

## MIDWEEK OF LENT 1

MARCH 1, 2023

### SALT THAT SWEETENS AND PRESERVES

We are blessed to be God’s children—cleansed of sin, renewed by the Spirit, and salted in Christ Jesus. The promised treasures in God’s Word remind us of the importance of salt, which both sweetens and preserves things for our enjoyment. When Paul reminds us to let our conversations be “seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6), and when Jesus tells us that we are “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), the image is rich, for it is not only visual, but it also engages the sense of taste. We are reminded today that we are blessed to sweeten this world with the presence of Christ in us, even as Jesus Himself preserves our lives through His Word and Spirit.

#### OPENING SENTENCES

*LSB*, p. 229

- P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.  
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.  
**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.  
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

ANTHEM “A Walk of Love” (Janine Swain) *Junior Choir*

+ PSALMODY +

#### PSALM

*Psalms 107:28–36*

- P** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
**C** and He delivered them from their distress.

- P** He made the storm be still,  
**C** **and the waves of the sea were hushed.**
- P** Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,  
**C** **and He brought them to their desired haven.**
- P** Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,  
**C** **for His wondrous works to the children of men!**
- P** Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people,  
**C** **and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.**
- P** He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,  
**C** **a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants.**
- P** He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.  
**C** **And there He lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in.**
- 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.**

## HYMN

+ READINGS +

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

*The Lord's Supper*

READING

*Matthew 5:13–16*

- P** A reading from St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.  
<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.  
<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way,

let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY

*LSB*, p. 231

- P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
- C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**
- P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
- C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**
- P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
- C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

HYMN

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” *LSB* 423

SERMON

*Salt: The Gift That Sweetens and Preserves*

+ CANTICLE +

ANTIPHON

*LSB*, p. 231

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

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE

*LSB*, p. 233

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

*LSB*, p. 233

**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** Lord Jesus Christ...

BENEDICAMUS

*LSB*, p. 234

**P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

*LSB*, p. 234

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

HYMN

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