

## Savior, Servant, Friend Services for Lent

### Week 3: Encourager

#### 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 for worship today to be encouraged by the powerful presence of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P May the God of endurance and encouragement grant us

**C To live in harmony with one another and in accord with Christ Jesus. (Romans 15:5)**

P So if there is any encouragement in Christ,

**C Any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit,**

P Any affection and sympathy,

**C Complete my joy by being of one mind,**

P Having the same love,

**C Being in full accord and of one mind. (Philippians 2:1-2)**

P Therefore encourage one another

**C And build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)**

#### Opening Hymn ... Be Thou My Vision (Tune of LSB 861)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that thou art; Thou my best thought, by day or by night; Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father and I, thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and thou only, first in my heart; O high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun, Rule and reign in me 'til thy will be done; Heart of my own heart, whatever befall; Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

#### Confession and Forgiveness

P Encourage us, our Savior, Servant, Friend, with your word of forgiveness as we confess our sins.

**C My heart is weighed down by shame and guilt, by my sins and failures.**

P My words have discouraged and torn others down.

**C My confidence has been misplaced and misdirected.**

P My faith has faltered as I have trusted in idols and myself.

**C My soul is tried and burdened by the loads that I have carried.**

P My spirit needs a word of forgiveness and encouragement.

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

*(Please silently reflect on our need for the encouraging friendship of Jesus.)*

P Take courage, friends! Jesus forgives you of all of your sins. Let your hearts be strengthened, your souls be refreshed, your minds be renewed and your spirits be encouraged. Jesus has nailed your sins to the cross and thrown them into the tomb. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Having been forgiven by Jesus, let us now live for him.

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

#### Prayer of the Day

P Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

#### Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 41:8–11*

P A reading from Isaiah, the forty-first chapter.

<sup>8</sup>But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; <sup>9</sup>you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; <sup>10</sup>fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. <sup>11</sup>Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:5–11*

P The Epistle is from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5.

<sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Reading *Matthew 8:5–13*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighth chapter.

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

<sup>5</sup>When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, <sup>6</sup>“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” <sup>7</sup>And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” <sup>8</sup>But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” <sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. <sup>11</sup>I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, <sup>12</sup>while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>13</sup>And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

### Sermon Hymn ... LSB 728 How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,  
For I will be with you your troubles to bless  
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.”

“When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply;  
The flames will not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

“Throughout all their lifetime my people will prove  
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love,  
And then, when gray hair shall their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in my bosom be borne.”

Sermon

### Apostles’ Creed

C **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, he holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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!
- D 5 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 We are not worthy to come under your roof and enter into your presence, our Savior,  
Servant, Friend, And still you welcome us to come and draw near to you in prayer. You  
promise that when we gather in your name, you will be present among us. And so, you  
encourage us to pray. Jesus, hear us now as we lift our prayers and raise our petitions to  
you.

**C Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Fortify our wavering hearts and encourage us with your unflinching love.

**C Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Encourage the leaders of this world to be about the work of peace and justice, fostering  
care for the sojourner, the lonely and the forgotten.

**C Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Build up the faith of those who are wandering in doubt, rescue those who are lost in sin  
and redeem all who are plagued by shame and guilt.

**C Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Strengthen the souls of those who are near the point of death or mourning the loss of loved  
ones, especially.....

**C Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Embolden our faith so that we can be witnesses for you in this world and that many may  
come to know you and your love.

**C Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Give hope and joy to your Church so that we can faithfully live as the Body of Christ  
amongst our neighbors.

**C Lord, hear our prayer, and encourage us as only you can. Amen.**

#### 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.**

#### Benediction

P And now may the strength and promises, the peace and blessing of God the Father, the  
Son and the Holy Spirit go with you and encourage you! Amen.

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

#### Closing Hymn ... LSB 761 Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; Let the water and the blood, from  
thy riven side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; Could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to the cross I cling; Naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace; Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death, When I soar to worlds  
unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself  
in thee.