

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
Hazen, ND

Lenten Vespers

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

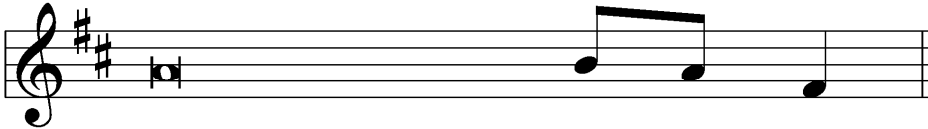
Pastor Peters

## The Hand of the Lord Who Raises the Dead

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 Sentences

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



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

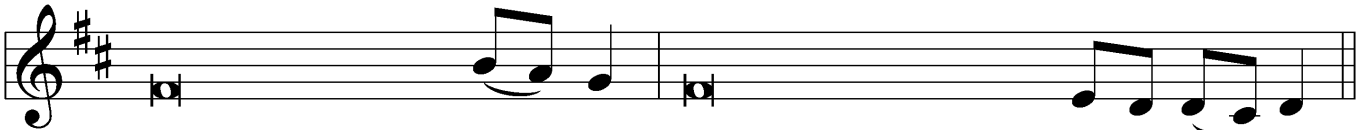
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



**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 118:14–18*

**L** The LORD is my strength and my song;

**C** **He has become my salvation.**

**L** Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous:

**C** **“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,**

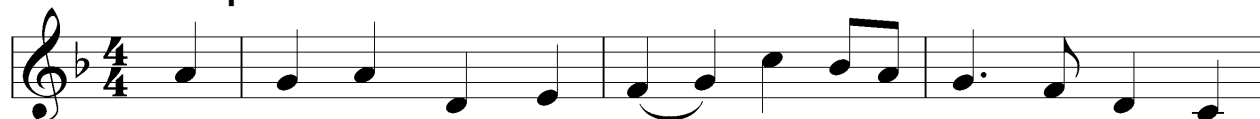
**L** the right hand of the LORD exalts,

**C** **the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”**

**L** I shall not die, but I shall live,

- C** and recount the deeds of the LORD.  
**L** The LORD has disciplined me severely,  
**C** but He has not given me over to death.

## 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.

## Readings

### Reading

1 Kings 17:8–24

<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him, <sup>9</sup>“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there.

Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”

<sup>10</sup>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.” <sup>11</sup>And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>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.” <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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.’” <sup>15</sup>And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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!” <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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?” <sup>21</sup>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.” <sup>22</sup>And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. <sup>23</sup>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.” <sup>24</sup>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

*1 Corinthians 15:12–28, 50–58*

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

<sup>50</sup>I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup>“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

<sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Reading

*Luke 7:11–17*

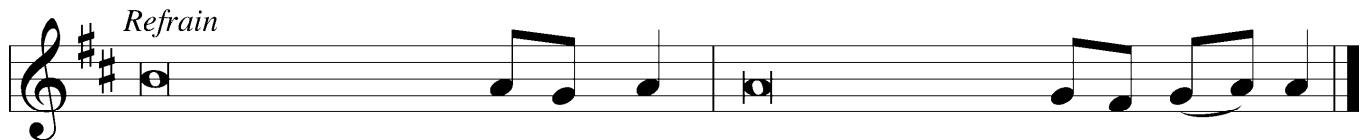
<sup>11</sup>Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup>As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup>And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” <sup>14</sup>Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” <sup>15</sup>And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup>Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” <sup>17</sup>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.

