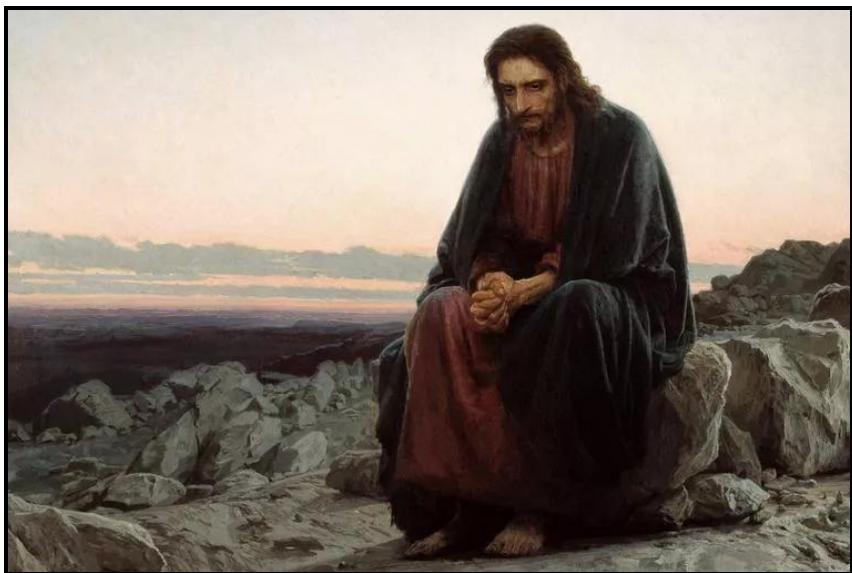


Salem Lutheran Church and School

Established 1849 Black Jack, MO

February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent



Lutheran Church



Missouri Synod

Rev. Dr. Martin Dressler, Pastor 828-206-4556
mdressler@salembjmo.org
Church Office: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Monday-Thursday 314-741-6781
5180 Parker Road; Florissant, Missouri 63033 Fax 314-741-1797
School Office: 7:45 AM - 3:45 PM -Jeff Burkee, Principal 314-741-8220
5190 Parker Road; Florissant, Missouri 63033 Fax 314-741-7242
Website: www.salembjmo.org
Church Email: salemchurch@salemchurch.org

Divine Services: Sunday 10:00 AM; Wednesday 7:00 PM

WELCOME to the Lord's House today! May God help us to worship Him in spirit and in truth! Before you leave, guests are requested to sign the guest book, which is located in the narthex. Both guests and members are asked to fill out an attendance card, located in the pews, returning it as you leave. We invite you to return and worship with us again. If you do not have a regular church home, then we invite you to join our family. May this celebration of the mercy of God enrich your spiritual life and be uplifting for each one of you.

INDIVIDUAL HEARING ASSISTANCE SETS are available for those with impaired hearing. Please ask an usher for assistance.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS and **PRINTED COPIES OF THE SERMON** are available in the narthex.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS are available in the narthex. The bags contain a coloring book, drawing paper, reading books, crayons, and a pencil. Parents are welcome to grab a bag for their children to use during the service. Please remember to replace the bag following worship.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS are available on the table in the narthex. These feature a coloring sheet and activities for children based on the Scripture readings of the day. Please help yourself.

DOORS ARE LOCKED after the service begins. If you need to exit the building, please let an usher know, and they'll wait at the door to let you back inside.

On the cover: "Christ in the Wilderness," Ivan Kramskoi, 1872.

*We are Salem, a family nurturing God's children
to live loving lives in faith.*

HOLY COMMUNION

In accordance with the historic practice of the Christian Church, our congregation practices close communion, meaning that normally our members and members of our sister (LCMS) congregations commune here. Please speak to the pastor about exceptions to this general practice. Please also note that this practice in no way intends to comment on the state of anyone else's faith: we simply understand our communing together is also a public profession of unity in doctrine, which not everyone shares. Those who do not commune here may come forward for a blessing (simply fold your arms over your heart to indicate that you are not communing) or remain in the pew during communion and pray.

