

March 8, 2023

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

409 | *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*



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.

PLEASE STAND

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 4

In the front of the hymnals

Prayer

M: Lord, do not remember the sins of our youth and our rebellious ways. Remember instead the great mercy and love that you have shown your people for hundreds of generations. Forgive our sins and teach us to live lives of integrity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**



Passion History Reading

Luke 22:39-54

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

Jesus Arrested

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance.

Hymn

813 | *He Will Hold Me Fast*

Sermon

Ezekiel 20:45-49

Take This Message Seriously

The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, set your face toward the south; preach against the south and prophesy against the forest of the southland. Say to the southern forest: ‘Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am about to set fire to you, and it will consume all your trees, both green and dry. The blazing flame will not be quenched, and every face from south to north will be scorched by it. Everyone will see that I the LORD have kindled it; it will not be quenched.’ ”

Then I said, “Ah, Sovereign LORD! They are saying of me, ‘Isn’t he just telling parables?’ ”



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.

1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the

great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He

fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion

bles - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is
 hal - ted; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the

sole - ly Might - y and ho - ly— Oh, sing the
 hun - gry; Emp - ty, the wealth - y— Oh, sing the

great - ness of God the Lord! His ten - der mer - cy Shall rest se -
 great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the to - ken All that was

cure - ly On all who fear Him, Love and re -
 spo - ken To A - br'am's off - spring God is ful -

vere Him— Oh, sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
 fill - ing— Oh, sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

PLEASE STAND

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

This prayer comes to us from the early Christian Church.

Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part



ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen



your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry



peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



This traditional song used in evening worship weaves together thoughts of preparation, forgiveness, and praise. Seeing Jesus in his Word gives us joy as we close our day.

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: **Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

Closing Hymn

396 vs. 1, 6-7 | *Christ, the Life of All the Living*

Serving In Worship

Presiding Minister and Preacher

Pastor Ben Wessel

Organist

Debra Aufdemberge

Acknowledgements

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“I have done as you commanded.”

Ezekiel 9:11

Pictures of Jesus in Ezekiel

March 15

Ezekiel 9:4

Foreheads Marked

March 22

Ezekiel 16

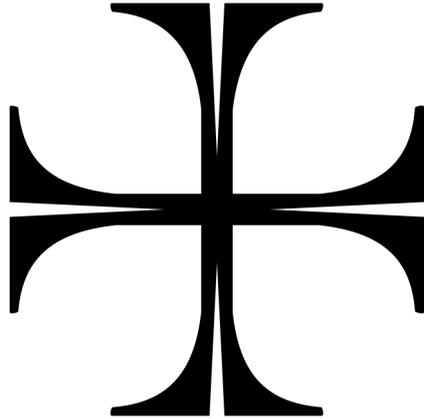
Salvation for the Utterly Helpless

March 29

Ezekiel 4

Defiled People





LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH