

## EMPTY WORDS

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.

## FOURTH WEEK IN LENT

“Be Gracious to Me”

March 13, 2024 7:00 p.m.

### *Prelude*

### *Welcome*

### *Opening Hymn*

*LSB 438 sts. 1-4*

### *“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”*



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The  
2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The  
3 “Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll  
4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And



guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the  
Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther  
bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to  
taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al



sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes  
 chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go  
 Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O  
 robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When



pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -  
 forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren  
 won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers  
 I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall



out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the  
 from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and  
 up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how  
 be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in



stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and  
 stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion  
 strong You are to save! You lay the One in -  
 gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall



yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."  
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."  
 to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.  
 we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.

© 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License  
 .NET, no. 110003273

Public domain

Stand

**OPENING VERSICLES**

LSB 229

**P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**☐ ☐** 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. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

+ PSALMODY +

*PSALM*

*Psalm 41*

**☐** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

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

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

**☐** 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!”

**☐** 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.

**☐** 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.”

**☐** 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!

**☐** 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.**

*Sit*

*Office Hymn*

*LSB 432 sts. 1-3*

*“In Silent Pain the Eternal Son”*



1 In si - lent pain the e - ter - nal Son Hangs der - e - lict and still;  
2 He died that we might die to sin And live for righ - teous - ness;  
3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;



In dark - ened day His work is done, Ful - filled, His Fa - ther's will.  
The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us in - to peace.  
To rule in us, our pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies;



Up - lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang - est vic - to - ry,  
For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Him - self to save the lost;  
For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our wars,



For in His bod - y on the tree He car - ries all our ill.  
He loved us to the ut - ter - most And paid for our re - lease.  
And those who love Him see His scars And look in - to His eyes.

© 1992 Jubilate Hymns Ltd.; admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission:  
LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 110003273

© 1988, 1997 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland; admin.  
GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no.  
110003273

+ READINGS +

**READING**

*Psalm 52:1–9*

**P** A reading from Psalms, the fifty-second chapter.

1 Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. 2 Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

3 You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. 4 You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.

5 But 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.

6 The 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!”

8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. 9 I 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.**

**READING**

*James 3:1–10*

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

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For 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. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide

their whole bodies as well. 4 Look 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. 5 So 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! 6 And 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. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From 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.**

*Stand*

**READING**

*Matthew 26:57–62*

**P** A reading from St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

57 Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. 58 And 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. 59 Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, 60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61 and said, “This man said, ‘I am able

to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.” 62 And the high priest stood up and said, “Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**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 enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

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

**C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

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

**C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Sermon

Pastor Jeffrey Sippy

“Empty Words”

*Sermon Text*

*Psalm 41:6*

*Stand*

+ CANTICLE +

*ANTIPHON*

*LSB 231*

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

**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**☐** **☉** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;  
**I** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.  
**☐** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.  
**I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;  
**☐** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.  
**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
**☐** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.  
**I** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.  
**☐** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.  
**☐** **☉** 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.

*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 +

*KYRIE*

*LSB 233*

**C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

*LORD'S PRAYER*

*LSB 233*

**P 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*

*LSB 233*

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

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

**P** 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.

**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.

**C** Amen.

*BENEDICAMUS*

*LSB 234*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*BENEDICTION*

*LSB 234*

**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** Amen.

*Sit*

*Closing Hymn*

*LSB 880 sts 1-5*

*“Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow”*



1	Now	rest	be -	neath	night's	shad -	ow	The	wood -	land,
2	The	ra -	diant	sun	has	van -	ished,	Its	gold -	en
3	Now	all	the	heav'n	- ly	splen -	dor	Breaks	forth	in
4	Lord	Je -	sus,	since	You	love	me,	Now	spread	Your
5	My	loved	ones,	rest	se -	cure -	ly,	For	God	this



field, and mead - ow;            The world in slum - ber lies.  
rays are ban - ished            From dark - 'ning skies of night;  
star - light ten - der            From myr - iad worlds un - known;  
wings a - bove me            And shield me from a - larm.  
night will sure - ly            From per - il guard your heads.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing    And prayer and mu - sic  
But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness,    Dis - pel - ling all our  
And we, this mar - vel see - ing,    For - get our self - ish  
Though Sa - tan would de - vour me,    Let an - gel guards sing  
Sweet slum - bers may He send you    And bid His hosts at -



mak - ing,            Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.  
sad - ness,            Shines down on us in warm - est light.  
be - ing            For joy of beau - ty not our own.  
o'er me:            This child of God shall meet no harm.  
tend you            And through the night watch o'er your beds.

*Public domain*