

SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERVICES FOR LENT



Ash Wednesday
FORGIVER



Week 1
HEALER



Week 2
LISTENER



Week 3
ENCOURAGER



Week 4
PROTECTOR



Week 5
COMFORTER

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Lent #4

March 11, 2026

"In Nomine Iesu"

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Savior, Servant, Friend
Week 4: Encourager

WELCOME. In this special service for Week 4 of Lent, we recognize that Jesus encourages us in our faith to live our life for him. We pray our worship together will strengthen you for the coming week.

Please fill out the registration card found in your pew rack and hand it to an usher as you leave this evening.

Join us next Wednesday to continue this journey.

Prelude “*Be Thou My Vision*” David Lasky
Welcome
Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bell

Order of Service

Theme Verse: “*I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*” John 15:15

Invocation and Call to Worship (*please stand*)

P We gather for worship today to be encouraged by the powerful presence of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P May the God of endurance and encouragement grant us
C **To live in harmony with one another and in
accord with Christ Jesus.** (Romans 15:5)

P So if there is any encouragement in Christ,
C **Any comfort from love,
any participation in the Spirit,**

P Any affection and sympathy,
C **Complete my joy by being of one mind,**

P Having the same love,
C **Being in full accord and of one mind.**
(Philippians 2:1-2)

P Therefore encourage one another
C **And build one another up, just as you are doing.**
(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

(be seated)

Opening Hymn *“Be Thou My Vision”*
(Sung to the Tune: *“Christ Be My Leader”* LSB #861)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I, thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart;
O high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven’s bright Sun,
Rule and reign in me ’til thy will be done;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand)*

P Encourage us, our Savior, Servant, Friend,
with your word of forgiveness as we confess our sins.

**C My heart is weighed down by shame and guilt,
by my sins and failures.**

P My words have discouraged and torn others down.

C My confidence has been misplaced and misdirected.

P My faith has faltered as I have trusted in idols
and myself.

**C My soul is tried and burdened by the loads
that I have carried.**

P My spirit needs a word of forgiveness and encouragement.

**C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!
Lord, have mercy!**

*(Please silently reflect on our need
for the encouraging friendship of Jesus.)*

P Take courage, friends! Jesus forgives you of all of your
sins. Let your hearts be strengthened, your souls be
refreshed, your minds be renewed and your spirits be
encouraged. Jesus has nailed your sins to the cross and
thrown them into the tomb. Having been forgiven by Jesus,
let us now live for him.

C What a friend we have in Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus, life in this world leaves us disheartened and
discouraged, lost and lonely. Come to the aid of your
people with your friendship and love. Encourage us with
your Word and your promises. Strengthen our faith to live
for you alone. Grant us your Holy Spirit so that we have the
courage we need to face all that we encounter in this life.

C Amen.

(be seated)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 41:8-11

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:5-11

For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading *(please stand)*

Matthew 8:5-13

When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed

him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

P This is the Gospel the Lord.

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

(be seated)

Sermon Hymn *"How Firm a Foundation"* LSB #728

Sermon

Presentation of the Offering

Apostles' Creed *(please stand)*

All I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

P We are not worthy to come under your roof and enter into your presence, our Savior, Servant, Friend, And still you welcome us to come and draw near to you in prayer. You promise that when we gather in your name, you will be present among us. And so, you encourage us to pray. Jesus, hear us now as we lift our prayers and raise our petitions to you.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- P Fortify our wavering hearts and encourage us with your unflinching love.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Encourage the leaders of this world to be about the work of peace and justice, fostering care for the sojourner, the lonely and the forgotten.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Build up the faith of those who are wandering in doubt, rescue those who are lost in sin and redeem all who are plagued by shame and guilt.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Strengthen the souls of those who are near the point of death or mourning the loss of loved ones.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Embolden our faith so that we can be witnesses for you in this world and that many may come to know you and your love.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Give hope and joy to your Church so that we can faithfully live as the Body of Christ amongst our neighbors.
- C Lord, hear our prayer, and encourage us as only you can. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

All 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.

Benediction

- P And now may the strength and promises, the peace and blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit go with you and encourage you! Amen.
- C What a friend we have in Jesus!**

(be seated)

Closing Hymn “*Christ the Life of All the Living*” LSB #420

Postlude “*Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*” J. Bert Carlson
“Soli Deo Gloria”

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Midweek Lenten Services

March 18, 25

6:30 p.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 2

6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion

Good Friday

April 3

6:30 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday!

April 5

7:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

Breakfast served in between services.

10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion