



We are a Christian community called to **worship** and sent to **serve**,  
welcoming all to **walk** with Christ and **grow** in faith.

## AS WE GATHER

**Cross Word** In this service for Week 4 in Lent we remember that the promise, the message, the word of the cross, is an all-powerful, and that power is made perfect in weakness.

*“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18*

## INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## RESPONSIVE READING

*Psalm 111*

**P** Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**C** Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

**P** Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**C** He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

**P** He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

**C** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.  
Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN: “JESUS, REFUGE OF THE WEARY”

*LSB 423*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray together:

**C** Merciful Father, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that our eyes may ever behold our Savior and His cross, that we may not fear the power of any adversaries but rather rejoice in His victory for us; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 55:8–11*

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the  
LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from  
heaven

and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my  
mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

*1 Corinthians 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are  
perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the  
power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will  
thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the  
scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not  
God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For  
since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not

know God through wisdom, it pleased God  
through the folly of what we preach to save those  
who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks  
seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a  
stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,  
<sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and  
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom  
of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than  
men, and the weakness of God is stronger than  
men.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 16:21–23*

<sup>21</sup>From that time Jesus began to show his  
disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer  
many things from the elders and chief priests and  
scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be  
raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to  
rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord!

This shall never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned  
and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are  
a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your  
mind on the things of God, but on the things of  
man.”

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the  
virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into  
hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of  
sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

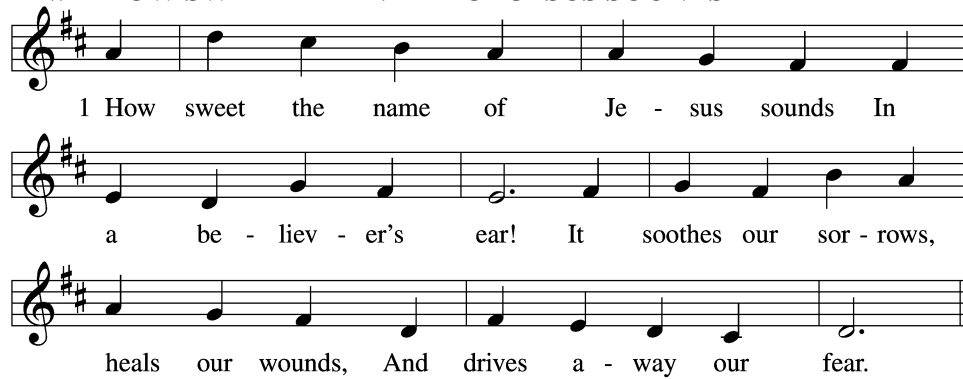
## LITTLE LAMBS CHOIR

*St. John's school kids, PreK 3 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

# HYMN: "HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS"

LSB 524 sts. 1, 7, 16-17



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In  
a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,  
heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.  
Tune: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799-1877  
Text: Public domain  
Tune: Public domain

7 The Father's purpose on the cross  
Our Savior has fulfilled;  
The love revealed, the promise kept  
In everything God willed.

16 In weakness God has shown his power,  
His strength in shame made known;  
A wreath of thorns his only crown,  
A dreadful cross his throne.

17 When we with Christ his weakness share,  
His pow'r in us is shown,  
The all-sufficient grace revealed  
That claims us as his own.

## SERMON

Main Points:

One thing NEW I learned:

What can I apply to my life?

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12, LSB 192



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Christ Crucified, the power of God for our salvation was revealed in the weakness of the cross. God of grace,
- C** **Your strength is made perfect in our weakness.**
- P** Christ Crucified, keep us faithful in our proclamation of your death and resurrection. Work through us by the power of your Spirit so that others will come to trust in you, the crucified and risen Lord, for their salvation. God of grace,
- C** **Your strength is made perfect in our weakness.**
- P** Christ Crucified, help us to bear the cross in our own lives, trusting that your power is at work in us. God of grace,
- C** **Your strength is made perfect in our weakness.**
- P** We lift to You Lord all those in need of prayer . . . Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- 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.**

## BENEDICTION

- P** For this purpose Christ came and for this purpose he died: to bring salvation to all. May the Lord who brought salvation to all through the cross bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you his peace.
- C** **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN: "IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY"

*LSB 427*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cross Purposes: A Series of Services for Lent and Holy Week, By Carol Geisler. © 2019 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved.  
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.