

MIDWEEK OF LENT 1

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO CREATES AND SAVES AS WE GATHER

The God who is Creator of all came to save us from sin and death in the incarnate Son of Mary, Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is God. He first revealed Himself to Moses with the holy name “I AM,” saying, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Exodus 3:14). When Jesus came to His disciples walking on the crashing waves of the sea of Galilee, He said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). “It is I” is the same term for the divine name, “I AM.” As He reached out His hand and grabbed the fearful, doubting, sinking Simon Peter, so does His compassionate hand save you in times of despair and helplessness. His greatest deliverance was when He allowed His hands to be nailed to a cross for your sins. As we are helpless like drowning Peter, our repentant prayer this day is in the words of the hymn, “Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling” (*LSB* 761:3).

SERIES HYMN

The Word That Spoke in Darkness

Lisa M. Clark

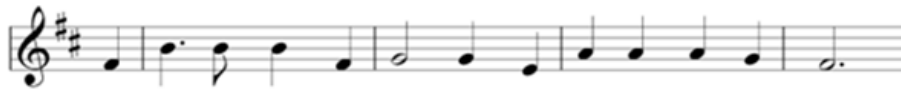
Mark Knickelbein



1 The Word that spoke in dark-ness And prom-ised com-ing light
 2 The Sav-ior came to con-quer And meet His mis-sion's aim:
 3 The Christ pro-claimed His vic-t'ry With ev-'ry act of grace:
 4 The Prince of Peace con-tin-ued With each new task com-plete



Kept guid-ing through the a-ges Un-til the time was right
 Up-end-ing Sa-tan's ter-ror, Cre-a-tion to re-claim
 The out-cast shown com-pas-sion And God's own ho-ly face
 At cross and tomb and glo-ry Up-on His roy-al seat,



To take on flesh and fol-low The Fa-ther's good com-mand
 By walk-ing on the wa-ters So we by faith may stand
 As Jes-sus looked with fa-vor On all from ev-'ry land
 De-liv-er-ance ac-com-plished Ex-act-ly as He planned;



And dwell a - mong His peo - ple, The king - dom now at hand.
 With trust in Him whose res - cue Is of - fered by His hand.
 Who need - ed life and heal - ing From His al - might - y hand.
 Our King will raise in wel - come His pierced and ris - en hand.

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OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 102:1, 25

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD;
- C** let my cry come to You!
- P** Of old You laid the foundation of the earth,
- C** and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

Psalm 118:14, 15b–16

- P** The LORD is my strength and my song;
- C** He has become my salvation.
- P** “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts,
- C** the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”

Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5, alt.

- P** Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
- C** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster.
- P** Jesus said, “If anyone 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 crushed for our iniquities.

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

Jonah 2

- L** I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and He | answered me;*
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You | heard my voice.
- C** For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood sur- | rounded me;* all Your waves and Your billows passed | over me.
 Then I said, ‘I am driven away | from Your sight;*
 yet I shall again look upon Your holy | temple.’
 The waters closed in over me to | take my life;* the deep sur- | rounded

me; weeds were wrapped a- | bout my head* at the roots of the |
 mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me for- |
 ever;* yet You brought up my life from the pit, O | LORD my God.
 When my life was fainting away, I remem- | bered the LORD,*
 and my prayer came to You, into Your holy | temple.
 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of | steadfast
 love.* But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacri- | fice to You;
 what I have vowed | I will pay.* Salvation belongs | to the LORD!
 I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and He | answered me;*
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You | heard my voice.

READING

Job 9:1–12

P ¹Then Job answered and said:

²“Truly I know that it is so:

But how can a man be in the right before God?

³If one wished to contend with Him,
 one could not answer Him once in a thousand times.

⁴He is wise in heart and mighty in strength
 —who has hardened himself against Him, and succeeded?—

⁵He who removes mountains, and they know it not,
 when He overturns them in His anger,

⁶who shakes the earth out of its place,
 and its pillars tremble;

⁷who commands the sun, and it does not rise;
 who seals up the stars;

⁸who alone stretched out the heavens
 and trampled the waves of the sea;

⁹who made the Bear and Orion,
 the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;

¹⁰who does great things beyond searching out,
 and marvelous things beyond number.

¹¹Behold, He passes by me, and I see Him not;
 He moves on, but I do not perceive Him.

