

## MIDWEEK OF LENT 4

MARCH 22, 2023

### BREAD OF LIFE

The bread we bake in our homes or buy from the store is good for today. But by tomorrow, it may be gone. The gifts we receive in this world satisfy us for a moment; however, the gifts we receive in the promised treasures of God's Word are gifts that are eternal. When Jesus describes Himself in John 6 as the bread of life, we know that He highlights for us His mission of salvation. As our bread of life, Jesus comes to forgive us, renew us, and lead us toward a meaningful life in relationship with Him. Let us taste and experience that life together this day as the Holy Spirit calls us to walk with Jesus and be satisfied by His presence among us.

#### 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.**

+ PSALMODY +

#### PSALM

*Psalm 19:7–10, 14*

- P** The law of the LORD is perfect,  
**C** **reviving the soul;**  
**P** the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
**C** **making wise the simple;**

**P** the precepts of the LORD are right,  
**C** **rejoicing the heart;**  
**P** the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
**C** **enlightening the eyes;**  
**P** the fear of the LORD is clean,  
**C** **enduring forever;**  
**P** the just decrees of the LORD are true,  
**C** **and righteous altogether.**  
**P** More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
**C** **sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**  
**P** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
**C** **be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**  
**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 Praetorium*

READING

*John 6:32–37*

**P** A reading from St. John, the sixth chapter.  
<sup>32</sup>Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup>They said to Him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”  
<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not

believe. <sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out.”

**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

“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” (*LSB* 625)

SERMON

*Bread of Life*

+ 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