

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
Hazen, ND

Lenten Vespers

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

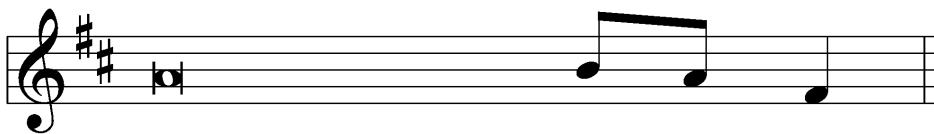
Pastor Peters

## The Hand of the Lord Who Heals the Sick

*Quarantine* is a term for isolating people suspected of carrying some infectious or contagious disease. In Latin, the term literally refers to “forty days.” The forty-day season of Lent serves as a sort of quarantine for sinners, a time when the medicine of repentance and faith in God’s Word brings healing and deliverance from sin, sickness, and death—whatever causes a person to be rejected, abandoned, or shunned by others, or even by God. The hand of the Lord is the reaching, touching, healing hand of the Son of God, Christ, the mighty Savior, that touches you, bringing healing and reconciliation with God and His people.

### Opening Sentences

**P** O Lord, open my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

## Psalmody

### Psalm

*Psalm 103*

- L** Bless the LORD, O my soul,
- C** **and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**
- L** Bless the LORD, O my soul,
- C** **and forget not all His benefits,**
- L** who forgives all your iniquity,
- C** **who heals all your diseases,**
- L** who redeems your life from the pit,
- C** **who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
- L** who satisfies you with good
- C** **so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**
- L** The LORD works righteousness
- C** **and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- L** He made known His ways to Moses,
- C** **His acts to the people of Israel.**
- L** The Lord is merciful and gracious,
- C** **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
- L** He will not always chide,
- C** **nor will He keep His anger forever.**
- L** He does not deal with us according to our sins,
- C** **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**
- L** For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
- C** **so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;**
- L** as far as the east is from the west,

**C** so far does He remove our transgressions from us.  
**L** As a father shows compassion to his children,  
**C** so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.  
**L** For He knows our frame;  
**C** He remembers that we are dust.  
**L** As for man, his days are like grass;  
**C** he flourishes like a flower of the field;  
**L** for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
**C** and its place knows it no more.  
**L** But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him,  
**C** and His righteousness to children's children,  
**L** to those who keep His covenant  
**C** and remember to do His commandments.  
**L** The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,  
**C** and His kingdom rules over all.  
**L** Bless the LORD, O you His angels,  
**C** you mighty ones who do His word,  
**L** obeying the voice of His word!  
**C** Bless the LORD, all His hosts,  
**L** His ministers, who do His will!  
**C** Bless the LORD, all His works,  
**L** in all places of His dominion.  
**C** Bless the LORD, O my soul!

## The Word That Spoke in Darkness



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.

Text: Lisa M. Clark  
 Tune: English; Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
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 Tune: Public domain

## Readings

### Reading

*2 Kings 5:1–14*

<sup>1</sup>Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. <sup>2</sup>Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his

leprosy.” <sup>4</sup>So Naaman went in and told his lord, “Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel.” <sup>5</sup>And the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.”

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes. <sup>6</sup>And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” <sup>7</sup>And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.”

<sup>8</sup>But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.” <sup>9</sup>So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha’s house. <sup>10</sup>And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” <sup>11</sup>But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. <sup>12</sup>Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup>But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” <sup>14</sup>So he went

down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### Reading

*Acts 3:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup>And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup>Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. <sup>4</sup>And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” <sup>5</sup>And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup>But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” <sup>7</sup>And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup>And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup>And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

<sup>1</sup>When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup>And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” <sup>3</sup>And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

<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.

<sup>14</sup>And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. <sup>15</sup>He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. <sup>16</sup>That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with



a word and healed all who were sick. <sup>17</sup>This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

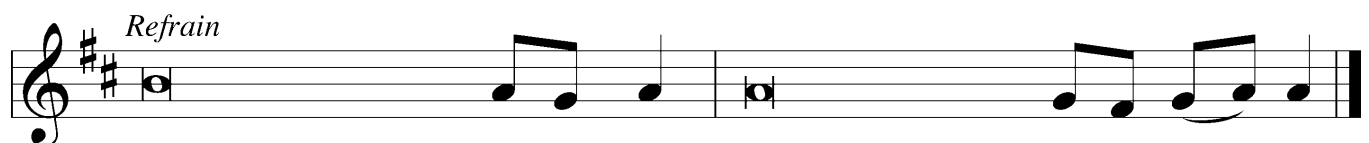
**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Lent Responsory

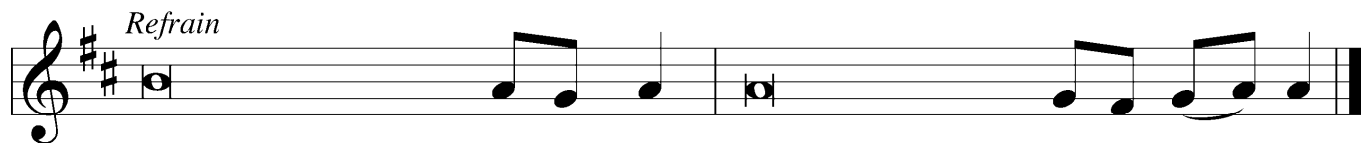
LSB 231

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.



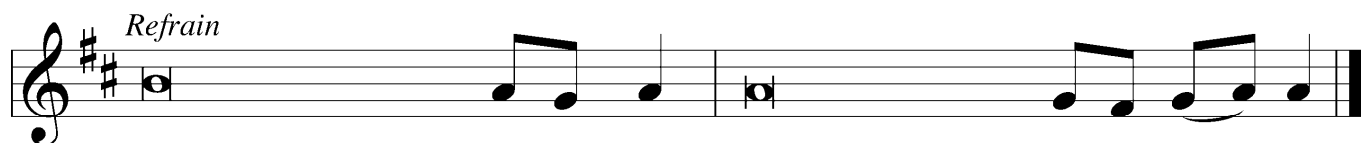
**C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me  
from those who rise a - gainst me.

**P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.



**C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me  
from those who rise a - gainst me.

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

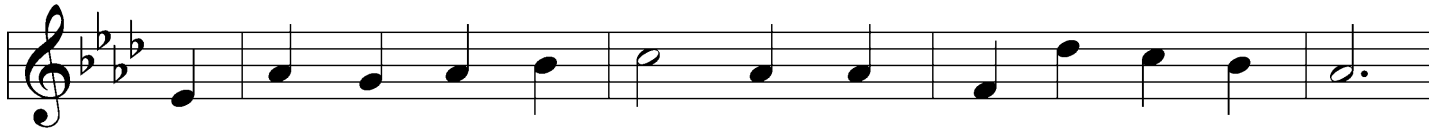


**C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me  
from those who rise a - gainst me.

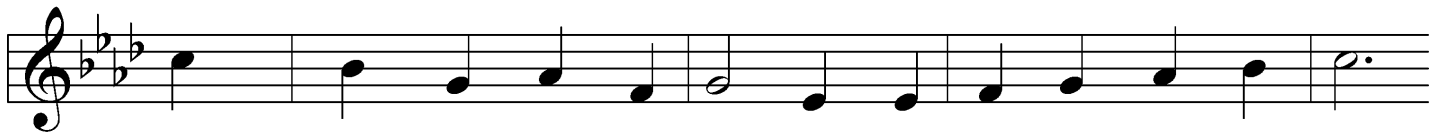
## 684 Come unto Me, Ye Weary



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."  
2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."  
3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."  
4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!  
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!  
O cheer-ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!  
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,  
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;  
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;  
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.  
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.  
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.  
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.  
Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857  
Text and tune: Public domain

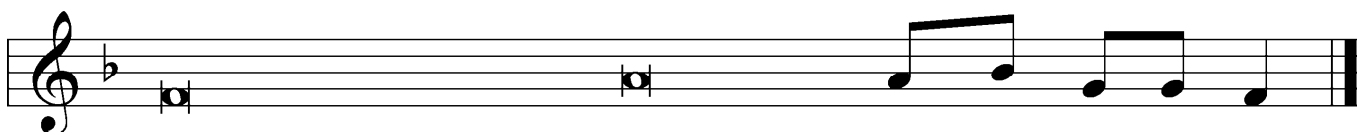
## Sermon

## Canticle

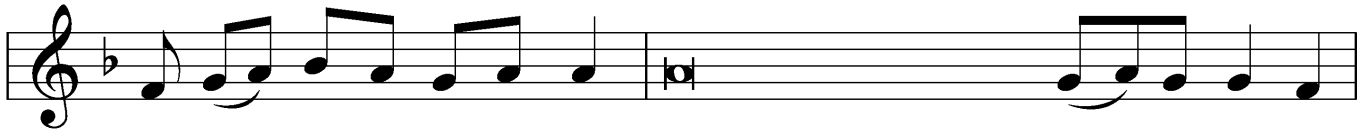
## Antiphon

LSB 231

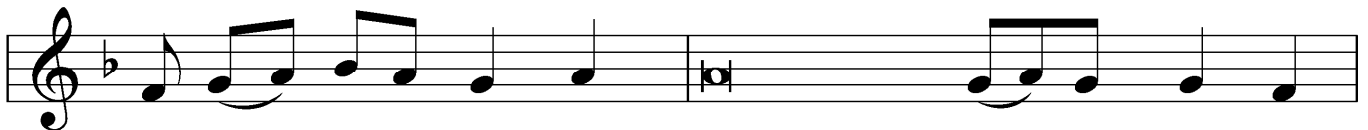
**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,



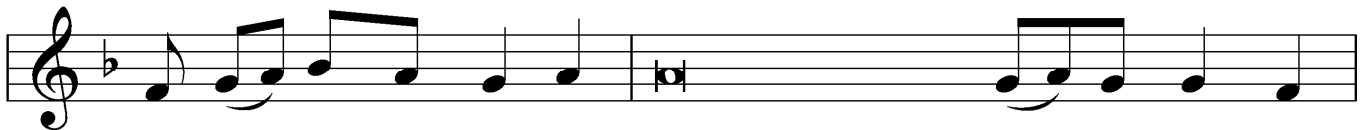
**G** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



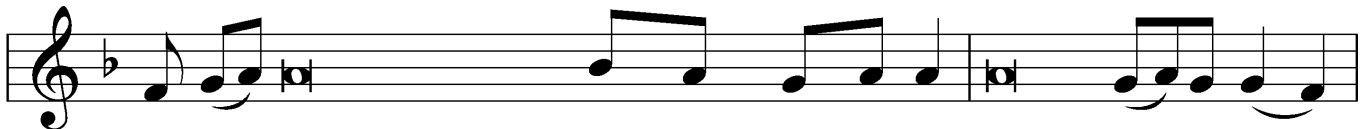
**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



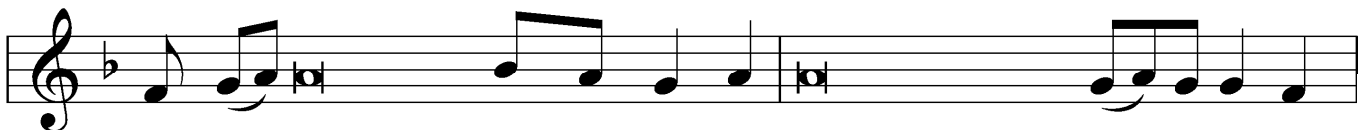
**I** for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



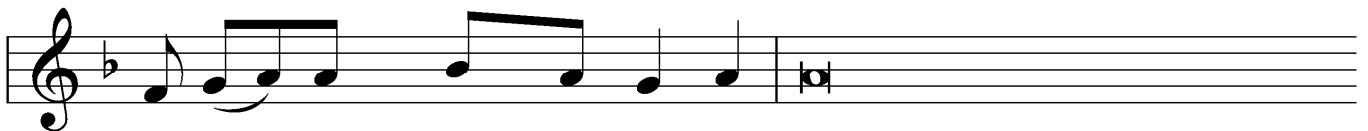
**II** For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



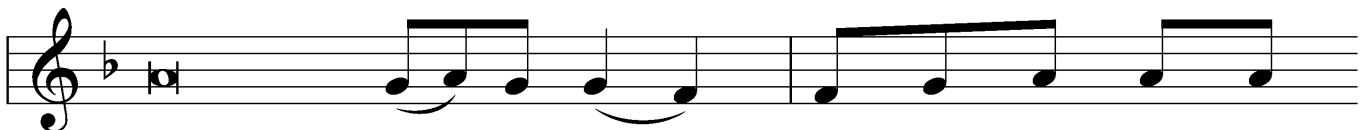
**I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



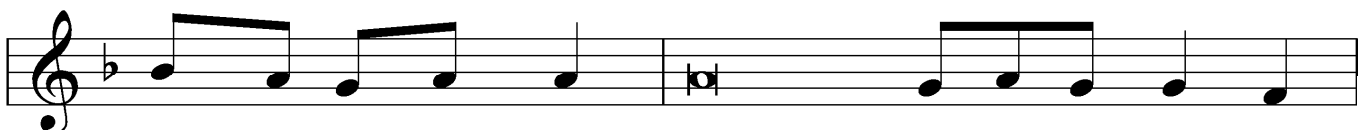
**II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



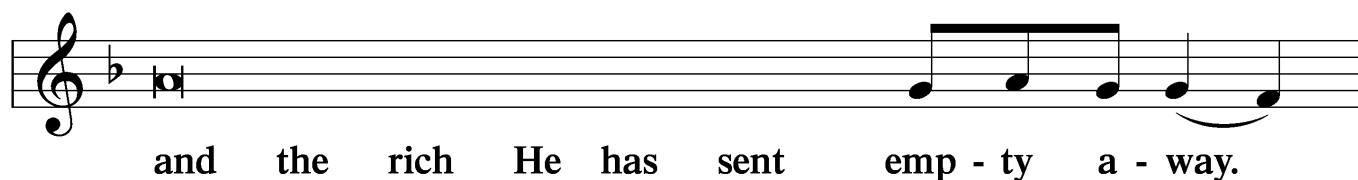
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



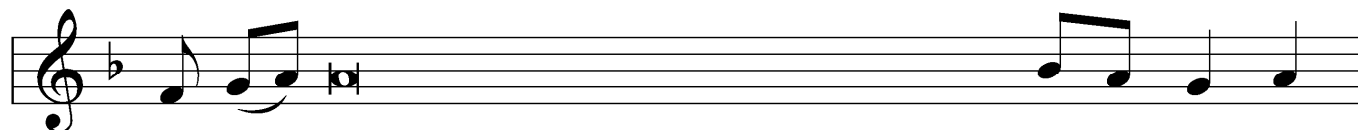
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



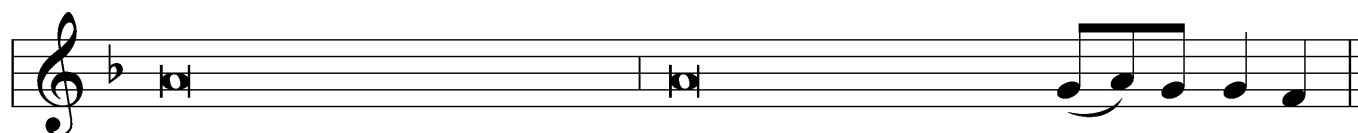
**I** He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



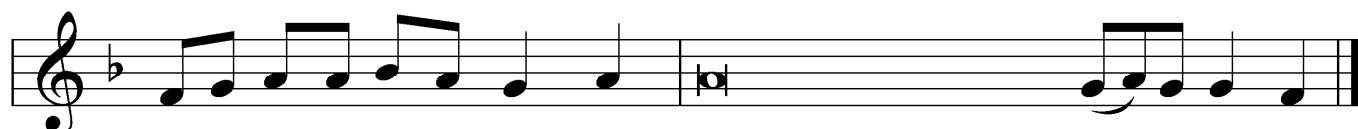
**II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev - er.



**C** 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.

## Offering

## Prayer

## Kyrie

LSB 233



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

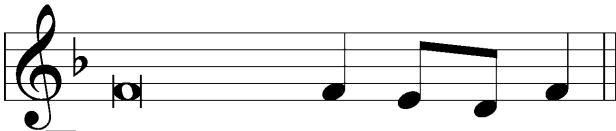
## Lord's Prayer

**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.

Collects

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, as the familiar hymn bids us, in this time of Lent we “come to Calvary’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall” (stanza 1). We “come in poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within.” We pray, “from infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,” wash our robes and make them white (stanza 2). Help us walk with You in light; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.

**C** 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.

**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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