LIFE THOUGHT

Satan tempts us to turn away from God by appealing to the desires of our flesh and our egos. The devil twists God's Word to make us think that things like abortion, sex without marriage, suicide, and assisted suicide will give us pleasure, self-fulfillment, and an end to our suffering. But, like our first parents did, those who give in quickly find that the devil's words are nothing but empty promises which end in pain and suffering. Thankfully, by withstanding the devil's temptations, Jesus both defeats that old Satanic foe for all sinners and reminds us that the way to true joy and happiness is found in trusting the unfailing promises of our Heavenly Father.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Preacher: Pastor Martin Dressler

Fieldworker: Nick Vukalovich

Organist/Pianist: Elin Hogan-Gomez

Greeters: Roger & Joyce Sachtleben

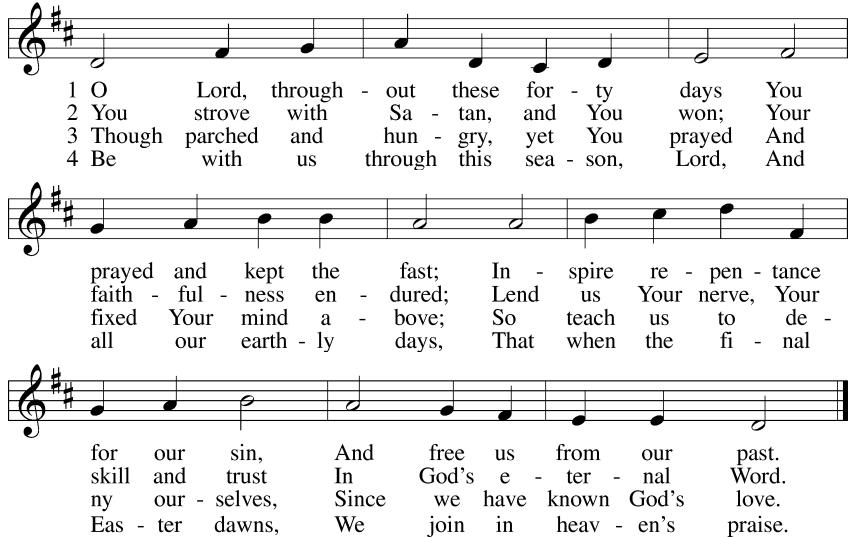
Prayer Team: Cathy Burkee and Reggie Miller

(Please silence your cell phones)

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (LSB 418)



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And

prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal

for our sin, And free us from our past.
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930-2024

Tune: The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635, Edinburgh

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003345

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

P: In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

P: On Galilee's shore, Jesus extended an invitation to the first disciples.
He said,

C: "Follow Me!"

P: To Matthew who sat counting taxes at his desk, Jesus said,
C: "Follow Me!"

P: To those who wanted to be His disciples, Jesus said,
C: "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

P: Brothers and sisters, in the waters of baptism, Jesus extended an invitation to you as well. He said,

C: "Follow Me!"

CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: But we know that we have not always accepted that invitation. Together, let us confess our failure to be the disciples God has called us to be.

Silence to reflect on your need for a Savior.

P: Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I confess to You that I have failed. I have not lived faithfully as Your creature or followed Jesus as His disciple. I have often rejected Your call because it is difficult. At times, I have let my sinful nature take control instead of taking up my cross. Forgive me, Father, for flirting with sin. Forgive me for not fully embracing the new life You have given me through Your Son. For His sake, have mercy on me.

P: Jesus did not reject the call to be our Savior. He died on the cross for your sins. He knew them all, every last one of them. He took your sin, and in exchange He has given you His righteousness. Therefore, hear this Word of God to you: I forgive your sin in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: In this season of Lent, hear again the call of Jesus. He says,

C: **Follow Me!**

P: Then let us deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

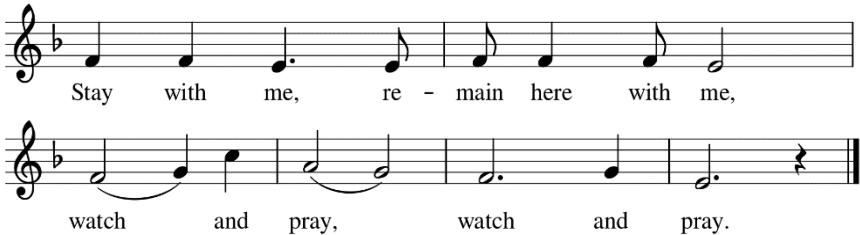
P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE AND INTERCESSIONS

The request Jesus made of His disciples in Gethsemane, we, as His disciples, make of Him.

Refrain:



Stay with me, re - main here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.

P: *Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray, watch and pray!*

C: **Refrain**

P: *Watch and pray not to give way to temptation.*

C: **Refrain**

P: *The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.*

C: **Refrain**

P: *My heart is nearly broken with sorrow. Remain here with me, stay awake and pray.*

C: **Refrain**

P: *Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by.*

C: **Refrain**

P: *Father, if this cannot pass me by without my drinking it, your will be done.*

C: **Refrain**

+++

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 3:1-21

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin cloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32:1-7



P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.

C: **Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,***
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.

P: For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.

C: **For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;***
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.

P: I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my in- | iquity;*
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.

