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## **A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS:**

Welcome to Saint Michael's Lutheran Church! We are a historic congregation committed to continuing the mission of Jesus Christ in our community. We are very excited to have you worshipping the Lord with us this evening. You are always welcome in our church! Here are a few helpful things to know about Saint Michael's:

- Our beautiful and historic church building was built in 1906. Unfortunately, this means that it was not built with restrooms. Restrooms are located in our education building next door.
- A changing table for infants is located in classroom 4 in the education building.
- During our worship service, attendance books will be passed across the pews. Please take a moment to register your presence with us in the book and include your address and phone number so we can follow up with you in the future.
- Our pastor, Rev. Nate Hill, is always willing to meet with you to answer any questions that you might have about our church and beliefs or to be of help in any way that he is able. Please introduce yourself to him this evening. He will be thrilled to meet you!

We hope that you find Saint Michael's to be a place where you feel at home as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

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## **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Saint Michael's Lutheran Church exists to worship God, love one another, and serve all people according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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# Midweek of Lent 4:

## Empty Words

## As We Gather

You are daily assailed by empty words: idle small talk, advertising slogans, and news reports that play on your fears. Political and business leaders spew cant, clichés, and spin. Perhaps even your friends and family get in on the act, betraying you with flattery and falsehoods. King David was only too familiar with such afflictions: “When one comes to see me,” he said, “he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad” (Psalm 41:6). Our Lord’s powerful Word was David’s refuge from vain and malicious talk. It is your refuge too. In Baptism, Jesus Christ has lifted you out of the verbal cesspool and placed you firmly on the rock of His Word. That Word is never empty, but it shall accomplish that which He purposes for you.

### Hymn

*“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”*

LSB #438

### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

*Psalm 145:10-13*

**P** All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,

**C** and all Your saints shall bless You!

**P** They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and tell of Your power,

**C** to make known to the children of man Your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.

**P** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

**C** The LORD is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.

### Call to Confession

**P** Let us make our confession to our God, seeking His grace and forgiveness.

## Hymn

*"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"*

LSB #610 sts. 1, 4



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;



From world - ly pas-sions set me free And make me pure with - in.  
Through dark-ness and per-plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.

## Absolution

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**C** Amen.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

O pitying Lord Jesus, grant us of Your gentleness and forbearance, of Your compassion and love, and of Your tenderheartedness, that filled with Your grace we may always find fitting and salutary words to speak and willingly forgive the wrongs and evils done us. This we ask in Your precious and mighty name.

**C** Amen.

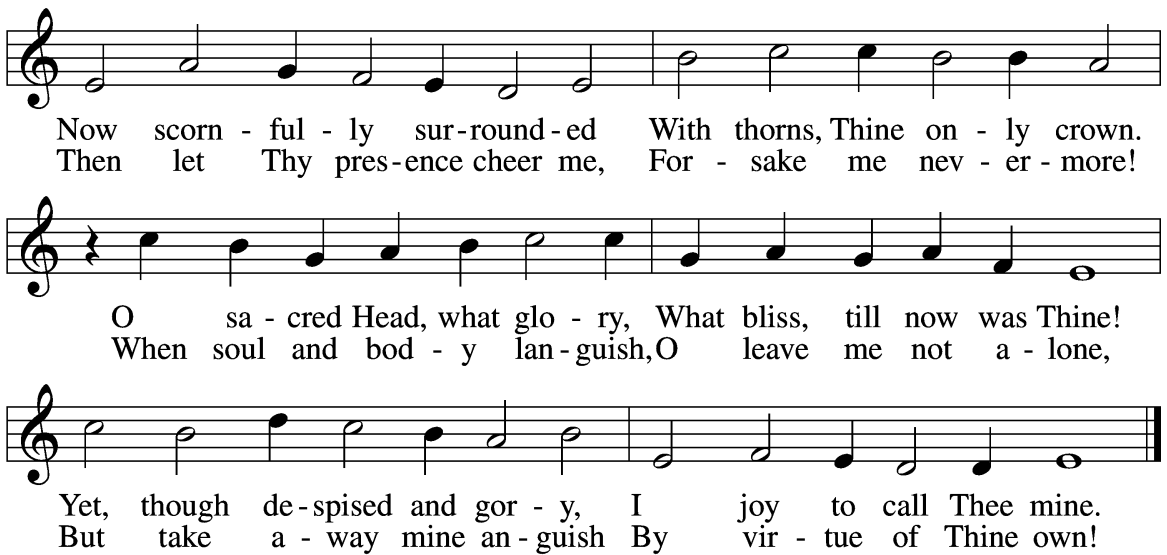
## Hymn

*"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

LSB #450 sts. 1, 6



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weighed down,  
6 My Sav - ior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
Then let Thy pres-ence cheer me, For - sake me nev - er - more!

O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
When soul and bod - y lan-guish, O leave me not a - lone,

Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
But take a - way mine an - guish By vir - tue of Thine own!

