

Stand

Opening Versicles

L This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

L Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

L Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Make His paths straight.

L Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

C Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**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.**

Old Testament Canticle *(Sung by Dcs. Janet Nicol)*

LSB 261

**C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.
With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.**

And you will say in that day:

**“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name,
make known His deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that His name is exalted.”**

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;

let this be made known in all the earth.

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

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.

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

Psalm 85 Read Responsively

¹LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

²**You forgave the iniquity of your | people;***
you covered | all their sin.

³You withdrew | all your wrath;*
you turned from your hot | anger.

⁴**Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,***
and put away your indignation | toward us!

⁵Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?

⁶**Will you not revive | us again,***
that your people may re- | joice in you?

⁷Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

⁸**Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,***
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to | folly.

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰**Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;***
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

¹¹Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

¹²**Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,***
and our land will yield its | increase.

¹³Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory

- L** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L** He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Stand

Ten Commandments

- C** **You shall have no other gods.**
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

**☐ 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.**

Lord's Prayer

**☐ 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.**

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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| 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings! | 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay. |
| 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there. | 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place. |

△ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Offerings placed in the offering plates at entrance to sanctuary

Stand

Prayer

- Ⓛ In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- Ⓒ **Lord, have mercy.**
- Ⓛ For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- Ⓒ **Lord, have mercy.**
- Ⓛ For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- Ⓒ **Lord, have mercy.**
- Ⓛ For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- Ⓒ **Lord, have mercy.**
- Ⓛ For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- Ⓒ **Lord, have mercy.**
- Ⓛ For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- Ⓒ **Lord, have mercy.**

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

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

Collect of the Day

L Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.**

C Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.
Raised from the dead, He will never die again.
Death has no more dominion over Him.**

Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Dying, Christ dies to sin, once for all.
Living, He lives to God.
Count yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.

Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C **Amen.**

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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