**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.**

**P: You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from | trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.**

EPISTLE

Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

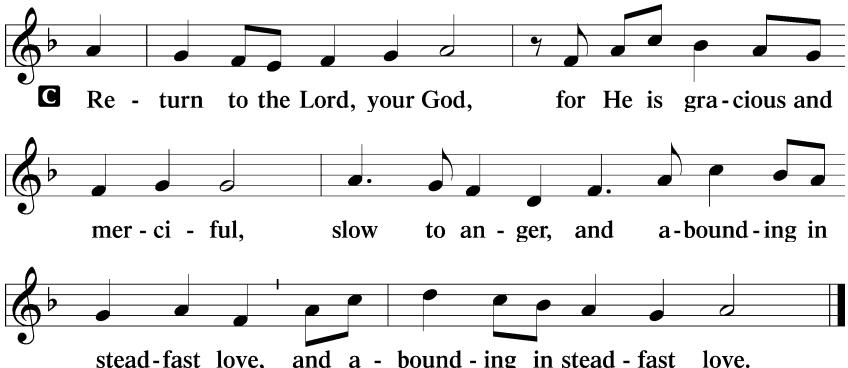
Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

"‘Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

"‘On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"‘You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.’"

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN: O Christ, You Walked the Road (LSB 424)



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a - lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a - bove.
4 When lures of eas - y gain With prom-ise bright - ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp - ta - tion's pow'r And fought our an - cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv - ing Word, The food Your grace im - parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a - lone In Your un - swerv-ing love.
Lord, help us seek Your king - dom first; Our wills with Yours a - lign.
Stay with us through temp - ta - tion's hour To fight our an - cient foe.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007

Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591

Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003345

SERMON: “God in the Presence of Absence” Matthew 4:1

Pastor Dressler

OFFERING (*prayer requests*)

STEWARSHIP VERSE – “[You will not fear] the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.” Psalm 91:6

(Please stand.)

PRAYERS – Each petition concludes with “Lord, hear our prayer.”
Congregation responds with verse below.



Translation: Where charity and love are found, God is there (based on 1 John 4:16)

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see communion information in the front of the bulletin. Follow the direction of the usher to approach the altar. Gluten-free wafers are available by request.

PREFACE

LSB 160

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My $\text{\textt{T}}$ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My [†] blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

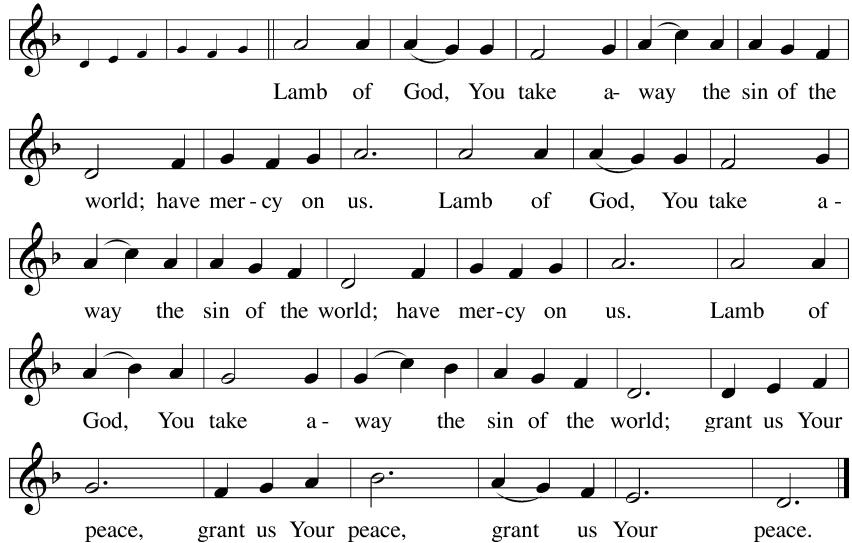
PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 962



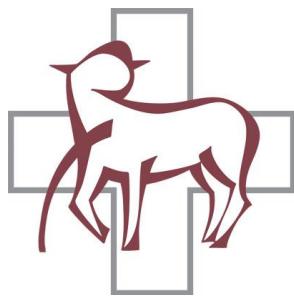
Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

Text: Traditional; tr. International Consultation on English Texts, alt.

Tune: Paul D. Weber, 1949

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Tune: © 2001 Paul D. Weber. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003345



(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: When I Behold Jesus Christ (LSB 542)



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,
2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;
3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;
4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.



I won-der much at His love As He hung on the tree.
I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.
On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.
My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.

