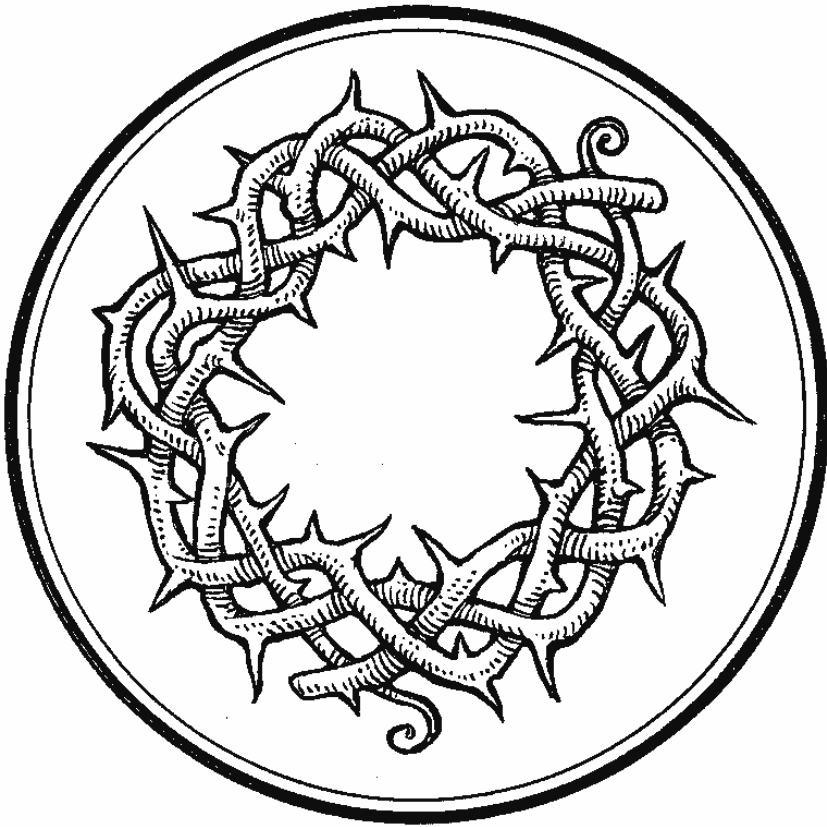


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

# *Lenten Vespers*



*Our Savior Lutheran Church*

*Westminster, MA*

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

*Introduction to the Recorded Service*

TLH 41: THE OPENING VERSICLES

*O Lord, open Thou my lips,*  
**and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.**

*Psalm 51:15*

*Make haste, O God, to deliver me;*  
**make haste to help me, O Lord.**

*Psalm 70:1*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

THE PSALMODY: PSALM 112

*Praise the LORD! Blessèd is the man who fears the LORD,*  
**who greatly delights in His commandments!**

*His offspring will be mighty in the land;*  
**the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

*Wealth and riches are in his house,*  
**and his righteousness endures forever.**

*Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;*  
**he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

*It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;*  
**who conducts his affairs with justice.**

*For the righteous will never be moved;*  
**he will be remembered forever.**

*He is not afraid of bad news;*  
**his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.**

*His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,*  
**until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.**

*He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;*  
**his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.**

*The wicked man sees it and is angry; he gnashes his teeth and melts away;*  
**the desire of the wicked will perish!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## The Reading of God's Word: Exodus 20:15 & Luke 19:1–10

Response after the reading:  
O Lord, have mercy on us.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE LENTEN RESPONSORY

Psalm 51:14; 59:1; 141:8

*Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.*

**Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

*In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.*

**Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

*Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.*

**Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

TUNE: TLH 142—HYMN: A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH

[Link to the music on YouTube](#) (it may open with an advertisement)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,<br/>The guilt of sinners bearing<br/>And, laden with the sins of earth,<br/>None else the burden sharing;<br/>Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,<br/>To slaughter led without complaint,<br/>That spotless life to offer;<br/>He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,<br/>The mockery, and yet replies,<br/>"All this I gladly suffer."</p> <p>2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,<br/>The Lamb of God, our Savior,<br/>Whom God the Father chose to send<br/>To gain for us His favor.<br/>"Go forth, My Son," the Father said,<br/>"And free My children from their dread<br/>Of guilt and condemnation.<br/>The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,<br/>But by Your passion they will share<br/>The fruit of Your salvation."</p> | <p>3 "Yes, Father, yes, most willingly<br/>I'll bear what You command Me.<br/>My will conforms to Your decree,<br/>I'll do what You have asked Me."<br/>O wondrous Love, what have You done!<br/>The Father offers up His Son,<br/>Desiring our salvation.<br/>O Love, how strong You are to save!<br/>You lay Him low within a grave<br/>Who built the earth's foundation.</p> <p>4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see<br/>And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,<br/>Your blood my royal robe shall be,<br/>My joy beyond all measure!<br/>When I appear before Your throne,<br/>Your righteousness shall be my crown;<br/>With these I need not hide me.<br/>And there, in garments richly wrought,<br/>As Your own bride shall we be brought<br/>To stand in joy beside You.</p> |
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## *The Sermon*

### *The Small Catechism*

*What is the Seventh Commandment?*

**You shall not steal.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.**

TUNE: TLH 179—HYMN: ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE

[Link to the music on YouTube](#) (it may open with an advertisement)

**On my heart imprint Your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation!**

Text: Public domain

TLH 42–44: THE MAGNIFICAT CANTICLE

Luke 1:46–55

*Let my prayers be set forth before Thee as incense,  
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

