST READING – Romans 8:9-11

**P** A reading from the eighth chapter of Romans.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### SECOND READING – Mark 5:1-13

**P** A reading from the fifth chapter of Mark.

<sup>1</sup>They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup>And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. <sup>3</sup>He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, <sup>4</sup>for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. <sup>5</sup>Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. <sup>6</sup>And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before Him. <sup>7</sup>And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure You by God, do not torment me.” <sup>8</sup>For He was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” <sup>9</sup>And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” <sup>10</sup>And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup>Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, <sup>12</sup>and they begged Him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” <sup>13</sup>So He gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PASSION READING – Mark 15:6-32

**P** The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the fifteenth chapter.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. <sup>8</sup>And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. <sup>9</sup>And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” <sup>10</sup>For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered Him up. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. <sup>12</sup>And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” <sup>13</sup>And they cried out again, “Crucify Him.” <sup>14</sup>And Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify Him.” <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>And the soldiers led Him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed Him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on Him. <sup>18</sup>And they began to salute Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup>And they were striking His head with a reed and spitting on Him and kneeling down in homage to Him. <sup>20</sup>And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the purple cloak and put His own clothes on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him.

<sup>21</sup>And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry His cross. <sup>22</sup>And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified Him and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. <sup>25</sup>And it was the third hour when they crucified Him. <sup>26</sup>And the inscription of the charge against Him read, “The King of the Jews.” <sup>27</sup>And with Him they crucified two robbers, one on His right and one on His left.

<sup>29</sup>And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” <sup>31</sup>So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him.

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

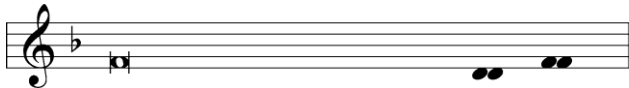
**C** Thanks be to God.



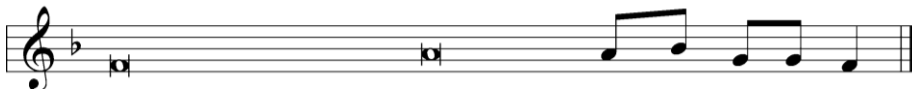
# SERMON

## ✠ ✠ ✠ CANTICLE ✠ ✠ ✠

### ANTIPHON



**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

### MAGNIFICAT – LSB 231

*The congregation sings all.*



**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the  
imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the  
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.  
He has filled the hun - gry with good things,  
and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.  
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy  
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.  
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

**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** Lord Jesus, You came into this created world to conquer sin and death. By Your victory over the tempter as one of us, strengthen our faith whenever it is under duress. Hear us, Jesus Christ, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.

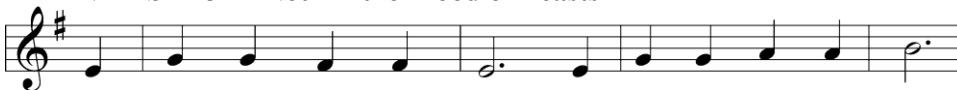
**C** Thanks be to God.

## 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 – LSB 431 – Not All the Blood of Beasts



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,  
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - jice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.  
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text and tune: Public domain

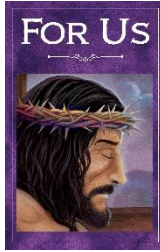
## SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **Acknowledgments**

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## Lent - Easter 2026

### Wednesdays through March 25

Midweek Lenten Fellowship & Worship:

Noon **Worship** † 12:30pm **Meal**

5:45pm **Meal** † 7pm **Worship**

† **Personal confession/absolution** †

see the pastors before or after any service



## Holy Week

### Palm/Passion Sunday – March 29

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

**Divine Service** *with Holy Communion*

11:30am **Easter Egg Hunt**

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

### Maundy Thursday – April 2

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

### Good Friday – April 3

Noon **Stations of the Cross**

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



## The Resurrection of our Lord

### Easter Vigil – April 4

8pm **at University Lutheran**

### Easter Sunday – April 5

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

9:15am **Easter Breakfast**