

SAVIOR  
SERVANT  
FRIEND



PROTECTOR

Mid-Week Lenten Service

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

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Christ Lutheran Church

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# MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE—WEEK FIVE

Savior, Servant, Friend—Protector

April 2, 2025

## AS WE GATHER

In this service for Week 5 of Lent, we acknowledge that Jesus protects us from the devil and from danger and keeps us safe in Him.

*“I have called you friends, for all that I have heard  
from my Father I have made known to you.” ~ John 15:15*

## INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The protecting presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, the power of God the Father, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Spread Your protection over us

**All: That those who love Your name may exult in You. (Psalm 5:11)**

Pastor: May the Lord answer us in the day of trouble!

**All: May the name of the God of Jacob protect us! (Psalm 20:1)**

Pastor: Father of the fatherless and Protector of widows

**All: Is God in His holy habitation. (Psalm 68:5)**

Pastor: Spread Your wings over Your servants,

**All: For You are a Redeemer. (Ruth 3:9)**

Pastor: In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

**All: For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8)**

## OPENING HYMN

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB 423

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Lord Jesus, our protecting Friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

**All: Forgive me, Jesus, from the sin that assails my heart and soul.**

Pastor: Protect me from the punishment that my sin rightly brings.

**All: Have mercy on me, Lord Jesus, for the times that I have failed to protect others.**

Pastor: Undo the hurts that I have caused with my sinful words and actions.

**All: Lead me away from the dangerous way of rebellion.**

Pastor: Lead me, Jesus, in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.

**All: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

*(Please silently reflect on the danger of sin and the protecting forgiveness of Jesus.)*

Pastor: Your Friend, Jesus, does indeed have mercy! Jesus protects you from the punishment of sin as He has lived for you, died for you, risen for you, and now forgives you of all of your sins. His mercy provides protection, and His salvation makes you new. Rejoice now in the protecting presence and forgiveness of your Friend, Jesus.

**All: What a Friend we have in Jesus.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

### † GOD'S WORD †

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 121:1-8

*(ESV page 612)*

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,

who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will keep

your going out and your coming in

from this time forth and forevermore.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING**

2 Thessalonians 3:3-4

*(ESV page 1176)*

<sup>3</sup>But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. <sup>4</sup>And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING**

John 14:18-27

*(ESV page 1071)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” <sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

<sup>25</sup>“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**PREPARATION HYMN**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

*LSB 656*

**A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need that hath us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe now means deadly woe; deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight; on earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant One, whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, of Sabaoth Lord,  
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.**

**Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill; they shall not overpow'r us.  
This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will, he can harm us none.  
He's judged; the deed is done; one little word can fell him.**

**The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain with His good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife, though these all be gone,  
Our vict'ry has been won; the Kingdom ours remaineth.**

**OFFERING** *(You are invited to place your financial gifts to the Lord in the offering plates as they are passed through the pews. You can also give your one-time or recurring gifts to the Lord through the "Vanco Mobile" app for your phone or by clicking on the "Give" tab on our website.)*

**OFFERTORY**

“At the Cross”

**[Piano Solo]****PRAYERS**

*Each petition concludes with the following response:*

Pastor: Lord,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in Jesus’ name and as He has taught us:

**All: 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.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Go now with the peace and power, the protection and provision of your friend, Jesus. The Lord bless and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

**All: What a Friend we have in Jesus!**

**CLOSING HYMN**

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

LSB 524

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart’s unrest;  
'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;  
My never-failing treasury filled with boundless stores of grace.**

**O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.**

**How weak the effort of my heart, how cold my warmest thought!  
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I’ll praise Thee as I ought.**

**Till then I would Thy love proclaim with ev’ry fleeting breath;  
And may the music of Thy name refresh my soul in death!**

## SERVICE NOTES

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