**My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.**

**For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden:**

**For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.**

**For He that is mighty hath done to me great things and holy is His name.**

**And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.**

**He hath showed strength with His arm.**

**He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

**He hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree.**

**He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich He hath sent empty away.**

**He hath holpen His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy**

**as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*Lord, have mercy.*

**Christ, have mercy.**

*Lord, have mercy.*

*God the Father in heaven*

**Have mercy.**

*God the Son, Redeemer of the world,*

**Have mercy.**

*God the Holy Spirit,*

**Have mercy.**

*Jesus, Son of the living God,*

**Have mercy.**

*From all evil,*

**O Jesus, deliver us.**

*From sudden, unprepared, or evil death;*

*From the snares of the devil;*

*From anger, hatred or ill-will;*

*From everlasting death,*

**O Jesus, deliver us.**

*By the mystery of Your incarnation;*

*By Your most holy life and conversation;*

*By Your most bitter Passion and death;*

*By Your agony and bloody sweat;*

*By Your thrice-repeated prayer;*

*By Your bonds and stripes;*

*By Your sacred body, buffeted and smitten;*

*By the spitting upon Your adorable face;*

*By the false judgment pronounced by Caiaphas;*

*By Herod's disdain of You;*

*By the shameful stripping of Your garments;*

*By Your painful crown of thorns;*

*By Your purple robe of mockery;*

*By Your most unjust condemnation;*

*By Your bearing Your own cross;*

*By Your footprints to the place of death;*

*By the tearing off of Your garments;*

*By the cruel straining of Your sacred limbs;*

*By Your dread crucifixion;  
By the anguish You did suffer;  
By Your prayers and tears;  
By the insults You endured;  
By the shedding of Your most precious blood;  
By Your patience and humility;  
By the love with which You loved us to the end:*

**O Jesus, deliver us.**

*We poor sinners implore You to hear us:*

**O most loving Jesus.**

*That being dead to sin, we may live unto righteousness;  
That we may not glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
That we may take up our cross daily and follow You;  
That Your blood may cleanse us from dead works to serve the living God;  
That looking on Your example, we may follow Your steps;  
That being partakers of Your sufferings, we may be also partakers of Your glory:*

**We implore You to hear us, O Jesus.**

*To give comfort and relief to [\_\_\_\_\_] and to all who have asked for our prayers:*

**We implore You to hear us, O Jesus.**

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*

**Have mercy.**

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*

**Have mercy.**

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*

**Grant us Your peace. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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.**

THE SUNDAY COLLECT

*O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

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. **Amen.**

TLH 45: THE BENEDICAMUS

[Psalm 103:1]

*Bless we the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

TLH 45: THE BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

*The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.*

**Amen.**

TUNE: TLH 143—HYMN: O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN?

[Link to the music on YouTube](#) (it may open with an advertisement)

- 8 O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!  
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?  
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer?  
What dare I offer?**
- 9 For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder—  
Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.  
Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee!  
Can I requite Thee?**
- 10 Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;  
I will renounce whate'er doth vex or grieve Thee  
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly  
All fires unholy.**
- 11 But since my strength will nevermore suffice me  
To crucify desires that still entice me,  
To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me  
And reign within me!**

Text: Public domain

## Services in Light of COVID-19

The midweek services scheduled for March 18 and 25 and April 1 will be recorded and posted to [www.oursaviorlcms.com](http://www.oursaviorlcms.com).

The proclamation of the Word will continue, so that we may live as Christians in these turbulent times and conduct ourselves in ways that confess Christ and glorify our Father.

### **Lenten Theme: The Second Table of God's Law**

The theme for our Lenten Vespers services is the second table of God's law, the Fourth through Tenth Commandments (*study them at [catechism.cph.org](http://catechism.cph.org)*). As God's law reflects your sin, He drives you to repentance and faith in your Lord Jesus Christ, who both kept the entire law on your behalf and suffered the punishment you justly deserve.

On Ash Wednesday, we heard how the Lord Jesus restores you to your Father in heaven by obeying His Father's will (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:1–2, 4–15, [sermon](#)).

Like the patriarch Joseph, our Lord Jesus was brought low and then raised up to preserve life (March 4: Exodus 20:13; Genesis 45:3–15, *no sermon manuscript or audio available*).

The marriage of Adam and Eve is a picture of the Lord as our faithful bridegroom who gave Himself for His bride, the Church (March 11: Exodus 20:14; Genesis 2:15–24, [sermon](#)).

Salvation came to Zacchaeus the tax collector through the Lord's generosity (March 18: Exodus 20:15; Luke 19:1–10).

On March 25, nine months before Christmas, we celebrate the Annunciation of Our Lord, when Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:10–14; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38).

According to the flesh, Jesus was descended from David, whose honor and reputation were defended by Jonathan, even as He would later be denounced by false witnesses (April 1: Exodus 20:16; 1 Samuel 19:1–7).

On Maundy Thursday (April 9), we see how our Lord took the form of a servant, turned His heart toward us, and gave His true body and blood for our contentment (Exodus 12:1–14, 20:17; 1 Corinthians 11:23–32; John 13:1–17, 31b–35).

Finally, on Good Friday (April 10), the darkness and wrath threatened against the people of Israel at Mount Sinai falls upon Jesus in His crucifixion as He bears the full weight of our punishment (Exodus 20:18–21 and passion account).