

FOR THE **SON OF MAN**  
CAME NOT TO BE SERVED  
**BUT TO SERVE,**  
AND TO GIVE HIS

*Life a Ransom*

FOR MANY.

MARK 10:45, NRSV





## Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

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Lenten Midweek Worship

April 2, 2025

### Invocation and Verse

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
- C** And to give his life as a ransom for many. (*Mark 10:45*)

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### *Glory Be to Jesus*

*LSB 433*

- 1 **Glory be to Jesus,  
Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood  
From his sacred veins!**
- 2 **Grace and life eternal  
In that blood I find;  
Blest be his compassion,  
Infinitely kind!**
- 3 **Blest through endless ages  
Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment  
Did the world redeem!**
- 6 **Lift we, then, our voices,  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder**

## Praise the precious blood!

### Opening Versicles

**P** God of all mercy and consolation,

**C** **Come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### Confession and Absolution

*We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.*

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

**C** **The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.**

**P** The people confess:

**C** **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### First Reading

*Psalm 49:1-4, 7-15*

<sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples;

listen, all who live in this world,

<sup>2</sup> both low and high,

rich and poor alike:

- <sup>3</sup> My mouth will speak words of wisdom;  
the meditation of my heart will give you understanding.
- <sup>4</sup> I will turn my ear to a proverb;  
with the harp I will expound my riddle:
- <sup>7</sup> No one can redeem the life of another  
or give to God a ransom for them—
- <sup>8</sup> the ransom for a life is costly,  
no payment is ever enough—
- <sup>9</sup> so that they should live on forever  
and not see decay.
- <sup>10</sup> For all can see that the wise die,  
that the foolish and the senseless also perish,  
leaving their wealth to others.
- <sup>11</sup> Their tombs will remain their houses forever,  
their dwellings for endless generations,  
though they had named lands after themselves.
- <sup>12</sup> People, despite their wealth, do not endure;  
they are like the beasts that perish.
- <sup>13</sup> This is the fate of those who trust in themselves,  
and of their followers, who approve their sayings.
- <sup>14</sup> They are like sheep and are destined to die;  
death will be their shepherd  
(but the upright will prevail over them in the morning).  
Their forms will decay in the grave,  
far from their princely mansions.
- <sup>15</sup> But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead;  
he will surely take me to himself.
- L** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
- C** **And to give his life as a ransom for many.** (*Mark 10:45*)

### **Prayer of Martin Luther**

- P** Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.
- C** **My lord, fill it.**
- P** I am weak in faith;
- C** **Strengthen me.**
- P** I am cold in love;
- C** **Warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.**

**P** I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

**C** **O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.**

**P** In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor;

**C** **You are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.**

**P** I am a sinner;

**C** **You are upright.**

**P** With me, there is an abundance of sin;

**C** **In you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.**

## Second Reading

*1 Peter 1:17-23*

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

**L** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,

**C** **And to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)**

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*John 8:31-36*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set

free?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

**P** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,

**C** **And to give his life as a ransom for many.** (*Mark 10:45*)

*Sit*

## *Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*

*LSB 563*

- 1** Jesus, thy blood and righteousness  
My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,  
With joy shall I lift up my head.
- 2** Bold shall I stand in that great day,  
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;  
Fully absolved through these I am  
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
- 3** Lord, I believe thy precious blood,  
Which at the mercy seat of God  
Pleads for the captives' liberty,  
Was also shed in love for me.
- 4** Lord, I believe, were sinners more  
Than sands upon the ocean shore,  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,  
For all a full atonement made.
- 6** Jesus, be endless praise to thee,  
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
For me, and all Thy hands have made,  
An everlasting ransom paid.

## **Homily**

## **Creed**

- P** We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered

under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. What does this mean?

- C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death, that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## Invitation to Prayer

- P** We do not know how to pray as we ought, Paul says. (*Romans 8:26*) Our prayers easily become routine and meaningless.
- C** We worry and doubt.
- P** We wonder if God really listens.
- C** We trust our own sincerity.
- P** We try to impress God with our dedication.
- C** We cannot pray as we should.
- P** But God has said that we may pray, God has commanded us to pray, God has taught us to pray, and God himself prays for us. The Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words, Paul says. (*Romans 8:26*)
- C** So we pray confidently, certain that our loving Father hears us and promises to dwell with us. We pray the words our Lord Jesus taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

### 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.

***Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ***

*LSB 565 (tune 912)*

**1** Thy works, not mine, O Christ,  
Speak gladness to this heart;  
They tell me all is done,  
They bid my fear depart.

*ref* To whom save thee,  
Who canst alone  
For sin atone,  
Lord, shall I flee?

**2** Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ,  
Can heal my bruised soul;  
Thy stripes, not mine, contain  
The balm that makes me whole. *Refrain*

**3** Thy cross, not mine, O Christ,  
Has borne the crushing load  
Of sins that none could bear  
But the incarnate God. *Refrain*

**4** Thy death, not mine, O Christ,  
Has paid the ransom due;  
Ten thousand deaths like mine  
Would have been all too few. *Refrain*

**5** Thy righteousness, O Christ,  
Alone can cover me;  
No righteousness avails  
Save that which is of thee. *Refrain*

**Verse**

**P** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to  
serve,

**C** And to give his life as a ransom for many. (*Mark 10:45*)

**Benediction**