

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

A LENTEN LITURGY OF EVENING PRAYER

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

Mid-Week Lent 4

March 10, 2021

AS WE GATHER

As we journey through this Lenten season and the days of Holy Week, we find Jesus teaching His disciples and the crowds. He warns them about the scribes and Pharisees, religious leaders of the time. Jesus says these leaders are hypocritical. They do not practice what they preach. They burden others with the heaviest forms of the law but refuse to do anything they command their hearers to do. Consider how different Jesus is from these leaders. When Jesus instructs us to love others, He shows us how, most especially in His willingness to go to the cross and die for us and our salvation.



Pastor John Benito, *piano*
Pastor Stephen Heimer

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

P As we turn our eyes to Holy Week, we hear Jesus teaching about humility.

C He warns against the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees.

P They put heavy burdens on others but refuse to carry those burdens themselves.

C They enjoy being noticed, exalted, and honored but refuse servanthood.

P Jesus calls us to humbleness.

C Jesus calls us to serve.

P Lord, grant that we repent of our hypocrisy

C and pick up our cross and follow Jesus.

OPENING HYMN

"O Savior, Precious Savior" LSB 527 (sung to the tune of "Church's One Foundation" LSB 644)

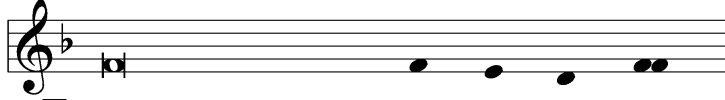
1 O Savior, precious Savior,
Whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor,
All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee,
To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee,
Our holy Lord and King.

4 O grant the consummation
Of this our song above
In endless adoration
And everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee
Where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee,
Our Savior and our King!

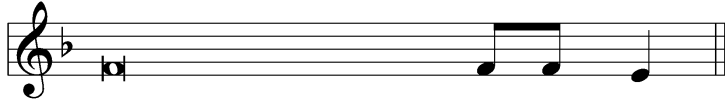
Text: Public domain

+ SERVICE OF LIGHT +

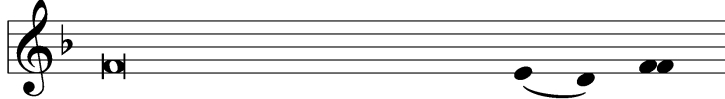
VERSICLES



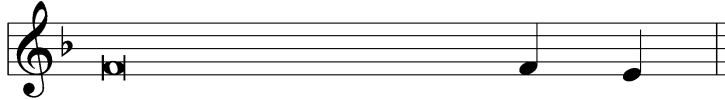
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



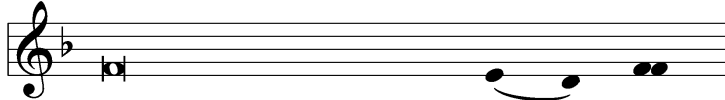
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.

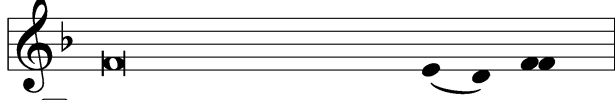


L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness

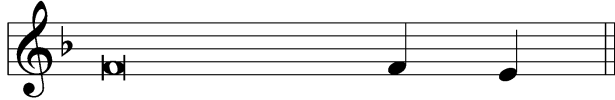


C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

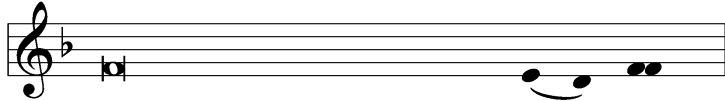
VERSICLES (LENT)



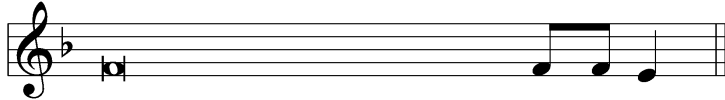
L Now is the time of God's fa - vor;



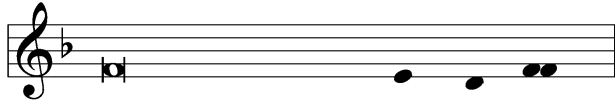
C now is the day of sal - va - tion.



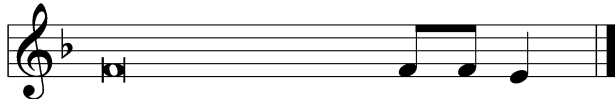
L Turn us again, O God of our sal - va - tion,



C that the light of Your face may shine on us.



L May Your justice shine like the sun;



C and may the poor be lift - ed up.