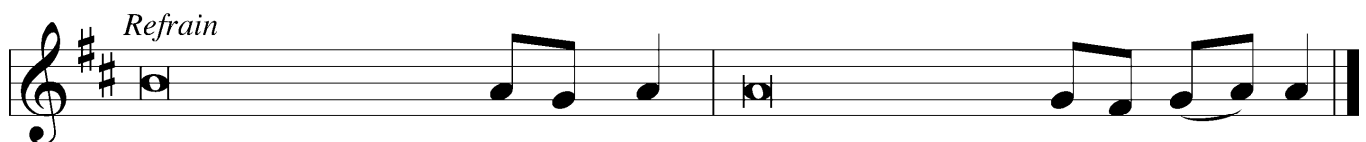


**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.



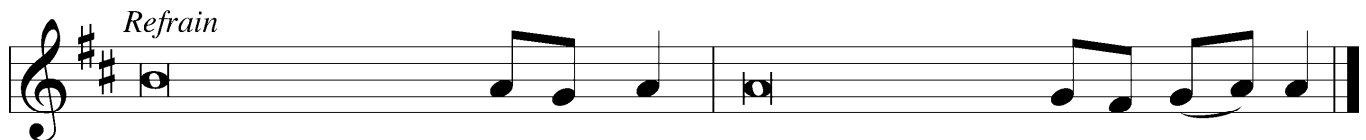
**C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me  
from those who rise a - gainst me.

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



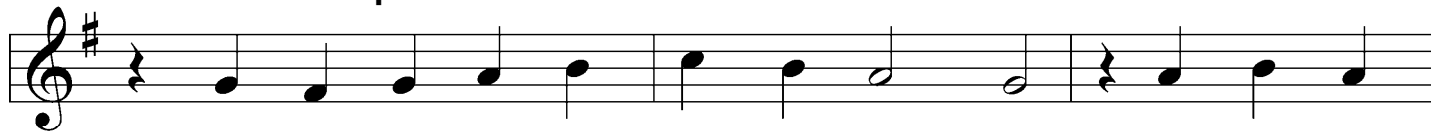
**C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me  
from those who rise a - gainst me.

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

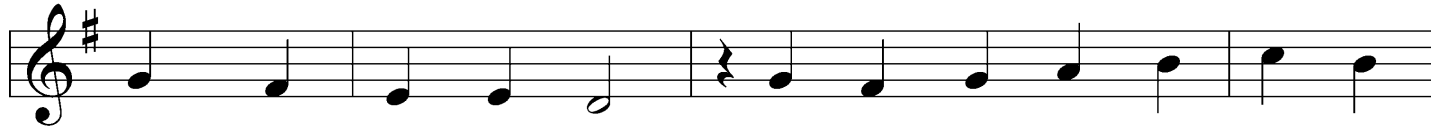


**C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me  
from those who rise a - gainst me.

## 598 Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters



1 Once in the blest bap - tis - mal wa - ters I put on  
 2 His bod - y and His blood I've tak - en In His blest  
 3 And thus I live in God con - tent - ed And die with -



Christ and made Him mine; Now num - bered with God's sons and  
 Sup - per, feast di - vine; Now I shall nev - er be for -  
 out a thought of fear; My soul has to God's plans con -



daugh - ters, I share His peace and love di - vine.  
 sak - en, For I am His, and He is mine.  
 sent - ed, For through His Son my faith is clear.



*Refrain*

O God, for Je-sus' sake I pray Your peace may bless my dy-ing day.

Text: Emilie Juliane von Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, 1637-1706; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr., alt.  
 Tune: Christian Möck, 1737-1818  
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004310  
 Tune: Public domain

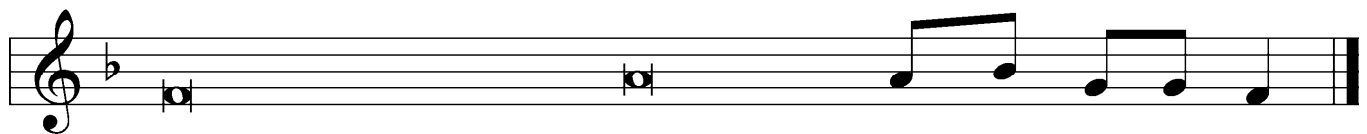
## Sermon

## Canticle

## Antiphon

LSB 231

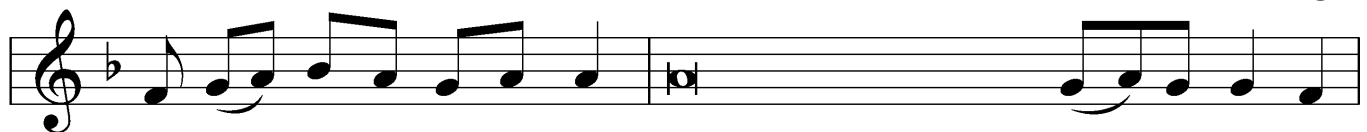
**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,



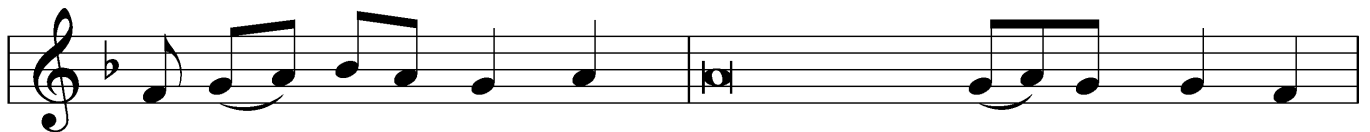
**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

## Magnificat

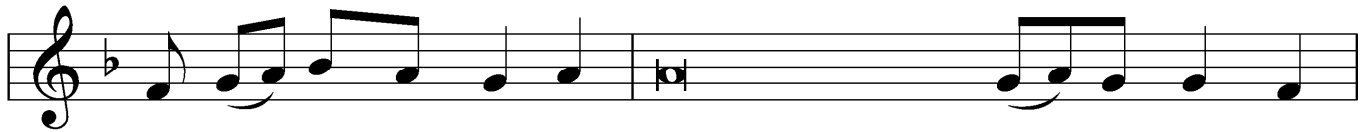
LSB 231



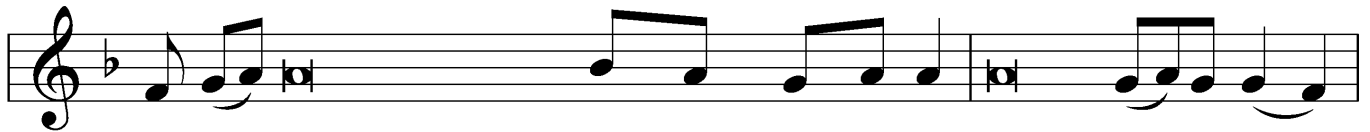
**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



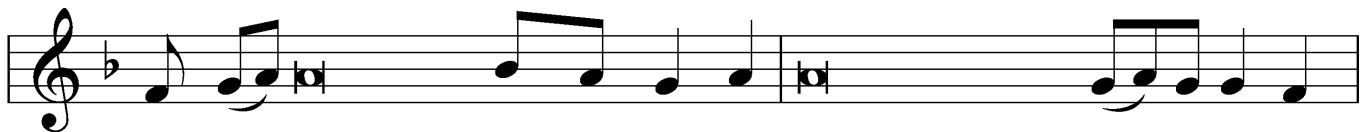
I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



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;



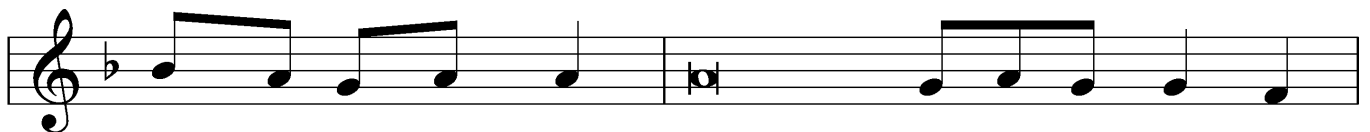
II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



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



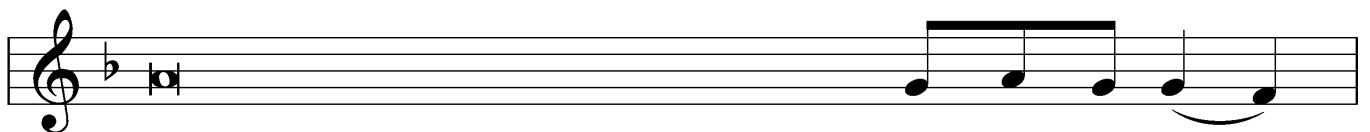
imagination of their hearts. II He has cast down the



