

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLENDORA
FOURTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT
March 13, 2024

Empty Words
As We Gather

You are daily assailed by empty words: idle small talk, advertising slogans, and news reports that play on your fears. Political and business leaders spew cant, clichés, and spin. Perhaps even your friends and family get in on the act, betraying you with flattery and falsehoods. King David was only too familiar with such afflictions: “When one comes to see me,” he said, “he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad” (Psalm 41:6). Our Lord’s powerful Word was David’s refuge from vain and malicious talk. It is your refuge too. In Baptism, Jesus Christ has lifted you out of the verbal cesspool and placed you firmly on the rock of His Word. That Word is never empty, but it shall accomplish that which He purposes for you.

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story, Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o’ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming, Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming, Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences *Psalm 145:10–13*

- P All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,
C **and all Your saints shall bless You!**
P They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and tell of Your power,
C **to make known to the children of man Your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.**
P Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

C **The LORD is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.**

Call to Confession

- P Let us make our confession to our God, seeking His grace and forgiveness.

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me *sts. 1, 4*

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me, And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free, And make me pure within.
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me, Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity, Point out Your chosen way.

Absolution

- P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
C **Amen.**

Salutation

- P The Lord be with you. C **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

- P Let us pray.
O pitying Lord Jesus, grant us of Your gentleness and forbearance, of Your compassion and love, and of Your tenderheartedness, that filled with Your grace we may always find fitting and salutary words to speak and willingly forgive the wrongs and evils done us. This we ask in Your precious and mighty name.
C **Amen.**

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (tune of LSB 449) *sts. 1, 5*

- 1 O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded, With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.
- 5 What language shall I borrow, To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

Old Testament Reading *Psalm 52:1–9*

- P The Old Testament Reading is from Psalms, the fifty-second chapter.

¹Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. ²Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. ³You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. ⁴You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue. ⁵But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. ⁶The righteous shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, saying, ⁷“See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!” ⁸But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. ⁹I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 41*

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**

P the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

P The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

C **As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”**

P My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”

C **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**

P All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

C **They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”**

P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

C **But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

C **But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle *James 3:1–10*

P The Epistle is from James, the third chapter.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel *Matthew 26:57–62*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

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

⁵⁷Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” ⁶²And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

432 In Silent Pain the Eternal Son

- 1 In silent pain the eternal Son, Hangs derelict and still;
In darkened day His work is done, Fulfilled, His Father's will.
Uplifted for the world to see, He hangs in strangest victory,
For in His body on the tree, He carries all our ill.
- 2 He died that we might die to sin, And live for righteousness;
The earth is stained to make us clean, And bring us into peace.
For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Himself to save the
lost; He loved us to the uttermost, And paid for our release.
- 3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;
To rule in us, our patient Lord, Until all evil dies:
For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our
wars, And those who love Him see His scars, And look into His
eyes.

Sermon *Psalm 41:6*

Hymn Introduction

- P In the fifth stanza of “My Song Is Love Unknown,” author Samuel Crossman makes a singular word choice as he poetically writes of Jesus: “Yet cheerful He to suffering goes that He His foes from thence might free.” The use of the word *cheerful* may be surprising, but its derivation comes from the Middle English *chere*, meaning “face” or “demeanor.” Originally, it related to an individual’s bearing. Jesus went through His time of suffering for us with a noble bearing and in a triumphant way, and He was happy to set us free even if it meant suffering. The Prince of Life turned the cross of sorrow and shame into a tree of salvation and beauty!

Offering and Offertory 430 My Song is Love Unknown *sts. 1, 5*

- 1 My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown, That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, That for my sake, My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?
- 5 They rise and needs will have, My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He, To suffering goes, That He His foes
From thence might free.

Litany

- P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**

- P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **hear us.**
P God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**
P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**
P God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**
P Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
P Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**

- P From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil
death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from
sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water;
and from everlasting death:
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and
bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death
and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of
the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the
hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
P We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**
P To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all
pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and
understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in
holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the
way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into

Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our [*president/queen/king*] and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people; To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **we implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

C **hear us.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy. 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.

Luther's Evening Prayer

P Let us pray.

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.

Benediction

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

C **Amen.**

880 Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

1 Now rest beneath night's shadow, The woodland, field, and meadow; The world in slumber lies. But you, my heart, awaking And prayer and music making, Let praise to your Creator rise.

2 The radiant sun has vanished, Its golden rays are banished From dark'ning skies of night; But Christ, the Sun of gladness, Dispelling all our sadness, Shines down on us in warmest light.

3 Now all the heav'nly splendor, Breaks forth in starlight tender From myriad worlds unknown; And we, this marvel seeing, Forget our selfish being, For joy of beauty not our own.

4 Lord Jesus, since You love me, Now spread Your wings above me And shield me from alarm. Though Satan would devour me, Let angel guards sing o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.

5 My loved ones, rest securely, For God this night will surely From peril guard your heads. Sweet slumbers may He send you And bid His hosts attend you, And through the night watch o'er your beds.

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