

**Midweek Lenten Service**

MARCH 13, 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Serbin, Texas

# 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.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

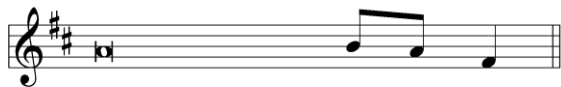
*Stand*

## OPENING SENTENCES

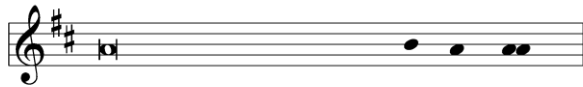
LSB 229



**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 145:10-13

**P** All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,

**C** and all Your saints shall bless You!

**P** They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and tell of Your power,

- C** to make known to the children of man Your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.
- P** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.
- C** **The LORD is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.**

**PSALM**

**PSALM 41**

- P** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
- C** **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**
- P** the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;
- C** **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**
- P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.
- C** **As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"**
- P** My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"
- C** **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**
- P** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
- C** **They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."**
- P** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
- C** **But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**
- P** By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
- C** **But You have upheld me because of my integrity and set me in Your presence forever.**  
**Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.**  
**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: ♪ "A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH"**

**LSB 438**

**1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,  
 The guilt of sinners bearing  
 And, laden with the sins of earth,  
 None else the burden sharing;  
 Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,  
 To slaughter led without complaint,  
 That spotless life to offer,  
 He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,  
 The mockery, and yet replies,  
 "All this I gladly suffer."**

- 2 **This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,  
The Lamb of God, our Savior,  
Whom God the Father chose to send  
To gain for us His favor.  
"Go forth, My Son," the Father said,  
"And free My children from their dread  
Of guilt and condemnation.  
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,  
But by Your passion they will share  
The fruit of Your salvation."**
- 3 **"Yes, Father, yes, most willingly  
I'll bear what You command Me.  
My will conforms to Your decree,  
I'll do what You have asked Me."  
O wondrous Love, what have You done!  
The Father offers up His Son,  
Desiring our salvation.  
O Love, how strong You are to save!  
You lay the One into the grave  
Who built the earth's foundation.**
- 4 **Lord, when Your glory I shall see  
And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,  
Your blood my royal robe shall be,  
My joy beyond all measure!  
When I appear before Your throne,  
Your righteousness shall be my crown;  
With these I need not hide me.  
And there, in garments richly wrought,  
As Your own bride shall we be brought  
To stand in joy beside You.**

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## **READING**

## **PSALM 52:1-9**

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

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

**READING****JAMES 3:1-10****P** A reading from James, the third chapter.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For 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. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look 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. So 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! And 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. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From 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.***Stand***READING****MATTHEW 26:57-62****P** A reading from St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?"

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.**C** **Thanks be to God.****LENT RESPONSORY****LSB 231**

**L** 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are  
the God of my sal - va - tion.  
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.  
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are  
the God of my sal - va - tion.



**C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me  
from those who rise a - gainst me.

*Sit*

**HYMN: ♪ "IN SILENT PAIN THE ETERNAL SON"**

**LSB 432**

- 1** In silent pain the\_ eternal Son  
Hangs derelict and still;  
In darkened day His work is done,  
Fulfilled, His Father's will.  
Uplifted for the world to see  
He hangs in strangest victory,  
For in His body on the tree  
He carries all our ill.
  
- 2** He died that we might die to sin  
And live for righteousness;  
The earth is stained to make us clean  
And bring us into peace.  
For peace He came and met its cost;  
He gave Himself to save the lost;  
He loved us to the uttermost  
And paid for our release.
  
- 3** For strife He came to bring a sword,  
The truth to end all lies;  
To rule in us, our patient Lord,  
Until all evil dies:  
For in His hand He holds the stars,  
His voice shall speak to end our wars,  
And those who love Him see His scars  
And look into His eyes.

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**SERMON: "EMPTY WORDS"**

**PSALM 41:6**

By Pastor John Schmidt

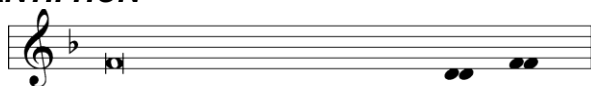
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**P** The Grace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts in Christ Jesus.

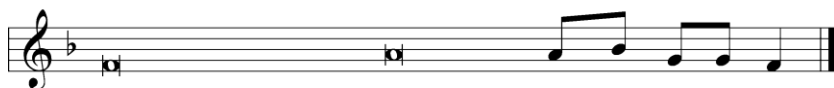
**G** Amen

**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.

**1 My soul rejoices,  
My spirit voices—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
For God my Savior  
Has shown me favor—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
With praise and blessing,  
Join in confessing  
God, who is solely  
Mighty and holy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
His mercy surely  
Shall rest securely  
On all who fear Him,  
Love and revere Him—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!**

**2 His arm now baring,  
His strength declaring—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
The proud He scatters,  
Their rule He shatters—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
Oppression halted;  
The meek exalted.  
Full are the hungry;  
Empty, the wealthy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
Here is the token  
All that was spoken  
To Abr’ham’s offspring  
God is fulfilling—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!**

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*Sit*

**OFFERING**

*As the offering is brought forth 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**



**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**

**LSB 234**



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.



## BENEDICTION

LSB 234

**L** The grace of our Lord Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with us all.  
**C** A - men.

## CLOSING HYMN: ♪“IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY”

LSB 427

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o’ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

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## SILENT PRAYER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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