

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025

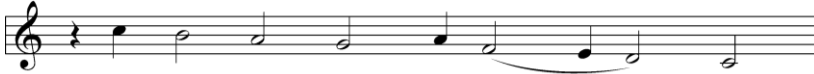
“The Word is Near You”

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 With might of ours can naught be done,
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
All ea - ger to de - vour us,
Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
But for us fights the val - iant One,
We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
He's by our side up - on the plain



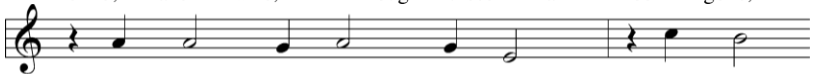
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
as he will, He can harm us none.
child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
And there's none oth - er God; He holds
He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.
the field for - ev - er.
tle word can fell him.
dom ours re - main - eth.

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, I a poor, miserable sinner, plead guilty before You of all my sins. I have lived as if You did not matter and as if I mattered most of all. Your name, O Lord, I have not honored as I ought; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love persuade me and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I am sorry for all of this and I beg You for Your grace to forgive me all my sins and grant me Your Spirit to amend my sinful life.

(The candle on the Lenten Cross is extinguished.)

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 91—selected verses (TLT)

P: Let him who lives in the shelter of the Most High, and stays in the shadow of the Almighty,

C: say to the Lord, "My Refuge and my Fortress, my God Whom I trust!"

P: He is the One Who will rescue you from the snare and from the deadly plague.

C: He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge.

P: His truth is a shield and an armor. You need not be afraid of anything dreadful at night,

**C: an arrow flying during the day, the pestilence moving in the dark,
or the plague ravaging at noon.**

P: A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right,

C: but it will not come near you.

P: If you have made the Lord, who is my Refuge, the Most High, your Home,

C: He will not let any harm come to you or disaster come near your shelter,

P: because He orders His angels to be with you and protect you everywhere you go.

C: They will carry you in their hands and not let you stub your foot against a stone.

P: You will step on a lion or a cobra and trample on a young lion or a serpent.

**C: Because he clings to Me in love, I will rescue him and put him in a safe high place,
because he knows My name.**

P: When he calls Me, I will answer him,

C: I will be with him in trouble, rescue him, and honor him.

**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.**

THE KYRIE *(responses are sung) (pages 152-153 in the front of the hymnal)*

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 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O almighty and eternal God, we implore You to direct, sanctify, and govern our hearts and bodies in the ways of Your laws and the works of Your commandments that through Your mighty protection, both now and ever, we may be preserved in body and in soul; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (ESV)

When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make His name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, "I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us." Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God. And you shall make response before the Lord your God, "A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And He brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which You, O Lord, have given me." And you shall set it down before the Lord your God and worship before the Lord your God. And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Romans 10:8b-13 (ESV)

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" [Deuteronomy 30:14] (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame" [Isaiah 28:16]. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" [Joel 2:32].

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(sung) (page 157 in front of the hymnal) (Joel 2:13)*

**Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 4:1-13 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

C: *(sung)* Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, He was hungry. The devil said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone'" [Deuteronomy 8:3]. And the devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to Him, "To You I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If You, then, will worship me, it will all be Yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve'" [Deuteronomy 6:13]. And he took Him to Jerusalem and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You, to guard You,' and 'On their hands they will bear You up, lest you strike Your foot against a stone'" [Psalm 91:11-12]. And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test'" [Deuteronomy 6:16]. And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE MEMORY VERSE The Third Commandment & Meaning (Luther's Small Catechism)

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

- 5** If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

- △ **6** Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

(please be seated)

THE SERMON "The Word is Near You" Text: Romans 10:8b-13

(please stand)

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS *“Baptized into Your Name”* (#590, verse 4)

All that I am and love most dearly—Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely; Help me Your faithful child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own Serve any will but Yours alone.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Lord, in Your mercy,” “hear our prayer.”)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

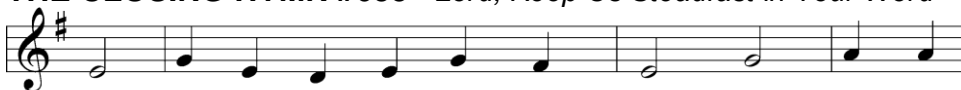
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #655 *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS