

Midweek Lenten Service

MARCH 20, 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Serbin, Texas

VINDICATION

In Psalm 41:7–8, David lamented, “All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, ‘A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.’” These words pointed forward to our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose again in defiance of His enemies. Do you have enemies who whisper and scheme against you? Have you been brought low—perhaps so low that you despair of ever rising again? Jesus was vindicated in His resurrection, and you shall be too. You can have certainty in your resurrection and vindication because Jesus Christ is risen.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO ORDER

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES

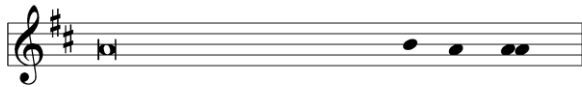
LSB 229



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 9:1–2, 9–10

- P** I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
- C** I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.
- P** I will be glad and exult in You;
- C** I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

- P** The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
- C** **And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.**

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: ♪ "DRAWN TO THE CROSS, WHICH THOU HAST BLESSED"

LSB 560

- 1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
 With healing gifts for souls distressed,
 To find in Thee my life, my rest,
 Christ crucified, I come.
- 2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
 Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
 Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
 Christ crucified, I come.
- 3 Wash me and take away each stain;
 Let nothing of my sin remain.
 For cleansing, though it be through pain,
 Christ crucified, I come.
- 4 And then for work to do for Thee,
 Which shall so sweet a service be
 That angels well might envy me,
 Christ crucified, I come.

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READING**JEREMIAH 9:12-16**

P A reading from Jeremiah, the ninth chapter.

Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? And the LORD says: "Because they have forsaken My law that I set before them and have not obeyed My voice or walked in accord with it, but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink. I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING**2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9**

P A reading from Second Timothy, the third chapter.

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

READING**MATTHEW 26:1-5**

P A reading from St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said to His disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill Him. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY

LSB 231



- 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.



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

Sit

SERMON HYMN: ♪“CROSS OF JESUS, CROSS OF SORROW”

LSB 428

- 1 **Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,
Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect man on thee did suffer,
Perfect God on thee has bled!**
- 2 **Here the King of all the ages,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
Robed in mortal flesh is dying,
Crucified by sin for me.**
- 3 **O mysterious condescending!
O abandonment sublime!
Very God Himself is bearing
All the sufferings of time!**
- 4 **Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,
Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect man on thee did suffer,
Perfect God on thee has bled!**

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SERMON: “VINDICATION”

PSALM 41:7-8

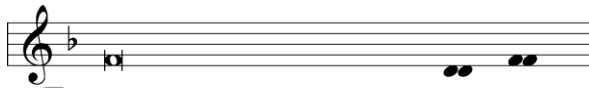
By Pastor John Schmidt

Stand

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

HYMN: ♪ "MY SOUL REJOICES"

LSB 933

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

**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 God, who gives strength to the weak and light to those who are in darkness, grant us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him we may know You more completely. Assure us that all things are made to work for our good through our Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we may with hopeful hearts await the glory of His kingdom of eternal grace. With boldness and confidence, we ask this through Jesus Christ, 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

LSB 234



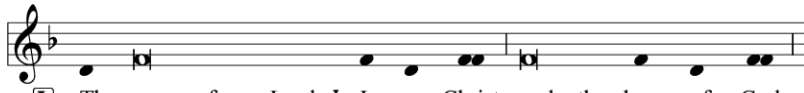
L Let us bless the Lord.



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: ♪ "ABIDE WITH ME"

LSB 878

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

**6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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