

**Midweek of Lent 4, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**  
**St. Peter and St. Luke Lutheran Churches**

**THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO RAISES THE DEAD**

Lent is about repentance of sin and faith in God’s forgiveness. When we confess our sins, we normally think about the wrongs we have committed, whether in thoughts, words, or deeds, as well as the good things we have failed to do. But sin is no simple or temporary issue. Sin is a matter of life and death; as we were reminded on Ash Wednesday, “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The ultimate punishment for sin is death. God’s ultimate salvation is, as we confess in the Nicene Creed, “the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” Already in the Old Testament, the hand of the Lord raised individuals who had died, as at the hands of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. Everyone believed that the Messiah, the Savior, would raise the dead when He came. Today we hear of one such incident: Jesus raising the widow’s son in Nain (Luke 7). When Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the tomb, it could no longer be denied who Jesus is. Jesus finally proved that He is, as He said, “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25) by His own resurrection. In the resurrection, God has turned death from enemy into the remedy in our deliverance from sin. The risen, ascended, and reigning Lord promises to raise us daily in repentance and faith, and on the Last Day, free us from sin in eternal life in our human bodies. “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another” (Job 19:25–27).

OPENING SENTENCES

LSB 229

- P** O Lord, open my lips, **C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.  
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me; **C** make haste to help me, O Lord.  
**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.**  
**Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

**Hymn**

**“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”**

LSB 423

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.
- 2 Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner’s deep distress.
- 3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior’s side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

## Old Testament Reading

## 1 Kings 17:8–24

<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him, <sup>9</sup>“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” <sup>13</sup>And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” <sup>15</sup>And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

<sup>17</sup>After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. <sup>18</sup>And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” <sup>19</sup>And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. <sup>20</sup>And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” <sup>21</sup>Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child’s life come into him again.” <sup>22</sup>And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. <sup>23</sup>And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” <sup>24</sup>And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

## 1 Corinthians 15:12–28, 50–58

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

<sup>50</sup>I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

<sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup>“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

**Luke 7:11–17**

<sup>11</sup>Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup>As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.

<sup>13</sup>And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” <sup>14</sup>Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”

<sup>15</sup>And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup>Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” <sup>17</sup>And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## LENT RESPONSORY

LSB 231

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

## Hymn

### “Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters”

LSB 598

1 Once in the blest baptismal waters I put on Christ and made Him mine;  
Now numbered with God’s sons and daughters,  
I share His peace and love divine. *Refrain*

*ref* O God, for Jesus’ sake I pray Your peace may bless my dying day.

2 His body and His blood I’ve taken In His blest Supper, feast divine;  
Now I shall never be forsaken, For I am His, and He is mine. *Refrain*

3 And thus I live in God contented And die without a thought of fear;  
My soul has to God’s plans consented, For through His Son my faith is clear. *Refrain*

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## SERMON

ANTIPHON

LSB 231

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

KYRIE

LSB 233

**C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 233

**C** 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.

COLLECTS

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C** And let my prayer come before You.

*After each petition:*

**P** ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C** Amen.

**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.

**P** ... You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

LSB 234

**P** Let us bless the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** Amen.

Closing Hymn "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

LSB 422

1 On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd 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!