



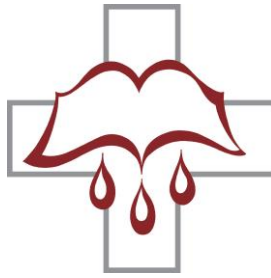
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH VESPERS OF LENT

Fourth Vespers of Lent

+ March 22, 2023 +

‘You Are the Salt of the World’



We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today,
and pray God’s richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

*LARGE PRINT worship folders are available
at the usher stand at the back of the nave.*

WELCOME:

“You are the salt of the whole earth. By your teachings and reproofs you act as an astringent upon the slack and the indolent, so that they will not breed worms that never die.”

– Blessed Theophylact, *The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew*

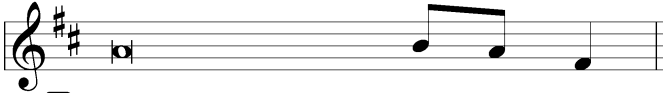
VESPERS

Congregants enter in silence for meditation and reflection.

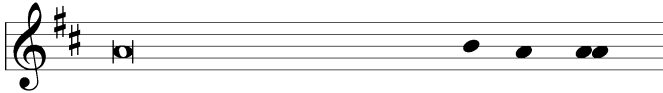
Please stand



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Lent: Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.



With my voice I cry out | to the LORD;*
with my voice I plead for mercy | to the LORD.

**I pour out my complaint be- | fore him;*
I tell my trouble be- | fore him.**

When my spirit faints within me, you | know my way!*
in the path where I walk they have hidden a | trap for me.

**Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice | of me;*
no refuge remains to me; no one cares | for my soul.**

I cry to you, | O LORD;*
I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the | living.”

**Attend to my cry, for I am brought | very low!*
Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too | strong for me!**

Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks | to your name!*
The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully | with me.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Please be seated

OFFICE HYMN

Preserve Your Word, O Savior

(Tune #724)

1 Preserve Your Word, O Savior,
To us this latter day,
And let Your kingdom flourish;
Enlarge Your Church, we pray.
O keep our faith from failing;
Keep hope’s bright star aglow.
Let nothing from truth turn us
While living here below.

2 Preserve, O Lord, Your honor,
The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten
The souls in error’s night.
Reveal Your will, dear Savior,
To all who dwell below,
Great light of all the living,
That all Your name may know.

3 Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion,
 Bought dearly with Your blood;
Protect what You have chosen
 Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender
 When dangers gather round;
When all the earth is crumbling,
 Safe may Your Church be found.

4 Preserve Your Word and preaching,
 The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Your glory,
 The pow'r that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water,
 This dew of heav'nly grace,
Sustain us while here living
 Until we see Your face.

5 Preserve in wave and tempest
 Your storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather,
 May it endure each shock.
Stand at the helm, our pilot,
 And set the course aright;
Then we will reach the harbor
 In Your eternal light.

FIRST READING

Micah 7:1-10

Woe is me! For I have become
 as when the summer fruit has been gathered,
 as when the grapes have been gleaned:
there is no cluster to eat,
 no first-ripe fig that my soul desires.
The godly has perished from the earth,
 and there is no one upright among mankind;
they all lie in wait for blood,
 and each hunts the other with a net.
Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well;
 the prince and the judge ask for a bribe,
and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul;
 thus they weave it together.
The best of them is like a brier,
 the most upright of them a thorn hedge.
The day of your watchmen, of your punishment, has come;
 now their confusion is at hand.
Put no trust in a neighbor;
 have no confidence in a friend;
guard the doors of your mouth

from her who lies in your arms;
for the son treats the father with contempt,
the daughter rises up against her mother,
the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

But as for me, I will look to the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.

Rejoice not over me, O my enemy;
when I fall, I shall rise;
when I sit in darkness,
the LORD will be a light to me.

I will bear the indignation of the LORD
because I have sinned against him,
until he pleads my cause
and executes judgment for me.

He will bring me out to the light;
I shall look upon his vindication.

Then my enemy will see,
and shame will cover her who said to me,
“Where is the LORD your God?”

My eyes will look upon her;
now she will be trampled down
like the mire of the streets.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

RESPONSORY



L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.



C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

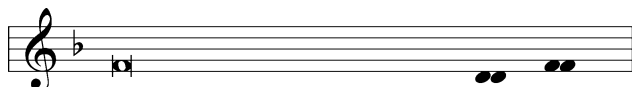
Please be seated

SERMON

Salt

Please stand

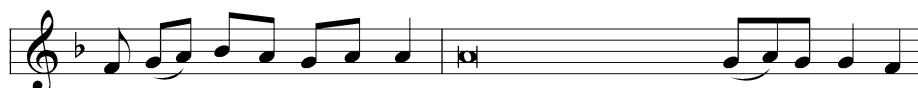
MAGNIFICAT



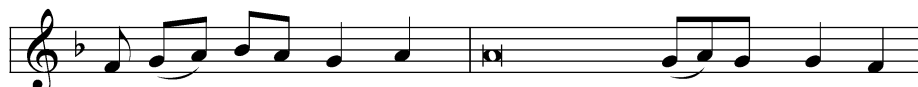
L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re - gard - ed the lowliness of His hand - maid - en.



II For be - hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



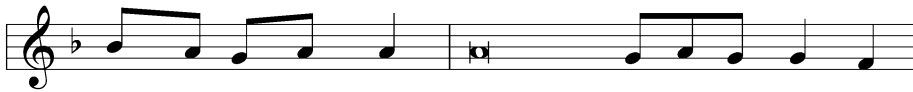
II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



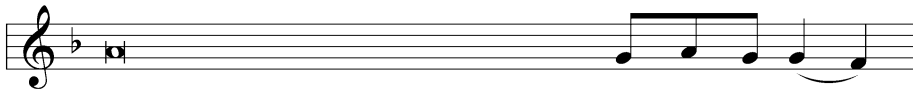
imagination of their hearts. II He has cast down the



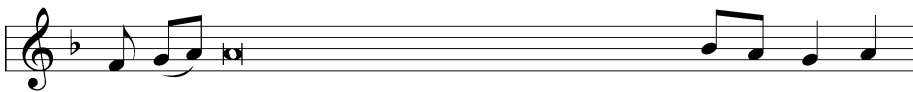
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



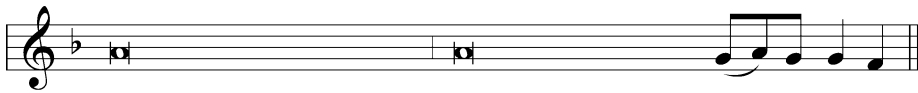
I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

COLLECTS

L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

L Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

L 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 A - men.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Psalm 103:1



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

Let Me Be Thine Forever

#689

Acknowledgments

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Serving Tonight:

Pastor: Rev. George Fields

Organist: Sr. Sara Fields

Interpreter: Denee Smith

Cantor: Carol Yenish



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102
Church phone: (601) 366-2055
www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org