Refrain



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Keever; (st. 4): Joseph Herl, 1959
Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and tune: Almaz Belihu

Text (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003345

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and tune: © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Used by permission:
LSB Hymn License no. 110003345

The Son of God to Earth Descends (tune: REPTON, LSB 853)



1. The Son of God to earth de-scends, Be -
2. "I left my heav'n - ly home a - bove To
3. "I tread the path that sin - - ners trod, I
4. "I've wan - dered in the wil - - der - ness, My
5. We praise the Fa - - ther who in love Has

comes the Son of Man, Thus as a Crea - ture
 walk your earth - ly road. From God's right hand, the
 wend your wan - d'ring way, That safe - ly guid - ed
 peo - ple's pain to feel, Thus in my suf - f'ring
 sent His on - ly Son, And Spir - it, Fi - re,

He com - mends, Cre - a - tion to His Fa - ther's plan, All
 seat of love, To bear your bur - den and your load God's
 by my rod You may not ev - er go a - stray, My
 and dis - tress A new crea - a - tion I re - veal, The
 Breath, and Dove Who while on earth did lead Him on All

crea-tures to re - store, As E - den was be - fore.
 mer - cy to pro - claim, Your shat - tered world re - claim."
 vic - t'ry to at - tain, And God's great love re - gain."
 place of bliss and rest, Of peace for - ev - er blessed."
 crea-tures to re - store, As E - den was be - fore.

Text: Martin B. Dressler
 Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry

(Please stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
 △ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,

Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
 To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and

va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
 Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948-2025

Tune: American

Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003345

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

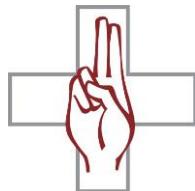
C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

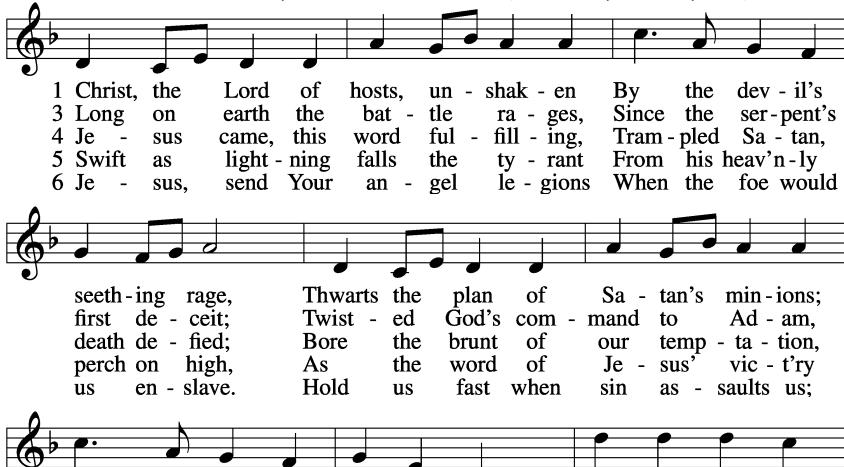
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.



CLOSING HYMN: Christ, the Lord of Hosts (LSB 521, stzs 1, 3-6)



1 Christ, the Lord of hosts, un - shak - en By the dev - il's
3 Long on earth the bat - tle ra - ges, Since the ser - pent's
4 Je - sus came, this word ful - fill - ing, Tram - pled Sa - tan,
5 Swift as light - ning falls the ty - rant From his heav'n - ly
6 Je - sus, send Your an - gel le - gions When the foe would

seeth - ing rage, Thwarts the plan of Sa - tan's min - ions;
first de - ceit; Twist - ed God's com - mand to Ad - am,
death de - fied; Bore the brunt of our temp - ta - tion,
perch on high, As the word of Je - sus' vic - t'ry
us en - slave. Hold us fast when sin as - saults us;

Wins the strife from age to age; Con - quers sin and
Made for - bid - den fruit look sweet. Then the curse of
On the wretch - ed tree He died. Yet to life was
Floods the earth and fills the sky. Wound - ed by a
Come, then, Lord, Your peo - ple save. O - ver - throw at



death for - ev - er; Slams them in their steel - y cage.
God was spo - ken: "You'll lie crushed be - neath His feet!"
raised vic - to - rious; By His life our life sup - plied.
wound e - ter - nal Now his judg - ment has drawn nigh!
last the drag - on; Send him to his fi - ery grave.

Text: Peter M. Prange, 1972

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929-2021

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Please turn in your attendance card as you leave.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK –

"The temptation of Christ was harder, unspeakably harder, than the temptation of Adam; for Adam carried nothing in himself which could have given the tempter a claim and power over him. But Christ bore in himself the whole burden of the flesh, under the curse, under condemnation; and yet his temptation was henceforth to bring help and salvation to all flesh."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Temptation*

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, grant that Your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through Your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of Your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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