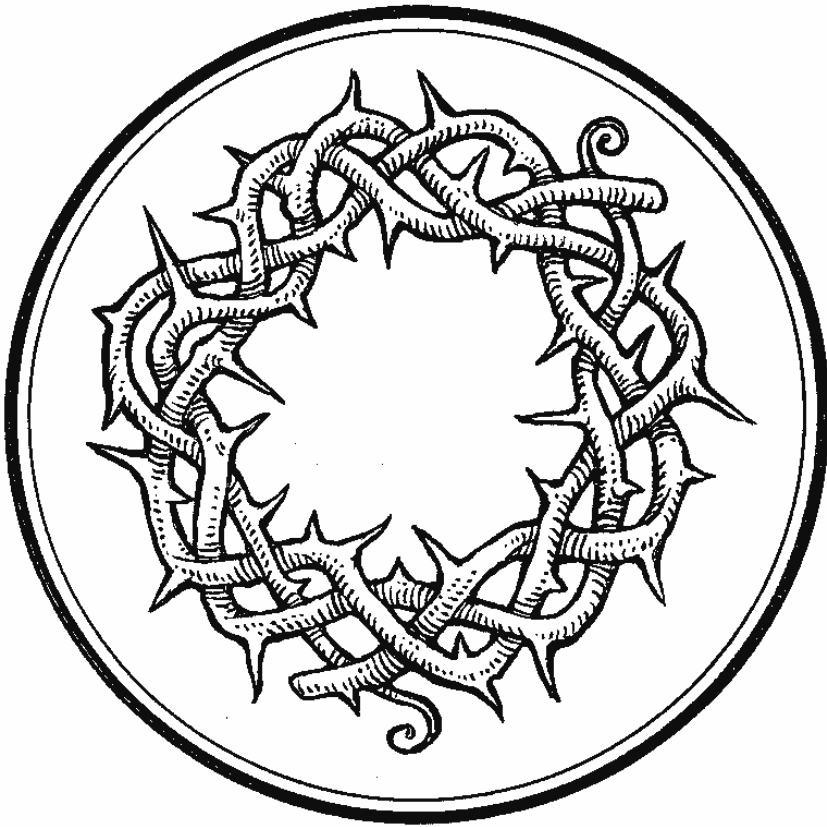


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

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 35:11–18; 22–23

*Malicious witnesses rise up;
they ask me of things that I do not know.*

*They repay me evil for good;
my soul is bereft.*

*But I, when they were sick—I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting;
I prayed with head bowed on my chest.*

*I went about as though I grieved for my friend or my brother;
as one who laments his mother, I bowed down in mourning.*

*But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered; they gathered together against me;
wretches whom I did not know tore at me without ceasing;*

*like profane mockers at a feast,
they gnash at me with their teeth.*

*How long, O Lord, will You look on?
Rescue me from their destruction, my precious life from the lions!*

*I will thank You in the great congregation;
in the mighty throng I will praise you.*

*You have seen, O LORD; be not silent!
O Lord, be not far from me!*

*Awake and rouse Yourself for my vindication,
for my cause, my God and my Lord!*

**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 20:16 & 1 Samuel 19:1-7

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: LSB 430—HYMN: MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?</p> <p>2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!</p> | <p>3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.</p> <p>4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And 'gainst Him rise.</p> |
| <p>5 They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suff'ring goes
That He His foes from thence might free.</p> | |

The Sermon

The Small Catechism

What is the Eighth Commandment?

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

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.*

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.**
 - 2 For He hath regarded / the low estate of His handmaiden:**
 - 3 For, behold, from henceforth / all generations shall call me blessed.**
 - 4 For He that is mighty hath done to me great things / and holy is His name.**
 - 5 And His mercy is on them that fear Him / from generation to generation.**
 - 6 He hath showed strength with His arm. /**
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 - 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seats / and exalted them of low degree.**
 - 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things / and the rich He hath sent empty away.**
 - 9 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

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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)

- 12 I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor
Henceforth forever.**
- 13 Whate'er of earthly good this life may grant me,
I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.
I shall not fear what foes can do to harm me
Nor death alarm me.**
- 14 But worthless is my sacrifice, I own it;
Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not disown it;
Thou wilt accept my gift in Thy great meekness
Nor shame my weakness.**
- 15 And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,
I, too, shall praise Thee.**

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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.

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*). 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).