

Savior, Servant, Friend

Services for Lent

Week 4: Protector

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

593 See This Wonder in the Making

- 1 See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.
- 2 Miracle each time it happens, As the door to heaven opens
And the Father beams, "Belovèd, Heir of gifts a king would covet!"

Service of Holy Baptism for Ronin Bradley Michelin, LSB p. 268

593 See This Wonder in the Making

- 3 Far more tender than a mother, Far more caring than a father,
God, into Your arms we place him, With Your love and peace embrace him.
- 4 Here we bring a child of nature; Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter, Born again by Word and water.

Call to Worship

- P 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.
C **Amen.**
P Spread your protection over us
C **That those who love your name may exult in you. (Psalm 5:11)**
P May the Lord answer us in the day of trouble!
C **May the name of the God of Jacob protect us! (Psalm 20:1)**
P Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
C **Is God in his holy habitation. (Psalm 68:5)**
P Spread your wings over your servants,
C **For you are a redeemer. (Ruth 3:9)**
P In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

C For you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8)

Hymn LSB 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

1. 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 endured the pain of all.
2. Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow, Though we see you wounded, bleeding, see your thorn-encircled brow? Since your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace and rest, Only what your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.
3. 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

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

C Forgive me, Jesus, from the sin that assails my heart and soul.

P Protect me from the punishment that my sin rightly brings.

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

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

C Lead me away from the dangerous way of rebellion.

P Lead me, Jesus, in paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

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

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

P 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. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Rejoice now in the protecting presence and forgiveness of your friend Jesus.

C What a friend we have in Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

P Mighty Savior and fortress of my soul, let this season of Lent be a time of return. Bring us back to your protecting presence, and cover us with your grace and mercy. Remind us that we are never alone because you are our ever-present friend. We pray this in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Psalm 121*

A The Old Testament Reading is from Psalm, chapter 121.

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ²My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading *2 Thessalonians 3:3–4*

A The Epistle is from 2 Thessalonians, chapter 3.

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading *John 14:18–27*

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

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

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever 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.” ²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³Jesus 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. ²⁴Whoever 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.

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But 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. ²⁷Peace 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children’s Message

656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- 1 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.
- 2 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.

- 3 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.
- 4 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.

Sermon

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 Mighty fortress, protector and friend, our Lord and Savior, Jesus: we come before you in prayer. Incline your ear to us and hear the prayers and petitions of your people.
- C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Protect us from pride and arrogance, lest we think that we can live on our own apart from you.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Protect us from sin and temptation, sending us your Spirit of truth and deliverance so that we can lead lives of righteousness and holiness according to your will.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Protect the weak and vulnerable, the sojourner and fatherless, the widow and orphan and the dying. We pray especially for...

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Protect those in warring nations and provide your perfect peace to places caught in the midst of warfare and strife.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Protect those who are charged with the task of protecting others—police, firefighters, soldiers, parents, caretakers and all others whose task it is to protect and serve their neighbors.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Protect us from ingratitude and indifference so that we can always thank and praise you for all your goodness and mercy.

C Lord, hear our prayer and protect us unto eternity. 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 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.

C What a friend we have in Jesus!

Closing Hymn LSB 524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear! It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart's unrest; 'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.
3. Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place: My never-failing treasury filled with boundless stores of grace.
4. O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King, My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.
5. How weak the effort of my heart, how cold my warmest thought; But when I see you as you are, I'll praise you as I ought.
6. Till then I would your love proclaim with ev'ry fleeting breath; And may the music of your name refresh my soul in death.

