

**Midweek Lenten Service**

MARCH 6, 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Serbin, Texas

# SOON AND NEVER

King David's enemies said of him, "When will he die and his name perish?" (Psalm 41:5) Do you have enemies who wish the same fate on you? Regardless of your best efforts to "lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:2), you are pursued unceasingly by three dread adversaries: the world, the devil, and your own sinful flesh. When will you die? When will your name perish? Christ silences your foes and your fears and will strengthen and keep you firm in His Word and faith unto the end.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

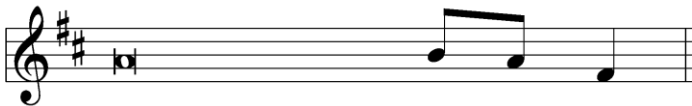
*Stand*

## OPENING SENTENCES

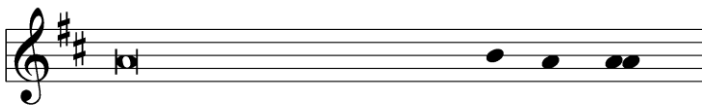
LSB 229



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



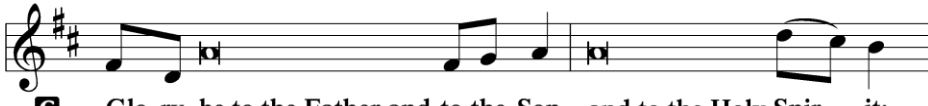
**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**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 39:12A; 38:22; 86:6-7**

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;
- C** **Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!**
- P** Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
- C** **listen to my plea for grace.**
- P** In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
- C** **for You answer me.**

**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: ♪"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.**

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## **READING**

## **DEUTERONOMY 7:22–26**

**P** A reading from Deuteronomy, the seventh chapter.

The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. But the LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed. And He will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them. The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.

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

**G Thanks be to God.**

## **READING**

## **REVELATION 19:11–16**

**P** A reading from Revelation, the nineteenth chapter.

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written that no one knows but Himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

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

**G Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*



**3 Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,  
This I do merit.**

*Women:*

**4 What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;  
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,  
Who would not know Him.**

**5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;  
God is committed.**

*Men:*

**6 There was no spot in me by sin untainted;  
Sick with sin's poison, all my heart had fainted;  
My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me,  
Such woe it wrought me.**

**7 O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,  
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!  
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying  
While Thou wert dying.**

*School Side:*

**8 O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!  
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?  
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer?  
What dare I offer?**

**9 For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder—  
Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.  
Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee!  
Can I requite Thee?**

*Cabin Side:*

**10 Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;  
I will renounce whate'er doth vex or grieve Thee  
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly  
All fires unholy.**

**11 But since my strength will nevermore suffice me  
To crucify desires that still entice me,  
To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me  
And reign within me!**

All:

- 12 I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,  
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;  
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor  
Henceforth forever.
- 13 Whate'er of earthly good this life may grant me,  
I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.  
I shall not fear what foes can do to harm me  
Nor death alarm me.
- 14 But worthless is my sacrifice, I own it;  
Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not disown it;  
Thou wilt accept my gift in Thy great meekness  
Nor shame my weakness.
- 15 And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven  
To me the crown of joy at last is given,  
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,  
I, too, shall praise Thee.

Text: Public domain

**SERMON: "SOON AND NEVER"**

By Pastor John Schmidt

**PSALM 41:5**

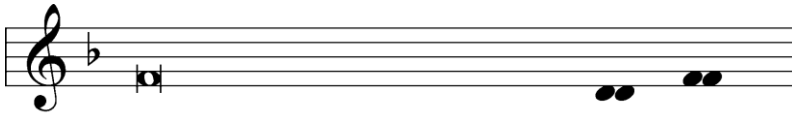
*Stand*

**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** We thank You, our God and Father, that You have drawn us to Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we consider His sign of sacrifice and love, sustain us in our trials, comfort us in our sorrows, and strengthen us against temptation. Grant that the cross may be to us a continuing promise of the forgiveness of our sins as we observe a holy Lent. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our gracious 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**

**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: ♪"CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING"**

**LSB 420**

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,  
Treating Thee with shameful scorn  
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.  
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,  
That as Thine Thou mightest own me  
And with heav'nly glory crown me.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**
- 5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**
- 6 Thou hast suffered great affliction  
And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,  
Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**
- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.**

Text: Public domain

## **Silent Prayer**

## **Announcements**