## Old Testament Reading

Psalm 52:1-9

- <sup>1</sup>Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?  
The steadfast love of God endures all the day.
- <sup>2</sup>Your tongue plots destruction,  
like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.
- <sup>3</sup>You love evil more than good,  
and lying more than speaking what is right.
- <sup>4</sup>You love all words that devour,  
O deceitful tongue.
- <sup>5</sup>But God will break you down forever;  
He will snatch and tear you from your tent;  
He will uproot you from the land of the living.
- <sup>6</sup>The righteous shall see and fear,  
and shall laugh at him, saying,
- <sup>7</sup>"See the man who would not make  
God his refuge,  
but trusted in the abundance of his riches  
and sought refuge in his own destruction!"
- <sup>8</sup>But I am like a green olive tree  
in the house of God.  
I trust in the steadfast love of God  
forever and ever.
- <sup>9</sup>I will thank You forever,  
because You have done it.

I will wait for Your name, for it is good,  
in the presence of the godly.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Series Psalm

Psalm 41:6-8

**P** May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make His face to shine upon us.

**C May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make His face to shine upon us.**

**P** And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,  
while his heart gathers iniquity;  
when he goes out, he tells it abroad.  
All who hate me whisper together about me;  
they imagine the worst for me.  
They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him;  
he will not rise again from where he lies."

**C May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make His face to shine upon us.**

## Epistle Reading

James 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup>Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse

people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

*“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”*

LSB #422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:57-62

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

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

<sup>57</sup>Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup>And Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. <sup>59</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, <sup>60</sup>but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup>and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” <sup>62</sup>And the high priest stood up and said, “Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?”

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

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

**Hymn**

*“In Silent Pain the Eternal Son”*

LSB #432

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

*“Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord”*

LSB #777

**Offering**

*(Please sign the attendance books as they are passed)*

Ushers

*If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online,  
you may do so at [www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give](http://www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give)*



**Offertory**

**C** 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.

## The Litany

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** God the Father in heaven,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Holy Spirit,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;

From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;

From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;

By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat;

by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;

By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You

**C to hear us, O Lord.**

**P** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need; To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** grant us Your peace.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy. Amen.

## 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.

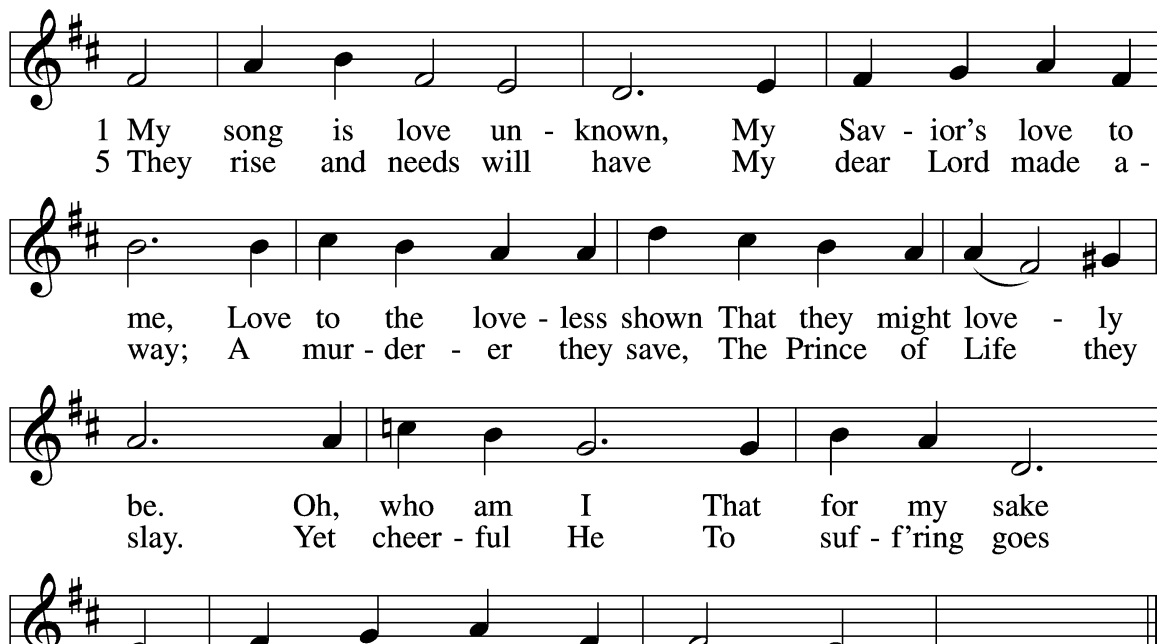
## Hymn Introduction

**P** In the fifth stanza of “My Song Is Love Unknown,” author Samuel Crossman makes a singular word choice as he poetically writes of Jesus: “Yet cheerful He to suffering goes that He His foes from thence might free.” The use of the word *cheerful* may be surprising, but its derivation comes from the Middle English *chere*, meaning “face” or “demeanor.” Originally, it related to an individual’s bearing. Jesus went through His time of suffering for us with a noble bearing and in a triumphant way, and He was happy to set us free even if it meant suffering. The Prince of Life turned the cross of sorrow and shame into a tree of salvation and beauty!

# Hymn

*"My Song Is Love Unknown"*

LSB #430 sts. 1, 5



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -  
 me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
 way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they  
 be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
 slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes  
 My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
 That He His foes From thence might free.

## 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.

# Hymn

*"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

LSB #427