

March 22, 2023

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

582 | *Not Unto Us*

PLEASE STAND



The opening responses ask for the Lord's gracious presence as we gather for worship. Consider the third response to be a blessing — first spoken by the pastor to the congregation, and then by the congregation to the pastor.

M: O Lord, open my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

Let My Prayer Rise Before You

Psalm 141



C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



Psalms play a key role in evening worship. Psalm 141 is traditionally used because the theme of the Psalm focuses on evening time. It is then followed by a Psalm that fits the season of the Church.

Prayer

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in our time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.



Psalm 130

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone

*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;*
O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive*
to my cry for mercy.

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,*
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness;*
therefore you are feared.

Refrain

I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.*
My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,*
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

**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.**

Refrain

Prayer

M: God our Father, you are rich in mercy, and there is forgiveness with you that you may be feared. Do not remember our sins, but blot them out for the sake of Jesus, who has redeemed us by his precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. Lead us to put our hope in you, for with you is unfailing love. Amen.

C: **Amen.**

Passion History Reading

Luke 23:1-25

Trial before Pilate

Then the whole assembly rose and led him [Jesus] off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."

So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

Hymn

Sermon

Ezekiel 16:1-14

Salvation for the Utterly Helpless

The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Jerusalem: Your ancestry and birth were in the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean, nor were you rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths. No one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised.

“ ‘Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, “Live!” I made you grow like a plant of the field. You grew up and developed and became the most beautiful of jewels. Your breasts were formed and your hair grew, you who were naked and bare.

“ ‘Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign Lord, and you became mine.

“ ‘I bathed you with water and washed the blood from you and put ointments on you. I clothed you with an embroidered dress and put leather sandals on you. I dressed you in fine linen and covered you with costly garments. I adorned you with jewelry: I put bracelets on your arms and a necklace around your neck, and I put a ring on your nose, earrings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. So you were adorned with gold and silver; your clothes were of fine linen and costly fabric and embroidered cloth. Your food was fine flour, honey and olive oil. You became very beautiful and rose to be a queen. And your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, because the splendor I had given you made your beauty perfect, declares the Sovereign LORD.’ ”



Song of Mary


Magnificat

Martin Luther considered Mary's Song to be one of the greatest statements of faith in the Bible. It is the custom of the Church to use this song in evening worship as we join with Mary to await the fulfillment of all God's promises.

C: My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the



proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y



from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.



He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich



he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the



help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his



prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,



to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

PLEASE STAND



The basis of this prayer is that we seek God's mercy in all areas of our lives. As we close our day with worship, we ask for God's mercy for a wide variety of people.

Prayers

M: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



C: Thanks be to God.

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



C: A - men.

Special Prayers may be spoken here.

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.

This prayer
comes to us
from the
early
Christian
Church.

Prayer for Peace

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

C: *(sing)* **Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt—
None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.** (Hymn 430 v. 4)



Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



C: A - men.

PLEASE BE SEATED



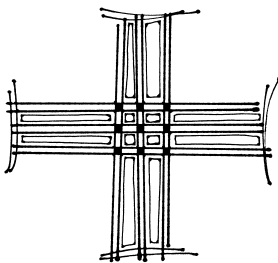
Closing Hymn

790 | *Before the Ending of the Day*

Serving In Worship

Presiding Minister and Preacher
Pastor Tim Wempner

Organist
Debra Aufdemberge



Acknowledgements

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"I have done as you commanded."

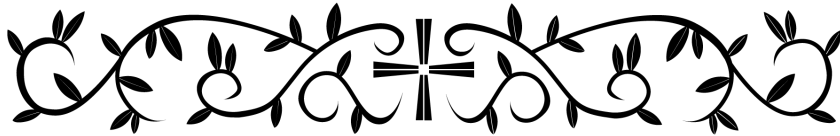
Ezekiel 9:11

Pictures of Jesus in Ezekiel

March 29

Ezekiel 4

Defiled People





Holy Week Worship Schedule

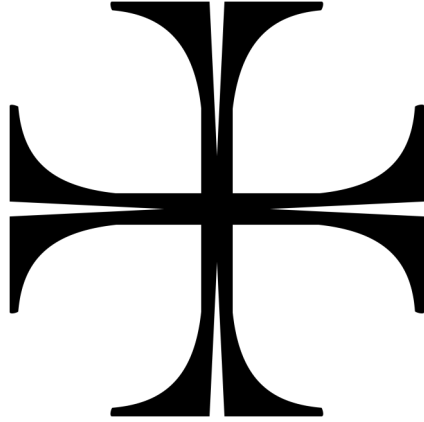
Maundy Thursday Services with Communion on April 6 –
3:30pm and 6:30pm

Fish Fry Dinner hosted by Kingdom Prep Lutheran High
School 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Good Friday Services (with Communion) on April 7 –
1:00pm and 6:30pm

Holy Saturday Service (Tenebrae) on April 8 at 5:00pm

Easter Sunday Services on April 9 at 8:00am & 10:30am



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH