

**St. John Lutheran Church & School**  
**Berlin, Wisconsin**  
**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**



***The Hand of the Lord Who Raises the Dead***

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

***Large Print Bulletin***

## **The Hand of the Lord Who Raises the Dead**

### **As We Gather**

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).

## **437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**

- 1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
And did my sov'reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I?**
  
- 2 Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!**
  
- 3 Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died  
For His own creatures' sin.**
  
- 4 Thus might I hide my blushing face  
While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt mine eyes to tears.**
  
- 5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;**

**Here, Lord, I give myself away:  
'Tis all that I can do.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Text: Public domain

### **Opening Sentences**

*Psalm 102:1; Psalm 118:14–18*

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;

**C let my cry come to You!**

P The LORD is my strength and my song;

**C He has become my salvation.**

P Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous:

**C “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,**

P the right hand of the LORD exalts,

**C the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”**

P I shall not die, but I shall live,

**C and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

P The LORD has disciplined me severely,

**C but He has not given me over to death.**

### **Prayer Response**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, as we remember the past and meditate of Your works, we give thanks that when the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature have pursued us, in Your faithfulness and righteousness

You have not hidden Your face from us but have rescued us from our enemies and preserved our lives though Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He was not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters but freely forgave and rescued us, and He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **Reading**

*1 Kings 17:17–24*

<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.**

### **422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image**

**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!**

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt. Text: Public domain

### **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.**

**Psalm**

*Psalm 130; antiphon: v. 7*

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with Him is plentiful redemption.

**C Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!**

**O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

P If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

**C But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

**C my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

**C And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

## **Sermon**

### **849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

#### **1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness**

**With a liberating light;**

**Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,**

**Turning blindness into sight.**

**Praise the One who preached the Gospel,**

**Healing ev'ry dread disease,**

**Calming storms, and feeding thousands**

**With the very Bread of peace.**

#### **2 Praise the One who blessed the children**

**With a strong, yet gentle, word;**

**Praise the One who drove out demons**

**With the piercing, two-edged sword.**

**Praise the One who brings cool water**

**To the desert's burning sand;**

**From this Well comes living water,**

**Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

#### **3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,**

**Christ, who suffered in our place.**

**Jesus died and rose victorious**

**That we may know God by grace.**

**Let us sing for joy and gladness,**

**Seeing what our God has done;**

**Let us praise the true Redeemer,**

**Praise the One who makes us one.**



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## **Offering**

## **Prayer**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You sent Jesus with a compassionate hand to stop death in its tracks. Bless us that we may ever hold fast to His promises for us through His death and resurrection. Help us to always remember our Baptism, where we have been united to both Christ's death and resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our

wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

### **Luther's 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.**

### **New Testament Canticle (spoken)**

*1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

P Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For as by a man came death,  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

**C For as in Adam all die,  
so also in Christ shall all be made alive.  
But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits,  
then at His coming those who belong to Christ.**

P Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

**C For “God has put all things in subjection under His feet.”  
But . . . He is excepted who put all things in subjection  
under Him. When all things are subjected to Him, . . .  
God may be all in all.**

**ALL 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.**

### **Blessing**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the  
Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C Amen.**

### **849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

**1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,  
Healing ev’ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands  
With the very Bread of peace.**

**2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

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Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
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Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise the One who makes us one.**

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