

MIDWEEK OF LENT 4

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO RAISES THE DEAD AS WE GATHER

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).

SERIES HYMN

The Word That Spoke in Darkness

Lisa M. Clark

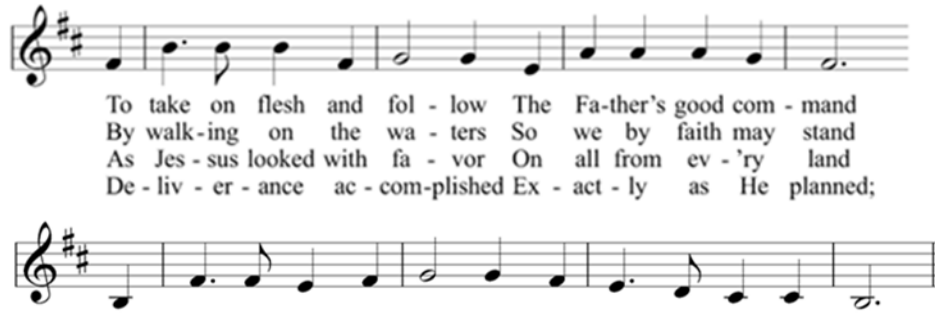
Mark Knickelbein



- 1 The Word that spoke in dark-ness And prom-ised com-ing light
- 2 The Sav-ior came to con-quer And meet His mis-sion's aim:
- 3 The Christ pro-claimed His vic-t'ry With ev-'ry act of grace:
- 4 The Prince of Peace con-tin-ued With each new task com-plete



Kept guid-ing through the a-ges Un-til the time was right
Up-end-ing Sa-tan's ter-ror, Cre-a-tion to re-claim
The out-cast shown com-pas-sion And God's own ho-ly face
At cross and tomb and glo-ry Up-on His roy-al seat,



To take on flesh and fol - low The Fa - ther's good com - mand
By walk - ing on the wa - ters So we by faith may stand
As Jes - sus looked with fa - vor On all from ev - 'ry land
De - liv - er - ance ac - com - plished Ex - act - ly as He planned;

And dwell a - mong His peo - ple, The king - dom now at hand.
With trust in Him whose res - cue Is of - fered by His hand.
Who need - ed life and heal - ing From His al - might - y hand.
Our King will raise in wel - come His pierced and ris - en hand.

Text and tune: Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

Permission is granted to reproduce this page for use with The Hand of the Lord series.
The above copyright notice must appear on each reproduction.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 102:1

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD;
- C** let my cry come to You!

Psalm 118:14–18

- P** The LORD is my strength and my song;
- C** He has become my salvation.
- P** Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous:
- C** “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,
- P** the right hand of the LORD exalts,
- C** the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”
- P** I shall not die, but I shall live,
- C** and recount the deeds of the LORD.
- P** The LORD has disciplined me severely,
- C** but He has not given me over to death.

READING

1 Kings 17:8–24

- P** ⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, ⁹“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So 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.” ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²And 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.”¹³ 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.”¹⁴ 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.”¹⁵ And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days.¹⁶ 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.

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

Luke 7:11–17

P ¹¹Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. ¹²As 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. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” ¹⁴Then He came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited His people!” ¹⁷And 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.

PSALM

Psalm 130; antiphon: v. 7

L O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

C **Out of the depths**

I cry to You, O LORD!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness,

that You may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in His word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with Him is plentiful redemption.

And He will redeem Israel

from all his iniquities.

**O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

HYMN

“Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters” (LSB 598)



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.



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 M \ddot{o} ck, 1737-1818
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003637 Tune: Public domain

SERMON

PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

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.

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, our Lord.

C Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

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.

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

L Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For as by a man came death,
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

C For as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

**But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits,
then at His coming those who belong to Christ.**

L Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father
after destroying every rule and every authority and power.
For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

C For “God has put all things in subjection under His feet.”
But . . . He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him.
When all things are subjected to Him, . . .
God may be all in all.
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.

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C Amen.

HYMN

“O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life” (LSB 552:1, 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. 110003637 Tune: © 2004 Kevin J. Hildebrand. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003637