

Midweek 4

March 13, 2024

Empty Words

LENTEN SERIES

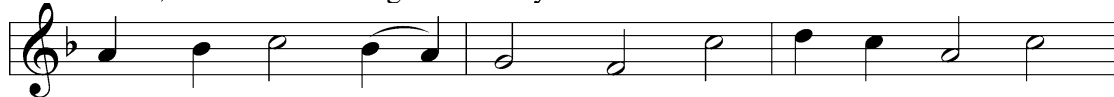
No Old Testament saint attests to God's grace quite like King David. Raised from the sheepfold to the throne of the house of Israel; raised again (and again, and again) from sin. How has God's grace raised you? Maybe you've seen improvements in your finances, family strife has been quieted, you've shaken off a bad illness, a bad habit, or a bad influence? If so, rejoice and thank God for His grace and favor! But if you feel like you're sinking instead of rising, what then? Is there any comfort for the saint of God who looks around to find that "the waters have come up to my neck"? You have a sure hope! Do not look for hope in your experiences or your emotions. Faith offers a better vision: God will raise you up. He has raised you already in Holy Baptism. Lent is the ideal time to meditate on David's ordeals and your secure position in Christ. Psalm 41 provides the ideal guide to your meditation. The Lord delivers you; protects you and keeps you alive. Know the Lord's suffering, death, and Word. As surely as the Lenten journey ascends to the victory of Easter, you shall be raised up.

AS WE GATHER

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran! You are daily assailed by empty words: idle small talk, advertising slogans, and news reports that play on your fears. Political and business leaders spew cant, clichés, and spin. Perhaps even your friends and family get in on the act, betraying you with flattery and falsehoods. King David was only too familiar with such afflictions: "When one comes to see me," he said, "he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad" (Psalm 41:6). Our Lord's powerful Word was David's refuge from vain and malicious talk. It is your refuge too. In Baptism, Jesus Christ has lifted you out of the verbal cesspool and placed you firmly on the rock of His Word. That Word is never empty, but it shall accomplish that which He purposes for you.



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The
 3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll
 4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And



guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the
 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther
 bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to
 taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al



sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes
 chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go
 Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O
 robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When



pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -
 forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren
 won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers
 I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall



out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the
 from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and
 up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how
 be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in



stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and
 stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion
 strong You are to save! You lay the One in -
 gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall



yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."
 to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.
 we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.

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INVOCATION *(stand)*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 145:10–13

- P** All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,
C and all Your saints shall bless You!
P They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and tell of Your power,
C to make known to the children of man Your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.
P Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.
C The LORD is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.

CALL TO CONFESSION

- P** Let us make our confession to our God, seeking His grace and forgiveness.

HYMN

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

LSB 610, vss. 1,4



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Lord Jesus, Think on Me'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody continues on this staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;

From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.

Text and tune: Public domain

ABSOLUTION

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
C Amen.

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
O pitying Lord Jesus, grant us of Your gentleness and forbearance, of Your compassion and love, and of Your tenderheartedness, that filled with Your grace we may always find fitting and salutary words to speak and willingly forgive the wrongs and evils done us. This we ask in Your precious and mighty name.
C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *(sit)*

Psalm 52:1–9

P ¹Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. ²Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. ³You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. ⁴You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue. ⁵But God will break you down forever; He will snatch and tear you from your tent; He will uproot you from the land of the living. ⁶The righteous shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, saying, ⁷“See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!” ⁸But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. ⁹I will thank You forever, because You have done it. I will wait for Your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 41

SERIES PSALM

“Be Gracious to Me” (Psalm 41:6-8; 67:1)

INSERT

SECOND READING

James 3:1–10

P ¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE HYMN *(stand)* “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,

That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev-er may Your work e-rase;
 Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
 Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:57–62

[P] ⁵⁷Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸And Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” ⁶²And the high priest stood up and said, “Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?”

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.

[C] **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *(sit)*

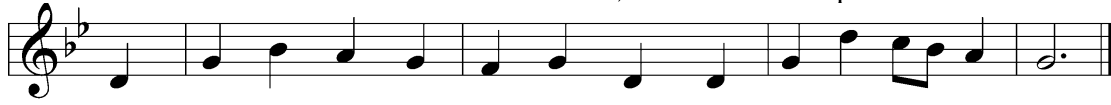
LSB 432

“In Silent Pain the Eternal Son”

1 In si - lent pain the e - ter - nal Son Hangs der - e - lict and still;
 2 He died that we might die to sin And live for righ-teous-ness;
 3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;
 In dark-ened day His work is done, Ful - filled, His Fa - ther's will.
 The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us in - to peace.
 To rule in us, our pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies:



Up - lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang-est vic - to - ry,
For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Him - self to save the lost;
For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our wars,



For in His bod - y on the tree He car-ries all our ill.
He loved us to the ut - ter - most And paid for our re - lease.
And those who love Him see His scars And look in - to His eyes.

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SERMON

Psalm 41:6

OFFERTORY

(God continually provides for us. Our giving should reflect our heartfelt cheerfulness that trusts in God. As your faith guides you, let your offering of all your gifts – time, talents, resources – enable us to move forward in the mission Christ has given us.) Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 8:1-9, 12; 2 Cor. 9:6-8

THE LITANY(*stand*)

LSB, pp. 288–89

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| P O Lord, | C have mercy. |
| P O Christ, | C have mercy. |
| P O Lord, | C have mercy. |
| P O Christ, | C hear us. |
| P God the Father in heaven, | C have mercy. |
| P God the Son, Redeemer of the world, | C have mercy. |
| P God the Holy Spirit, | C have mercy. |
| P Be gracious to us. | C Spare us, good Lord. |
| P Be gracious to us. | C Help us, good Lord. |

- P** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and
from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from
everlasting death:

C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

- P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy
Spirit, the Comforter:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ, **C** hear us.

