

FOR US



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE

March 11, 2026

St. Paul Luthera Church

Serbin, TX

FOR US HE SEEKS

Jesus talks all about seeking us in our texts this week. He does not wait passively until we get up the gumption to ask Him for help. Nor does He act out of selfish gain, like our health-care system seems to do so often today. Praying, teaching, working. In all these things, Jesus seeks us out and looks for ways to help us. This work is often overlooked because it is so ordinary. Water, bread and wine, the folly of preaching. In all these ordinary works, Jesus continues His ministry among us. This ministry of forgiveness means that Jesus continues to strengthen and help us.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

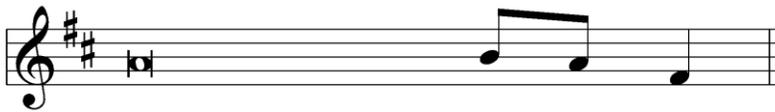
Stand

OPENING SENTENCES

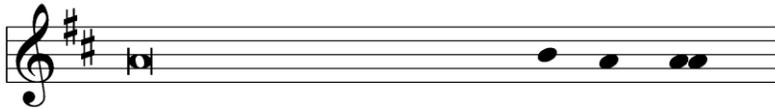
LSB 229



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.

PSALM

PSALM 80:1-7

- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!
 - C** **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**
 - P** Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!
 - C** **Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**
 - P** O LORD God of hosts,
 - C** **how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?**
 - P** You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
 - C** **You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.**
 - P** Restore us, O God of hosts;
 - C** **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- 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.**

Sit

HYMN: ♪ "JESUS, REFUGE OF THE WEARY"

LSB 423

- 1** Jesus, refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
You have borne the pain of all.

- 2** Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us
Calms the sinner's deep distress.

**3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

Text: Public domain

READING

ROMANS 10:8–17

P A reading from the tenth chapter of Romans.

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

READING

MARK 1:35–39

P A reading from the first chapter of Mark

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed. And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him, and they found Him and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." And He said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And He went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

PASSION READING

MARK 14:53–15:5

P The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the fourteenth and fifteenth chapters.

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against Him, saying, "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.

3 For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew;
For us the tempter overthrew.

4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus
Still seeking not Himself but us.

SERMON: "FOR US HE SEEKS"

MARK 1:35-39

By Pastor John Schmidt

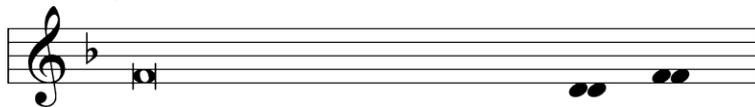
Stand

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

G Amen.

ANTIPHON

LSB 231



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



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

MAGNIFICAT

LSB 231



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



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



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



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



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



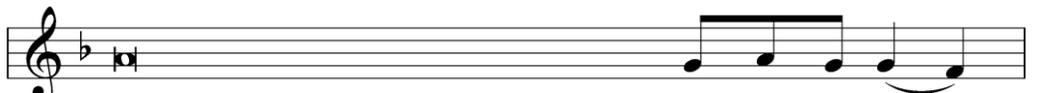
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



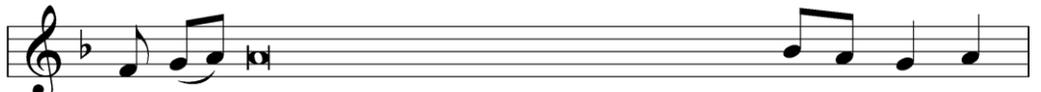
mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.



I He has filled the hungry with good things,



and the rich He has sent empty away.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.



G Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;



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

Sit

OFFERING

As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.

OFFERING HYMN: ♪ "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

LSB 781 V. 1-2

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

KYRIE

LSB 233



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

LORD'S PRAYER

- 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 Heavenly Father, You did not remain apart from Your creation. You sought us when we were not seeking You and did for us what we could not do for ourselves. For all this we give You thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**
- P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.

G Amen.

BENEDICAMUS



L Let us bless the Lord.



G Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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

G Amen, Amen, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ "GLORY BE TO JESUS"

LSB 433

- 1** Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!
- 2** Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind!
- 3** Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment
Did the world redeem!
- 4** Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.

- 5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.**
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!**

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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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