

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

EVENING PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

John 8:12

C: the Light no darkness can overcome.

John 1:5

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening

C: and the day is almost over.

Luke 24:49

P: Let your light scatter the darkness

1 Corinthians 4:5

C: and illumine your church.

2 Corinthians 4:6

THE HYMN OF LIGHT

O Trinity, Most Blessed Light

#564 TLH

**O Trinity, Most Blessed Light, O Unity of sov'reign might;
As now the fiery sun departs, Shed Thou Thy beams within our hearts.**

**To Thee our morning song of praise, To Thee our evening prayer we raise;
Thee may our glory evermore In lowly reverence adore.**

**All praise to God the Father be, All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forever more. Amen.**

THE THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Let us pray.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE PSALMODY — Psalm 104:10-18

P: You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills;

C: they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

P: Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches.

C: From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

P: You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth

C: and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

P: The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

C: In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

P: The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.

ALL: 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 PRAYER FOR THE EVENING

P: Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C: Amen.

[A moment of silence is observed.]

THE CONFESSION

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

P: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C: Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

The First Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 17.

The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, propound a riddle, and speak a parable to the house of Israel; say, Thus says the Lord GOD: A great eagle with great wings and long pinions, rich in plumage of many colors, came to Lebanon and took the top of the cedar. He broke off the topmost of its young twigs and carried it to a land of trade and set it in a city of merchants. Then he took of the seed of the land and planted it in fertile soil. He placed it beside abundant waters. He set it like a willow twig, and it sprouted and became a low spreading vine, and its branches turned toward him, and its roots remained where it stood. So it became a vine and produced branches and put out boughs. "And there was another great eagle with great wings and much plumage, and behold, this vine bent its roots toward him and shot forth its branches toward him from the bed where it was planted, that he might water it. It had been planted on good soil by abundant waters, that it might produce branches and bear fruit and become a noble vine. "Say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots and cut off its fruit, so that it withers, so that all its fresh sprouting leaves wither? It will not take a strong arm or many people to pull it from its roots. Behold, it is planted; will it thrive? Will it not utterly wither when the east wind strikes it--wither away on the bed where it sprouted?" Then the word of the LORD came to me: "Say now to the rebellious house, Do you not know what these things mean? Tell them, behold, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, and took her king and her princes and brought them to him to Babylon. And he took one of the royal offspring and made a covenant with him, putting him under oath (the chief men of the land he had taken away), that the kingdom

might be humble and not lift itself up, and keep his covenant that it might stand. But he rebelled against him by sending his ambassadors to Egypt, that they might give him horses and a large army. Will he thrive? Can one escape who does such things? Can he break the covenant and yet escape? "As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely in the place where the king dwells who made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant with him he broke, in Babylon he shall die. Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company will not help him in war, when mounds are cast up and siege walls built to cut off many lives. He despised the oath in breaking the covenant, and behold, he gave his hand and did all these things; he shall not escape. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: As I live, surely it is my oath that he despised, and my covenant that he broke. I will return it upon his head. I will spread my net over him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon and enter into judgment with him there for the treachery he has committed against me. And all the pick of his troops shall fall by the sword, and the survivors shall be scattered to every wind, and you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken." Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it." *Ezekiel 17:1-24*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading is from Mark, chapter four.

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." *Mark 4:30-32*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE VERSICLE

P: In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C: **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

Hebrews 1:1-2a

THE SERMON HYMN

God Has Spoken by His Prophets

LSB #540

**God has spoken by His prophets, Spoken His unchanging Word;
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the One, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil, One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is King, His throne eternal; God the first, and God the last.**

**God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory, With the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word Incarnate, God of God, before time was;
Light of Light, to earth descending, He reveals our God to us.**

**God is speaking by His Spirit, Speaking to our hearts again,
In the ageless Word declaring His own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations One sure faith yet standing fast;
God abides, His Word unchanging; God the first, and God the last.**

THE SERMON

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

TLH #275

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
My spirit shall in God rejoice;
My low estate He did regard,
Exalting me by gracious choice.

Henceforth all men shall call me blest,
For great things He hath done to me.
The mighty God is now my Guest;
The Holy One hath set me free.

His mercy is on all who fear,
Who trust in Him from age to age;
His arm of strength to all is near,
The proud He scatt' reth though they rage.

The strong He castest from their seat
And raiseth men of low degree;
To hungry souls He giveth meat,
The rich depart in poverty.

He helped His servant Israel;
Remembering His eternal grace,
As from of old He did foretell
To Abraham and all His race.

So praise with me the Holy One,
Who cometh in humility.
Divine Redeemer, God's own Son,
Eternal glory be to Thee!

THE PRAYERS

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our synod president, and for our district president, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our president, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For *(additional bids for prayer may be inserted here)*, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

(Silence for personal prayer.)

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole lives to Christ, our Lord:

C: To You, O Lord.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Glory Be to Jesus

#433

**Glory be to Jesus,
Who, in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!**

**Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind.**

**Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments
Did the world redeem.**

**Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.**

**Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts, rejoicing
Make their glad reply.**

**Lift we then our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!**

SILENT PRAYER

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.