P O Lord, **C** have mercy.

P O Christ, **C** have mercy.

P O Lord, **C** have mercy. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9–13)

People: 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.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

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.

BENEDICTION

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

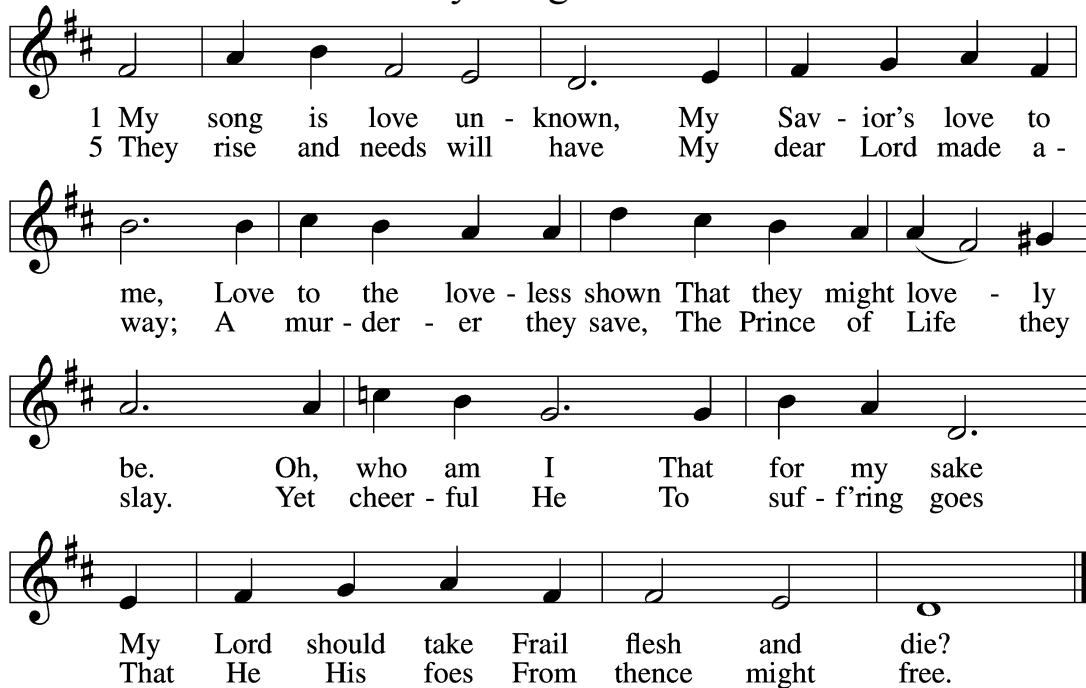
C Amen.

HYMN INTRODUCTION

P In the fifth stanza of “My Song Is Love Unknown,” author Samuel Crossman makes a singular word choice as he poetically writes of Jesus: “Yet cheerful He to suffering goes that He His foes from thence might free.” The use of the word cheerful may be surprising, but its derivation comes from the Middle English chere, meaning “face” or “demeanor.” Originally, it related to an individual’s bearing. Jesus went through His time of suffering for us with a noble bearing and in a triumphant way, and He was happy to

set us free even if it meant suffering. The Prince of Life turned the cross of sorrow and shame into a tree of salvation and beauty!

CLOSING HYMN “My Song Is Love Unknown” LSB 430, vss. 1, 5



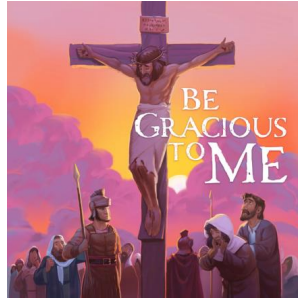
1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -
me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they
be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
That He His foes From thence might free.

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DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord. **People:** Amen.

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Lent 2024: BE GRACIOUS TO ME No Old Testament saint attests to God's grace quite like King David. Raised from the sheepfold to the throne of the house of Israel; raised again (and again, and again) from sin. How has God's grace raised you? Maybe you've seen improvements in your finances, family strife has been quieted, you've shaken off a bad illness, a bad habit, or a bad influence? If so, rejoice and thank God for His grace and favor! But if you feel like you're sinking instead of rising, what then? Is there any comfort for the saint of God who looks around to find that "the waters have come up to my neck"? You have a sure hope! Do not look for hope in your experiences or your emotions. Faith offers a better vision: God *will* raise you up. He has raised you already in Holy Baptism. Lent is the ideal time to meditate on David's ordeals and your secure position in Christ. Psalm 41 provides the ideal guide to your meditation. The Lord delivers you; protects you and keeps you alive. Know the Lord's suffering, death, and Word. As surely as the Lenten journey ascends to the victory of Easter, you shall be raised up.

Wednesday, March 20, Midweek 5: Psalm 41:7-8, 'Vindication'

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday: John 12:20-43

Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday: Psalm 41:9, 'My Close Friend'

Friday, March 29, Good Friday: Psalm 41:10, 'Be Gracious to Me'

Sunday, March 31, EASTER: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11