

**Midweek of Lent 3, Wed., March 6, 2024, 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

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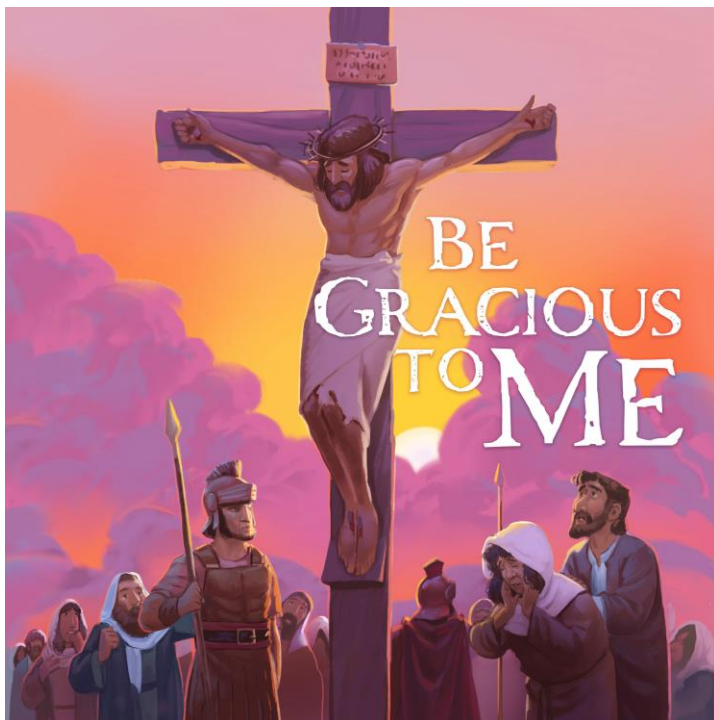
**St. Paul's Lutheran School & Childcare Center**

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**Hymns: 438, 610, 450, 422, 432, 777, 430, 427**



## 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.

## 438 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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487-1553; Text: © 1941; Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

## Invocation & Opening Sentences *Psalms 145:10-13*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

- 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 *stanzas 1, 4*



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;  
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.  
 Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365-c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-96, alt.; Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591; Text and tune: Public domain.

## 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 *stanzas 1, 5*



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weighed down,  
5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,



Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.;  
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## Old Testament Reading *Psalms 52:1-9*

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

- <sup>1</sup>Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?  
The steadfast love of God endures all the day.
- <sup>2</sup>Your tongue plots destruction,  
like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.
- <sup>3</sup>You love evil more than good,  
and lying more than speaking what is right.
- <sup>4</sup>You love all words that devour,  
O deceitful tongue.
- <sup>5</sup>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.
- <sup>6</sup>The righteous shall see and fear,  
and shall laugh at him, saying,
- <sup>7</sup>“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!”
- <sup>8</sup>But I am like a green olive tree  
in the house of God.

I trust in the steadfast love of God  
forever and ever.

<sup>9</sup>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.**

## **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.

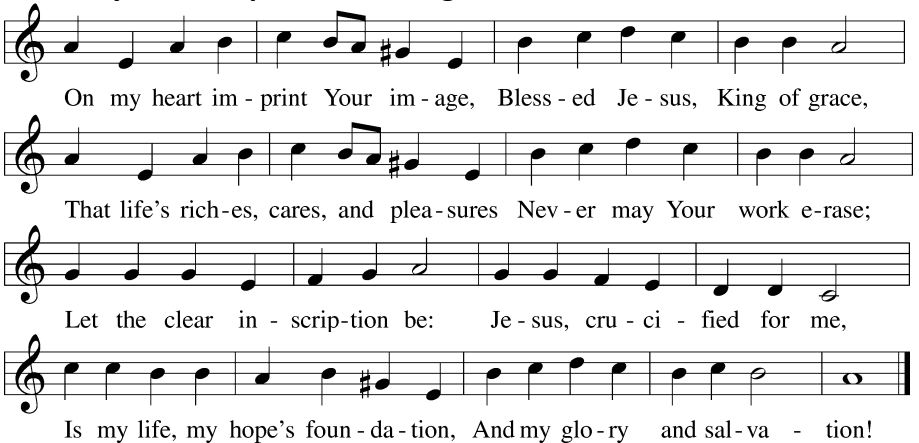
<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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! <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>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.

## 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,  
That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;  
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856-1921, alt.; Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758;  
Text and tune: Public domain.

## Holy Gospel *Matthew 26:57-62*

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

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

<sup>57</sup>Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup>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. <sup>59</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup>but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup>and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" <sup>62</sup>And 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 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.

Text: Christopher M. Idle, 1938; Tune: John L. Bell, 1949; Text: © 1992 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: © 1988, 1997 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644.

## Sermon: "Empty Words" *Psalm 41:6*

### 777 Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord



Grant peace, we pray, in mer - cy, Lord; Peace  
in our time, O send us! For there is  
none on earth but You, None oth - er  
to de - fend us. You on - ly,  
Lord, can fight for us. A - men.

Text: Latin, c. 6th cent.; adapt. Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Laudamus, 1952, Hannover; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47; Text: © Lutheran World Federation. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

## Offering

### 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 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.**

### 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!

### 430 My Song Is Love Unknown *stanzas 1, 5*

1 My song is love un-known, My Sav-ior's love to  
5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -  
me, Love to the love-less shown That they might love - ly  
way; A mur-der-er they save, The Prince of Life they  
be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
slay. Yet cheer-ful He To suf-f'ring goes  
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
That He His foes From thence might free.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683; Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879-1962; Text: Public domain; Tune: © John Ireland Trust.  
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### Benediction

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the  $\text{✝}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

### 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo-ry, Tow'r-ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes de-  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing Light and  
4 Bane and bless-ing, pain and plea-sure By the  
o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa-cred  
ceive, and fears an-noy, Nev-er shall the cross for-  
love up-on my way, From the cross the ra-diance  
cross are sanc-ti-fied; Peace is there that knows no  
sto-ry Gath-ers round its head sub-lime.  
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
stream-ing Adds more lus-ter to the day.  
mea-sure, Joys that through all time a-bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872; Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-67; Text and tune: Public domain.

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Fill-In Sermon Notes: Empty Words—***And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.*** (Psalm 41:6, ESV)

1. When people say \_\_\_\_\_ words to you, they are saying things to you that might seem appealing, important, and true, but their words do not have any of those qualities.
2. Like us, Jesus of Nazareth had \_\_\_\_\_ of empty words around Him all the time.
3. If you've prayed that prayer about \_\_\_\_\_ from empty words in your own heartfelt words, you can know and trust that you are not alone.
4. Take special comfort in the fact that your Lord Jesus \*prayed those words before and for your sake.

Write a prayer of your own. Perhaps you can express your own frustration with empty words. Be sure to thank God that Jesus prayed Psalm 41:6 for you, and that Jesus not only understands the pain words can cause, but he has also given you gracious words of invitation, so that you may cast all your cares on your Savior and find rest for your soul.