### FIRST WEEK IN LENT

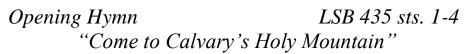
"Be Gracious to Me" February 21, 2024 7:00 p.m.

### Prelude

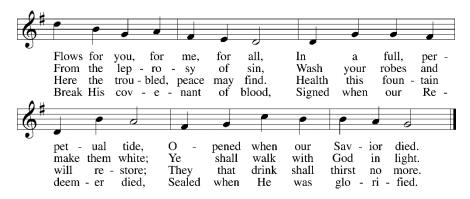
### Welcome

### SUSTAINED IN SICKNESS

Since the fall into sin, no part of our human nature has escaped the ravages of original sin. Not only has sin separated us from God to our spiritual detriment, but our bodies, created for perfect health, endure sickness and injury. King David announces God's answer to this catastrophe in Psalm 41:3: "The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health." This is a beautiful promise, but what does it mean for you and your infirmities? As all the Scriptures bear witness to Jesus, the gifts contained in these words are only revealed by your Baptism into Him by whose wounds we are healed.







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### + PSALMODY +

PSALM Psalm 41

- P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
- 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.
- The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.
- 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?"
- 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.
- 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.
- **©** 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.
- 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.



5 O my God, my rock and tower, Grant that in Your death I trust, Knowing death has lost its power Since You crushed it in the dust. Savior, let Your agony Ever help and comfort me; When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.

### + READINGS +

### **READING** Psalm 103:1–14

**P** A reading from Psalms, the 103rd chapter.

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

- **P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

**READING** James 5:7–18

**P** A reading from James, the fifth chapter.

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

17Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

- **P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

### READING

Matthew 8:14–17

P A reading from St. Matthew, the eighth chapter.

14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve Him. 16 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. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

- **P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



### Sermon

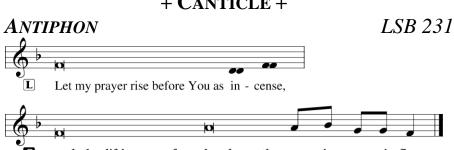
# **Rev. David Burge**

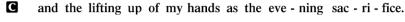
# "Christ Sustains Us As He Changes Us"

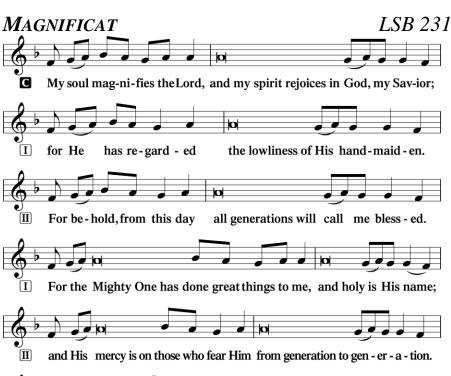
### Sermon Text

Psalm 41:3









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



### **OFFERING**

In quiet devotion and responding in personal stewardship of God's abundant provision to you, please use the offering plates in the back as you enter or exit. (As a reassurance to those in worship today, especially our guests - this is not an obligation - the good news of Jesus is free to all!)

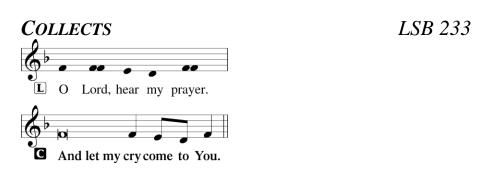
### + PRAYER +



### LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 233

P © 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.



P Let Your blessing be upon us, heavenly Father, as we pass through these holy days in which we remember the sufferings and death of our dear Lord. Grant that His holy example being ever before us, we follow Him in willing obedience, learn His gracious humility, and being filled with His love and spirit of self-sacrifice,

learn the lessons of a life pleasing to You and helpful to all people; through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.



P 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.

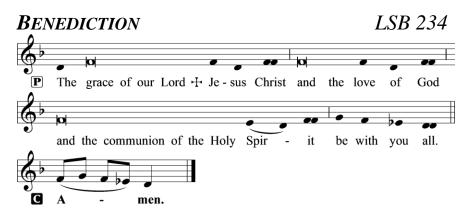


### **BENEDICAMUS**

LSB 234

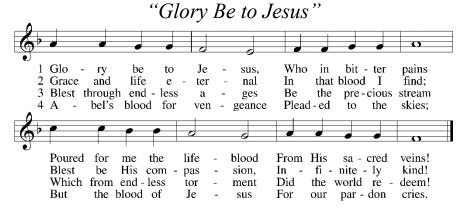






# Closing Hymn

LSB 433 sts. 1-6



- 5 Oft as earth exulting
  Wafts its praise on high,
  Angel hosts rejoicing
  Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood; Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

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