

Savior, Servant, Friend

Services for Lent

Week 2: Listener

Order of Service

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

P We gather together as friends knowing that we are heard by the Triune God. We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

C **You have given me relief when I was in distress.**

P Be gracious to me

C **And hear my prayer. (Psalm 4:1)**

P O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted;

C **you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear (Psalm 10:17)**

P I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;

C **Incline your ear to me; hear my words. (Psalm 17:6)**

P Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;

C **Be gracious to me and answer me! (Psalm 27:7)**

Opening Hymn LSB 779 Come, My Soul, with Every Care

1. Come, my soul, with ev'ry care; Jesus loves to answer prayer. He himself bids you to pray. He will never turn away.
2. You are coming to a king— Large petitions with you bring. For his grace and pow'r are such, None can ever ask too much.
3. With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin; Let your blood, for sinners spilt, Set my conscience free from guilt.
4. Lord, your rest to me impart; Take possession of my heart. There your blood-bought right maintain, And without a rival reign.
5. While I am a pilgrim here, Let your love my spirit cheer. As my guide, my guard, my friend, Lead me to my journey's end,
6. Show me what is mine to do; Ev'ry hour my strength renew. Let me live a life of faith; Let me die thy people's death.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Lord Jesus, our listening friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

C **Forgive me, Jesus, for all that I have done to harm my neighbors.**

P Lord Jesus, our listening friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

C **Forgive me, Jesus, for all that I have failed to do.**

P Lord Jesus, our listening friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

C **Forgive me, Jesus, for the ways that I have sinned again you in thought, word and deed.**

P Lord Jesus, our listening friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

(Please silently reflect on how Jesus listens to—and forgives—the confessions of his people.)

P Listen now for you will hear Good News! Our Savior, Servant, Friend, Jesus, has heard us confess our sins. He has nailed our sins to the cross, and he has thrown them into the tomb.

They are forgiven, and they are gone. Hear these words now as though they were spoken not by me, but by Jesus himself: Friends, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **What a friend we have in Jesus.**

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 29:10–14*

¹⁰“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *1 John 5:13–15*

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel *John 3:1–17*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

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

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of

the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn LSB 702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away; O let me from this day Be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, My zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm and changeless be, A living fire.

While life’s dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, Be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life’s transient dream, when death’s cold, sullen stream Shall o’er me roll, blest Savior, then in love, Fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

- 1 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay;
Tell how Christ, the world’s redeemer, As a victim won the day.
- 2 Tell how, when at length the fullness, Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman, Left for us His Father’s home,
Blazed the path of true obedience, Shone as light amidst the gloom.

- 3 Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did His work, and met His death;
Like a lamb He humbly yielded, On the cross His dying breath.
- 4 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit thine equal be;
Symbol of the world's redemption, For the weight that hung on thee!
- D5 Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit honor, Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest, While the timeless ages run.

Prayers

P God, you call out to us with peace and promise, hope and healing delivered through our friend, Jesus. God, you call out to us and invite us to respond with faith and trust. By your invitation, O God, we call out to you in prayer.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for mercy and forgiveness, and renew a right spirit within us.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for peace, deliver this world from injustice, protect the vulnerable and give us good and faithful leaders.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for healing and hope for all who are ill or recovering from sickness.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for all who mourn the loss of loved ones or are discouraged by loneliness.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for wisdom in good and godly living, upright conduct and virtue.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers of thanksgiving for all the gifts that you give to your people.

C Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C 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 Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C Amen.

434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

1 Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

2 Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

3 Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able, To satisfy and make me whole: *Refrain*

ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood, Be for my soul the highest good!

2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning, That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*

4 Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden, My heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain*

5 What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

(Screen) How Much More a Servant Could He Be

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me, Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be. Oh, who am I, That for my sake, My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne, Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none, The longed-for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed,
Who at my need, His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way, And His sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day, Hosannas to their King. Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
And for His death, They thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight. Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these, Themselves displease, And 'gainst Him rise.
- 5 They rise and needs will have, My dear Lord made away; A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay. Yet cheerful He, To suff'ring goes
That He His foes, From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home, My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb, But what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb, Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days, Could gladly spend!

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant, Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory, Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles, Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding, Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Father invites us to come to him. The Son grants us access through the cross. The Holy Spirit guides us in the way of holiness. And, so, may the triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—be our friend and companion now and for all eternity. Amen.

C What a friend we have in Jesus!

770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry, Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry, Ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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