

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

4th Midweek Service in Lent: Vespers March 13, 2024

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DeSoto, TX 75115
Office: (972) 223-9340
Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Lenten Reflection

Lent is a time in which God's Baptized People cleanse their hearts through the disciplines described as repentance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent is a time for growing into Christ by concentration on our Baptism, so that the obstacles set in the way of God's Grace by our old nature may be removed by His Spirit and we may be signs of God's Kingdom in the world. It calls for a greater openness to the Word of God, zeal in joining the congregation in worship and conversion in every area of faith and life that we may walk in the Gospel of Christ together.



Our theme for Lent is: "Be Gracious to Me"

OPENING SENTENCES (Please stand) , [LSB: pg. 243]

P (Sung) Jesus Christ is the Light of the World,
C (Sung) **the Light no darkness can overcome.**

John 8:12
John 1:5

P Stay with us, LORD, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**

Luke 24:29

P Let Your Light scatter the darkness
C **And Illumine Your Church.**

1 Corinthians 4:5
[2 Corinthians 4:6]

PHOS HILARON ≈ *Hymn of Light* [LSB: pg. 244]

P (Sung) Joyous Light of Glory,
C (Sung) **of the Immortal Father; Heavenly, Holy, Blessed Jesus Christ. We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light. We sing to God, the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever. O Son of God, O Giver of Life: the universes proclaims Your Glory.**

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT [LSB: pg. 245]

P (Sung) Blessed are You, O LORD, our God, King of the universe, Who Led Your People Israel by a Pillar of Cloud by day and a Pillar of Fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the Light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a Light to our path; for You are merciful, and You Love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.
C (Sung) **Amen.**

☩ PSALMODY ☩

PSALMODY: *Psalm 141* [LSB: 249]
Psalm 141:1-4,8

C **Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

P O LORD, I call to You; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to You.

C **Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

R *Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD, and guard the door of my lips.*

A Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

R But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son **✠** and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be Forever, Amen. Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

P Let us pray ... 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. *(Please be seated)*

OFFICE HYMN: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" [LSB: 427]

✠ Readings ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Psalm 52:1-9*

P A reading from the Book of Psalms the 52nd chapter.

P O LORD, have Mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 41 [Tone K]

P ¹ Blessèd is the One Who consid- | ers the poor! *
In the day of trouble the LORD De- | livers Him;
² the LORD Protects Him and Keeps Him Alive; He is called Blessèd | in the land; *
You do not give Him up to the will of His | enemies.

C ³ The LORD Sustains Him on His | sickbed; *
in His illness You Restore Him to | Full Health.
⁴ As for Me, I said, "O LORD, be Gra- | cious to Me; *
Heal Me, for I have sinned a- | gainst You!"

P ⁵ My enemies say of Me in | malice, *
"When will He die and His Name | perish?"
⁶ And when one comes to see Me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers in- | iquity; *
when he goes out, he tells | it abroad.

C ⁷ All who hate Me whisper together a- | bout Me; *
they imagine the | worst for Me.
⁸ They say, "A deadly thing is poured | out on Him; *
He will not Rise again from | where He lies."

P ⁹ Even My close friend in whom I | trusted, *
who ate My Bread, has lifted his heel a- | gainst Me.
¹⁰ But You, O LORD, be Gra- | cious to Me, *
and Raise Me up, that I may re- | pay them!

C ¹¹ By this I know that You De- | light in Me; *
My enemy will not shout in triumph | over Me.
¹² But you have upheld Me because of My In- | tegrity, *
and set Me in Your Presence For- | ever.

P ¹³ Blessèd be the LORD, the God of | Israel, *
from Everlasting to Everlasting! Amen and | Amen.
¹ Blessèd is the One Who Consid- | ers the poor! *
In the day of trouble the LORD De- | livers Him;

SECOND READING: *James 3:1-10*

P A reading from James, the 3rd chapter.

P O LORD, have Mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Savior When in Dust to You" [LSB: 419]

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 26:57-62

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 26th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O LORD.**

P O LORD, have Mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His People of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

Hebrews 1:1-2a

✠CANTICLE ✠

MANIFICAT ≈ *Song of Mary* [LSB: 248]
Luke 1:46-55

C (*Refrain*) **My soul magnifies the LORD, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior. My soul magnifies the LORD, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.**

P For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

R *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 generation.*

Refrain:

P He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

R *He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.*

C **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.**

Refrain:

✠Prayer ✠

THE LITANY: (*Please stand*) [LSB: 249]



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the Peace from above and for our Salvation let us pray to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P For this Holy House and for Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P For all Church workers in Christ especially Pastor De Young and for all the people, let us pray to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P For our public servants, police officers, fire fighters, civil servants and for all in the government that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place especially those serving in the military and support forces let us pray to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the LORD great and abundant mercy let us pray to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with You let us give thanks to the LORD.

C **LORD, have Mercy.**

P Help, Save, Comfort, and Defend us Gracious LORD...Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our LORD.

C **To You, O LORD.**

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE [LSB: 251]

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 the merits of

Jesus Christ, our Savior, ☩ Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER [LSB: 251]

P LORD, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

SERMON: *"Empty Words"*

Psalms 41:5

HYMN INTRODUCTION

P The text of *"My Song Is Love Unknown"* was written in the seventeenth century by Samuel Crossman, an English clergyman who used the poetry of the great British poet George Herbert as his inspiration and model. In his poem *"Love Unknown,"* Herbert reflected on the Mystery of God's Grace and the conflict between human sin and Christ's Love for sinful people. In stanza 4 of the hymn, some of the Miracles, the "Sweet Injuries" that Jesus gave to those He Healed, are recalled, and the harsh and cruel response of the crowds to the Suffering Savior are remembered.

HYMN: *"My Song is Love Unknown"* [LSB: 430]

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

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.**

BENEDICTION

P The Almighty and Merciful LORD, the Father, the **✠** Son, and the Holy Spirit, Bless and Preserve you.
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “*Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow*” [LSB: 880]

Acknowledgments:

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Worship Schedule

Mid – Week Lenten Services Every Wednesday Night
Soup Supper – 6:00 p.m.
Worship Service – 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Holy (Maundy) Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. service

Good Friday

Friday, March 29, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. service

EASTER

March 31, 2024 – 6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School (Easter Egg Hunt) /Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

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