¹²Behold, He snatches away; who can turn Him back?
 Who will say to Him, ‘What are You doing?’

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

READING

Ephesians 2:1–10

P ¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

READING

Matthew 14:22–33

P ²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. ²³And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” ²⁸And Peter answered Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 8

☐ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in | all the earth!*
You have set Your glory above the | heavens.
Out of the mouth of babes and infants,
You have established strength because | of Your foes,*
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.
When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your | fingers,*
the moon and the stars, which You have | set in place,
what is man that You are mind- | ful of him,*
and the son of man that You | care for him?
Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings*
and crowned him with glory and | honor.
You have given him dominion over the works | of Your hands;*
You have put all things under | his feet,
all sheep and | oxen,*
and also the beasts | of the field,
the birds of the heavens, and the fish | of the sea,*
whatever passes along the paths | of the seas.
O | LORD our Lord,*
how majestic is Your name in | all the earth!

HYMN

“Entrust Your Days and Burdens” (*LSB 754*)

1 En - trust your days and bur - dens To God's most lov - ing
 2 Re - ly on God your Sav - ior And find your life se -
 3 Take heart, have hope, my spir - it, And do not be dis -
 4 Leave all to His di - rec - tion; His wis - dom rules for

hand; He cares for you while rul - ing The
 cure. Make His work your foun - da - tion That
 mayed; God helps in ev - 'ry tri - al And
 you In ways to rouse your won - der At

sky, the sea, the land. For He who guides the
 your work may en - dure. No anx - ious thought, no
 makes you un - a - fraid. A - wait His time with
 all His love can do. Soon He, His prom - ise

tem - pests A - long their thun - d'rous ways Will
 wor - ry, No self - tor - ment - ing care Can
 pa - tience Through dark - est hours of night Un -
 keep - ing, With won - der - work - ing pow'rs Will

find for you a path - way And guide you all your days.
 win your Fa - ther's fa - vor; His heart is moved by prayer.
 til the sun you hoped for De - lights your ea - ger sight.
 ban - ish from your spir - it What gave you trou - bled hours.

5 O blessèd heir of heaven,
 You'll hear the song resound
 Of endless jubilation
 When you with life are crowned.
 In your right hand your maker
 Will place the victor's palm,
 And you will thank Him gladly
 With heaven's joyful psalm.

6 Our hands and feet, Lord,
 strengthen;
 With joy our spirits bless
 Until we see the ending
 Of all our life's distress.
 And so throughout our lifetime
 Keep us within Your care
 And at our end then bring us
 To heav'n to praise You there.

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SERMON

PRAYER

(LSB 761)

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us pray.

O God, our Creator and Redeemer, “Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy Law’s demands.” Therefore “nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling.” Increase our faith and trust in You that we may walk confidently amid the troubles and reverses of life, knowing that Your gracious hands are evermore leading us, guiding us, and saving us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

LUTHER'S 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.

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

Colossians 1:12–20, alt.

L Let us give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the | saints in light.*
He has delivered us from the domain of | darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of His be- | loved Son,*
in whom we have redemption, the forgive- | ness of sins.

C Christ is the image of the invis- | ible God,*
the firstborn of all cre- | ation.
For by Him all things were cre- | ated,*
in heaven and on earth, visible and in- | visible,

- L** whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—*
all things were created through Him and for Him.
And He is before all things,*
and in Him all things hold together.
- C** **And He is the head of the body, the church.***
He is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,*
that in everything He might be pre-eminent.
- L** For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,*
and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,*
making peace by the blood of His cross.
- 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.

BLESSING

- 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.**

HYMN “I Lie, O Lord, within Your Care” (*LSB* 885, vss. 1,3,5,7)

1 I lie, O Lord, with in Your care, A -
 3 When shadows fall, I will not dwell On
 5 To - mor - row's road I can - not trace Nor
 7 Though troubles still may cloud the sky, I'll

wake or when I'm sleep - ing. Who - ev - er trusts in
 trou - bles that dis - tress me, Nor let some pain - ful
 know what ills will meet me. You on - ly ask that
 see be - yond them shin - ing A light to show some



Your strong arms Is safe with - in Your keep - ing.
 mem - o - ry Em - bit - ter and op - press me.
 I be still And trust You there will greet me.
 hid - den way— A way of Your de - sign - ing.

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