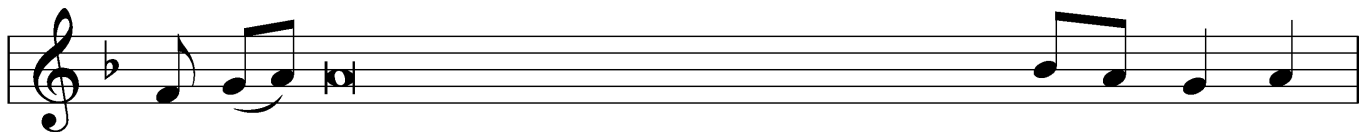
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



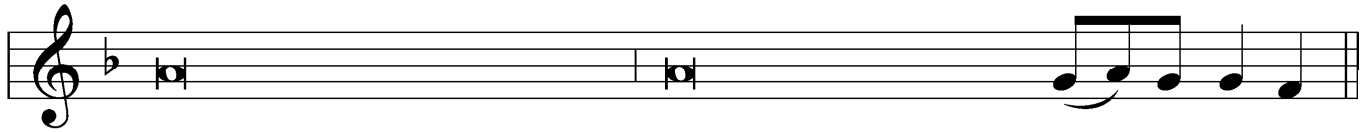
I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



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



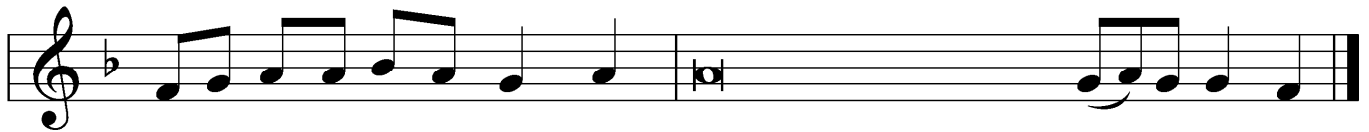
**II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



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.

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.

**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.

**P** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



**C** A - men.

# 552 O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life

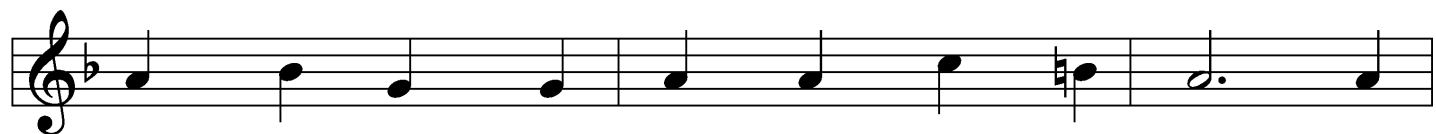
sts. 1, 7-8, 4



1 O Christ, who shared our mor - tal life And  
 2 The ranks of death with tro - phy grim Through  
 3 The ranks of death, the Lord of Life Stood  
 4 Death's pow - er holds us still in thrall And



end - ed death's long reign, Who healed the sick and  
 an - cient streets once trod And sud - den - ly con -  
 face to face that hour; And You took up the  
 bears us toward the tomb. Death's dark - 'ning cloud hangs



raised the dead And bore our grief and pain: We  
 front - ed You, The might - y Son of God. A  
 age - old strife With words of awe - some pow'r. "Young  
 like a pall That threat - ens earth with doom. But



know our years on earth are few, That death is  
 wid - ow's tears e - voked Your Word; You stopped the  
 man, a - rise!" You or - dered loud, And death de -  
 You have bro - ken death's em - brace And torn a -



al - ways near. Come now to us, O  
 bear - ers' tread. "Weep not!" in pit - y  
 feat - ed lay. The wid - ow's son cast  
 way its sting. Re - store to life our



Lord of Life; Bring hope that con - quers fear!  
 then You spoke To her whose son was dead.  
 off his shroud And strode from death a - way.  
 mor - tal race! Raise us, O Ris - en King!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007, alt.

Tune: Kevin J. Hildebrand, 1973

Text: © 2003 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004310

Tune: © 2004 Kevin J. Hildebrand. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004310

## Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
 Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.