

MIDWEEK OF LENT 5

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO HOLDS ALL THINGS AS WE GATHER

To the faithless, unrepentant world, taken together with the climax of the events of Holy Week, it appears that, after all, Jesus ends up only a disappointment, dead and gone! To the eyes of faith, however, all His deeds, including His suffering and death, describe the most powerful and mighty act of God, by which He redeems and saves the world and us!

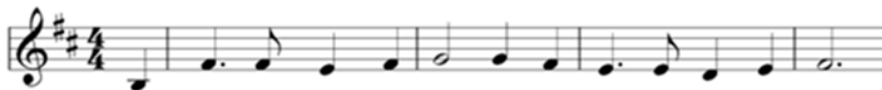
The Christian liturgy preserves certain words in their original language to express their full meaning. For instance, we do not end prayers saying, “Yes, yes, it shall be so,” but the original “Amen.” Likewise, every Sunday we sing the Sanctus, “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth.” *Tsebaot* in Hebrew means “hosts” or “armies.” “Lord God of hosts” is a way of saying God is over all—all powerful. So also, Greek art depicts the risen, ascended, and reigning Lord Jesus as *Pantokrator*, “the Almighty!” The church has always claimed that, before and after all, Jesus Christ indeed holds all things. By faith in Jesus, we know that we are forgiven, renewed, redeemed, and destined for eternal glory.

SERIES HYMN

The Word That Spoke in Darkness

Lisa M. Clark

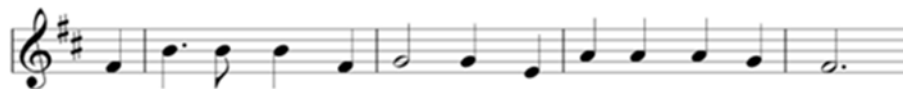
Mark Knickelbein



- 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.

Text and tune: Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
 Used by permission.

Permission is granted to reproduce this page for use with The Hand of the Lord series.
 The above copyright notice must appear on each reproduction.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 102:1

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;

C let my cry come to You!

Psalm 95:1–7a

P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

C Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In His hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are His also.

The sea is His, for He made it,

and His hands formed the dry land.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For He is our God,

and we are the people of His pasture,

and the sheep of His hand.

READING

Daniel 7:13–14

P ¹³I saw in the night visions,
 and behold, with the clouds of heaven
 there came one like a son of man,

and He came to the Ancient of Days
 and was presented before Him.
¹⁴And to Him was given dominion
 and glory and a kingdom,
 that all peoples, nations, and languages
 should serve Him;
 His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
 which shall not pass away,
 and His kingdom one
 that shall not be destroyed.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“On Eagles’ Wings” (LSB 727)



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -
 2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And
 3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, Nor the
 4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
 fam - ine will bring you no fear;
 ar - row that flies by day; Though
 guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: “My ref - uge, My
 Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His
 thou - sands fall a - bout you,
 on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock in whom I trust!”
 faith - ful - ness your shield.
 Near you it shall not come.
 dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain

And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,
 Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the
 sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

Text and tune: Michael Joncas, 1951 Text and tune: © OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003637

PSALM

Psalms 38; antiphon: vv. 21–22

- L** Do not forsake me, O LORD!
 O my God, be not far from me!
 Make haste to help me,
 O Lord, my salvation!
- C** O LORD, rebuke me not in Your anger,
 nor discipline me in Your wrath!
 For Your arrows have sunk into me,
 and Your hand has come down on me.
 There is no soundness in my flesh
 because of Your indignation;
 there is no health in my bones
 because of my sin.
 For my iniquities have gone over my head;
 like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.
 My wounds stink and fester
 because of my foolishness,
 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
 all the day I go about mourning.
 For my sides are filled with burning,
 and there is no soundness in my flesh.
 I am feeble and crushed;
 I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

- L** Do not forsake me, O LORD!
 O my God, be not far from me!

Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!

C O LORD, all my longing is before You;
my sighing is not hidden from You.
My heart throbs; my strength fails me,
and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.
My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague,
and my nearest kin stand far off.
Those who seek my life lay their snares;
those who seek my hurt speak of ruin
and meditate treachery all day long.
But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear,
like a mute man who does not open his mouth.
I have become like a man who does not hear,
and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

L Do not forsake me, O LORD!
O my God, be not far from me!
Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!

C But for You, O LORD, do I wait;
it is You, O Lord my God, who will answer.
For I said, “Only let them not rejoice over me,
who boast against me when my foot slips!”
For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever before me.
I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.
But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.
Those who render me evil for good
accuse me because I follow after good.
Do not forsake me, O LORD!
O my God, be not far from me!
Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!

READING

Revelation 1:9–20

P ⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. ¹⁴The hairs of His head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

READING

John 3:11–18, 22–36

P ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak of what We know, and bear witness to what We have seen, but you do not receive Our testimony.

¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you

believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. . . .

²²After this Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside, and He remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴(for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, He is baptizing, and all are going to Him.” ²⁷John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him.’ ²⁹The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease.”

³¹He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He bears witness to what He has seen and heard, yet no one receives His testimony. ³³Whoever receives His testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴For He whom God has sent utters the words of

God, for He gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32; antiphon: v. 11

L Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

C **Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.**

**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

**For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.**

**For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

L Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

C **I acknowledged my sin to You,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

L Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

C **Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time
when You may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

L Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

C I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.
Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.
Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (*LSB* 802)

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,
In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;
Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see
Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Tune: Welsh Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, all things are in Your hands, both creation and our very lives. Turn our eyes to follow the finger of John the Baptist pointing to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus has received nails into His hands for our sins to bring us forgiveness. When and where You will, use us to point others to Jesus and where He promises to be found in His Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P 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, 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

Revelation 11:17–18; 12:10–12a

- L** We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty,
 who is and who was,
 for You have taken Your great power and begun to reign.
 The nations raged, but Your wrath came,
- C** **and the time for the dead to be judged,
 and for rewarding Your servants, the prophets and saints,
 and those who fear Your name, both small and great,
 and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.**
- L** And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,
 “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God
 and the authority of His Christ have come,
 for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,
 who accuses them day and night before our God.
- C** **And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
 and by the word of their testimony,
 for they loved not their lives even unto death.
 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them!**

**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

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” (*LSB 739*)

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
 2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 When my life is al - most gone,
 And the day is al - most gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
 Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
 At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

Text and tune: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993

Text and tune: © 1938 (renewed) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., admin. Alfred Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003637