



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF
OUR SAVIOR**

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*A member
congregation of
The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod (LCMS)*

Let at Last Thine Angels Come

Preparing to Face Death with Certain Hope



Lazarus Carried by the Angels to Heaven. Public domain. Artist unknown, 1873

Lenten Midweek Series
2024

Service of Prayer and Preaching

"Jesus Has Prepared for Us Far Better"

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

671



1 Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, Sing the res - ur -
 2 Oh, what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing All that eye has
 3 Life e - ter - nal! Heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who



rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,
 yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing
 once was dead. Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!



To the for - mer days be - long. All a - round the
 Nev - er that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,
 Child of God, lift up your head! Life e - ter - nal!



clouds are break - ing; Soon the storms of time shall
 Christ pre - pares it; There on high our wel - come
 Oh, what won - ders Crowd on faith; what joy un -



cease; In God's like - ness we a - wak - en,
 waits. Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it,
 known, When, a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders,



Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
 Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
 Saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

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OPENING VERSICLES

Psalm 118:24; Psalm 113:3; Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5

P *This is the day which the Lord has made;*

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P *From the rising of the sun to its setting,*

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

P *Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,*

C **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**

P *Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,*

C **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

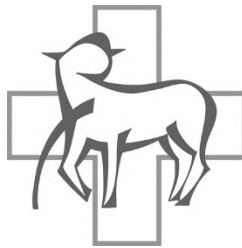
P *Christ was wounded for our transgressions.*

C **He was bruised for our iniquities.**

P *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

Isaiah 12:2b-6

Refrain

☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

With joy will you draw wa - ter from the

wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that

day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,

make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -

claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done

glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the

earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

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.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

P A reading from *Philippians*, the first and third chapters.

¹⁹[F]or I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²⁴For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ...

⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ...

²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

P *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody:

Psalm 90



P ¹Lord, you have been our | dwelling place*
in all gener- | ations.

C ²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth | and the world,*
from everlasting to everlasting | you are God.

P ³You return | man to dust*
and say, "Return, O chil- | dren of man!"

C ⁴For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when | it is past,*
or as a watch | in the night.

continued

P ⁵*You sweep them away as | with a flood;**
they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the | morning:

C ⁶**in the morning it flourishes and | is renewed,***
in the evening it fades and | withers.

P ⁷*For we are brought to an end by your | anger;**
by your wrath we | are dismayed.

C ⁸**You have set our iniquities be- | fore you,***
our secret sins in the light of your | presence.

P ⁹*For all our days pass away un- | der your wrath;**
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

C ¹⁰**The years of our life are seventy,**
or even by reason of strength | eighty;*
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we | fly away.

P ¹¹*Who considers the power of your | anger,**
and your wrath according to the | fear of you?

C ¹²**So teach us to number | our days***
that we may get a heart of | wisdom.

P ¹³*Return, O LORD! | How long?**
Have pity on your | servants!

C ¹⁴**Satisfy us in the morning with your | steadfast love,***
that we may rejoice and be glad | all our days.

P ¹⁵*Make us glad for as many days as you have af- | flicted us,**
and for as many years as we have seen | evil.

C ¹⁶**Let your work be shown to your | servants,***
and your glorious power to their | children.

P ¹⁷*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,*
*and establish the work of our hands up- | on us;**
yes, establish the work | of our hands!

C **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.

P *A reading from St. John, the fourteenth and sixth chapters.*

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ...

³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

P *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**



RESPONSORY

1 John 2:1; [Mark 10:33]; Psalm 32:1

P *We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P *We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

(One or more of the following parts of the Small Catechism may be spoken.)

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

C 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

*(*notes brief pause as bell tone rings, after which the Prayer continues)*

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.*



1 The Bride - groom soon will call us, "Come to the wed - ding feast."
 2 There shall we see in glo - ry Our dear Re - deem - er's face;
 3 There God shall from all e - vil For - ev - er make us free,
 4 In that fair home shall nev - er Be si - lent mu - sic's voice;



May slum - ber not be - fall us Nor watch - ful - ness de - crease.
 The long - a - wait - ed sto - ry Of heav'n - ly joy takes place:
 From sin and from the dev - il, From all ad - ver - si - ty,
 With hearts and lips for - ev - er We shall in God re - joice,



May all our lamps be burn - ing With oil e - nough and more
 The pa - tri - archs shall meet us, The proph - ets' ho - ly band;
 From sick - ness, pain, and sad - ness, From trou - bles, cares, and fears,
 While an - gel hosts are rais - ing With saints from great to least



That we, with Him re - turn - ing, May find an o - pen door!
 A - pos - tles, mar - tyrs greet us In that ce - les - tial land.
 And grant us heav'n - ly glad - ness And wipe a - way our tears.
 A might - y hymn for prais - ing The Giv - er of the feast.

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SERMON

"Jesus Has Prepared for Us Far Better"

Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om
bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And
in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in
peace-ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from
death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -
tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

PRAYER

P *In peace let us pray to the Lord:*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *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:*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P *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.**

P *For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, 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 *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

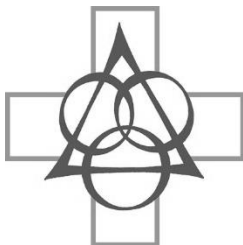
P *O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P *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.

EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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. Amen.

CANTICLE



1 In peace and joy I now de - part Since God so wills it.
2 Christ Je - sus brought this gift to me, My faith - ful Sav - ior,
3 You sent the peo - ple of the earth Their great sal - va - tion;
4 Christ is the hope and sav - ing light Of those in blind - ness;



Se - rene and con - fi - dent my heart; Still - ness fills it.
Whom You have made my eyes to see By Your fa - vor.
Your in - vi - ta - tion sum - mons forth Ev - 'ry na - tion
He guides and com - forts those in night By His kind - ness.



For the Lord has prom - ised me That death is but a slum - ber.
Now I know He is my life, My friend when I am dy - ing.
By Your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, In ev - 'ry place re - sound - ing.
For Your peo - ple Is - ra - el In Him find joy and glo - ry.

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BLESSING

Psalm 103:1

P *Let us bless the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

C **Amen.**



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
 Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
 Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
 strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more; Feed me till I want no more.
 shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.
 Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
 4 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still if Thou a - bide with me!
 In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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