



FAITH Lutheran Church
a heart from God, a heart for others, a place for you

The Hand of the Lord Who

Raises the Dead
Wednesday Lenten Series
April 2, 2025; 5 p.m.

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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).

OPENING HYMN

"The Word That Spoke in Darkness" (*Page 10*)

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 102:1

P *Hear my prayer, O LORD;*

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

Psalm 118:14–18

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

LSB, p. 261

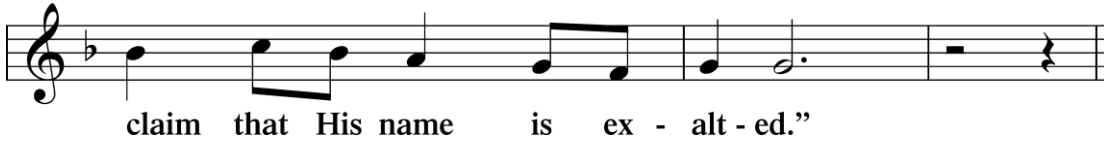
Refrain



☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that
day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds among the people, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has become my sal - va - tion.



Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done



glorious-ly; let this be made known in all the



earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -



hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the



Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will
 be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

READING

1 Kings 17:8–24

Then the word of the Lord came to him, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”

So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.' " And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

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. 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!" 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. 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?" 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." And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. 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." 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.**

READING*Luke 7:11–17*

Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. 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. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" 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!**

P *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!*

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

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

C **I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope;**

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

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

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

RESPONSORY HYMN "Christ the Life of All the Living" (vs 1 &7) **LSB 420**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

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.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C Amen.

THE WORD THAT SPOKE IN DARKNESS

Lisa M. Clark

KING'S LYNN

English

Coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958



1 The Word that spoke in dark - ness And prom - ised com - ing
 2 The Sav - ior came to con - quer And meet His mis - sion's
 3 The Christ pro - claimed His vic - t'ry With ev - 'ry act of
 4 The Prince of Peace con - tin - ued With each new task com -



light Kept guid - ing through the a - ges Un - til the time was
 aim: Up - end - ing Sa - tan's ter - ror, Cre - a - tion to re -
 grace: The out - cast shown com - pas - sion And God's own ho - ly
 plete At cross and tomb and glo - ry Up - on His roy - al



right To take on flesh and fol - low The Fa - ther's good com -
 claim By walk - ing on the wa - ters So we by faith may
 face As Je - sus looked with fa - vor On all from ev - 'ry
 seat, De - liv - er - ance ac - com - plished Ex - act - ly as He



mand And dwell a - mong His peo - ple, The king - dom now at hand.
 stand With trust in Him whose res - cue Is of - fered by His hand.
 land Who need - ed life and heal - ing From His al - might - y hand.
 planned; Our King will raise in wel - come His pierced and ris - en hand.

Welcome Home Children

We are so happy you are with us today at church. And we want you to feel at home here at Faith. If you need anything, tell your mom or dad, or grandma or grandpa, or whoever you came with, and they can let us know and we can help.

- ❖ Please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that little ones wiggle and squeak sometimes, and it is a joy to His ears, and ours as well.
- ❖ Encourage your parents to help you sit up front by the altar area. That way you'll be better able to see all the stuff that is going on. Most of the action happens up front.
- ❖ Be sure to grab an activity bag from the kid's room in the back of the church. (It's that place with the window that looks into the church.)
- ❖ Be sure to sing along with your parents and the people around you. Jesus loves it when we make joyful noises to Him.
- ❖ When we pray, a lot of times we fold our hands and bow our heads so we can listen better to the prayers. Don't you love it when we pray together?
- ❖ Jesus teaches us a special prayer called the "Our Father", or the "Lord's Prayer". When we pray this one, it's a good time to hold our parent's hand because this is a prayer we pray together.

Please know that while you are caring for your parents, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words, *"Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* ([Luke 18:16](#)) You are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all.

The week of Easter is a time of year when the whole world remembers the death of Jesus Christ. For some, this is just another day, there is no meaning or significance to the death of this man named Jesus, and the celebrations of others pass by them unnoticed. For others, this day once held a special place in their hearts and was the basis for a relationship with God and with others, but that time has passed and today, Easter is just an unpleasant memory of hopes long gone. And for many, this day is the capstone of one of the most significant weeks of celebration in the year. They celebrate with joy Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, they remember gladly the way in which Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper at His Last Supper with His disciples, they cry tears of guilt and mourning as they are reminded of the cost of their forgiveness and the burden, He bore for them at the cross. They celebrate with the women at the tomb when His resurrection is discovered and it becomes known for certain that He is the Messiah, the Savior, truly, the Son of God. We invite you to join us on this marvelous journey through Easter Week, also known as Holy Week. Come as you are; curious or fearful, worried or hopeful, hurting or lonely, seeking for answers or searching for community, and know this for certain, the God who made you, who went to the cross for you, loves you unconditionally and is waiting for you here, at the cross.

Holy Week Worship

The Hand of the Lord Who...

April 13th – April 20th, 2025

April 12th & 13th – Palm Sunday Weekend – Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 9:30am

The Heart of the Savior Fulfills the Father's Purpose

April 17th – Maundy Thursday – 5:00pm

The Hand of the Lord Who Serves and Feeds Us

April 18th – Good Friday – 5:00pm

The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us

April 19th – Easter Vigil – 5:00pm

The Hand of the Lord Who Made Us

April 20th – Sunrise Service – 7:00am

The Hand of the Lord Who is Risen

April 20th – Celebration Service – 9:30am

The Hand of the Lord Who Holds Us Always