PHOS HILARON



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

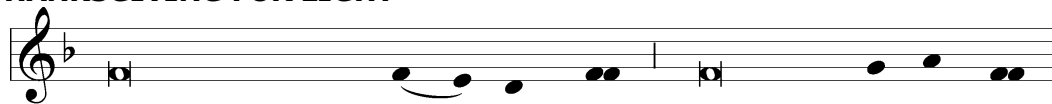


ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:

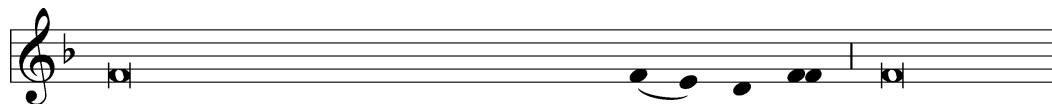


the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

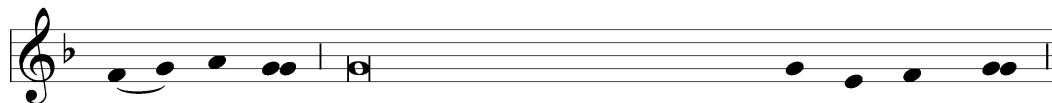
THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT



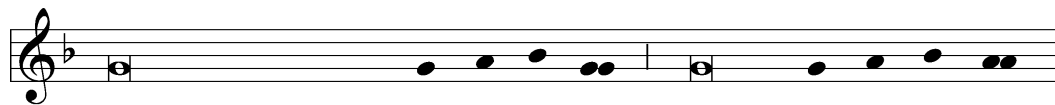
L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



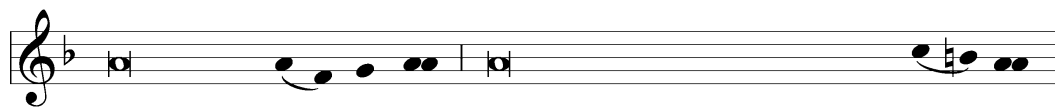
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of



fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;



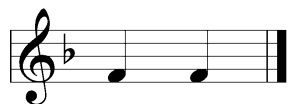
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.



C A - men.

+ PSALMODY +

PSALM 141



C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



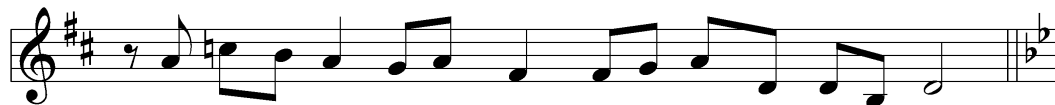
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



II Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc-cu-pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil-do-ers.

II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.

Strip me not of my life. C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in

the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,

the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

PSALM PRAYER

- I Let us pray.
Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.
- C Amen.

+ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE +

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

(The humble seek the Lord and do His commands.)

Zephaniah 2:1–3

¹Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation,
²before the decree takes effect—before the day passes away like chaff—
before there comes upon you the burning anger of the LORD,
before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the LORD.
³Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands;
seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.

- I O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

(Following the example of humility set by Christ)

Philippians 2:1–11

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON

(Jesus warns about the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees.)

Matthew 23:1–12

¹Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²**The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁶and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. ¹⁰Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. ¹¹The greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹²Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."**

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

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

"Renuevame" (Renew Me)

Come, change my heart, Lord Jesus Christ

Make my weary soul anew.

come, change my heart, Lord Jesus Christ-

make me holy, more like You.

Because ev'rything I hold inside of me

longs to know the healing you will provide.

Because ev'rything I am, and ev'ry pulse of my heart.

needs the grace that comes from You.

Renuévame, Señor Jesus,

Ya no quiero ser igual

Renuévame, Señor Jesus

Pone en mi Tu corazón

Porque todo lo que hay dentro de mi

Necesita ser cambiado Señor

Porque todo lo que hay dentro de mi corazón

necesita más de ti.

(Words by Marcos Witt; tr. Adam M.L. Tice. Music: Marcos Witt. (c) 1990, tr (c)2019, Canzion. Administered by CanZion Editora, used with permission onelicense.net

#_____)

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

+ PRAYER +

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- G** **And let my cry come to You.**

various petitions here are offered

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, You warned us about the danger of hypocritical religious leaders and the necessity of humility. Help us to follow Your example of humble obedience that we may be servants for all our days, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** **Amen.**

EVENING PRAYER

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.

LORD'S PRAYER: 958 OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN — IIA

"Our Father" LSB 958

Refrain

Our Fa - ther _____ who art in
 heav - en, _____ Thy name be hal-owed,
 Thy name be hal-owed, Heav - en - ly Fa - ther.
 1 May Thy king - dom come to us, O
 2 Give us this day, O Lord, our dai - ly
 3 Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,
 Lord; May Thy ho - ly will be done, O Lord; As in
 bread; Lord, for-give our tres - pass - es, we pray, As
 Lord, Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, Lord, But de -
Refrain
 heav - en so on earth may Thy ho - ly will be done, O Lord.
 we for-give all those who tres - pass a - gainst us, Lord.
 liv - er us from e - vil, Lord, de - liv - er us from e - vil.

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BENEDICAMUS

John 20:31

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

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.**

HYMN

"What a Friend We Have In Jesus" LSB



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Pastor John Benito, *piano*

LENTEN THEME - "BOLD LOVE"

The world needs Christians who are bold in faith and Spirit-inspired love. This Lent we gather mid-week for renewal and inspiration in the bold love of Jesus. Many Christians are well aware of what took place on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. But what took place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week? These three days contain bold action of Jesus, bold teaching, and bold confrontation with the religious leaders. Ash Wednesday reminds us of Christ's bold solution to the dreadful problem of sin and death. The other five midweek services of this series explore the "Bold" events that took place between Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. May the Holy Spirit kindle bold faith and love in us this Lenten season.

March 17 John 12:23–36 "Bold Final Appearance"

March 24 Luke 22:1–6 "Bold Deal"

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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