

Midweek Lenten Service

March 26, 2025

Savior, Servant, Friend

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

Jesus as Encourager

AS WE GATHER

Welcome! In this special service for Week 3 of Lent, we recognize that Jesus encourages us in our faith to **live our life for him**.



WEEK FOUR

Jesus as Protector • Jesus protects us from the devil and from danger and keeps us safe in him.

WEEK FIVE

Jesus as Comforter • Jesus comforts us in struggles and sorrows that we might find rest in his promises.

Invocation and Call to Worship

P 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 Thou My Vision



1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all
 2. Be Thou my wis - dom be Thou my true Word; I ev - er
 3. Be Thou my shield and my sword for the fight. Be Thou my
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, Thou mine in -
 5. High King of heav - en, when vic - t'ry is won, may I reach



else to me, save that Thou art - Thou my best thought, by
 with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Fa - ther,
 dig - ni - ty, be Thou my might; Thou my soul's shel - ter and
 -her - i - tance, now and al - ways; Thou and Thou on - ly be
 heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -



day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 I Thy true son, Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
 Thou my high tow'r. Raise Thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my treas - ure Thou art.
 -ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Confession and Forgiveness

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. Amen.

C Amen.

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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: 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 dark-ness. 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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading, Matthew 8:5-13

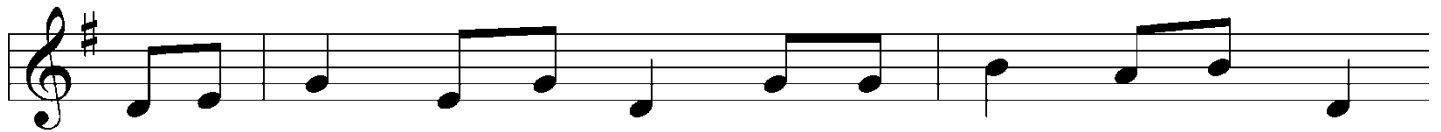
When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, 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.

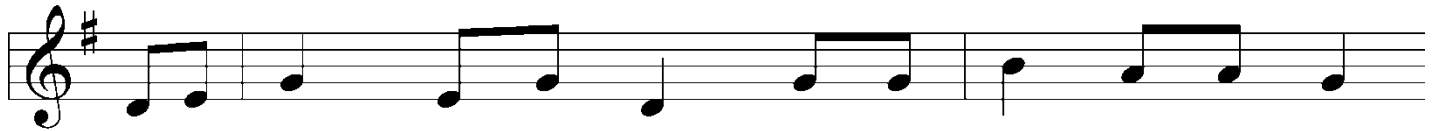
Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

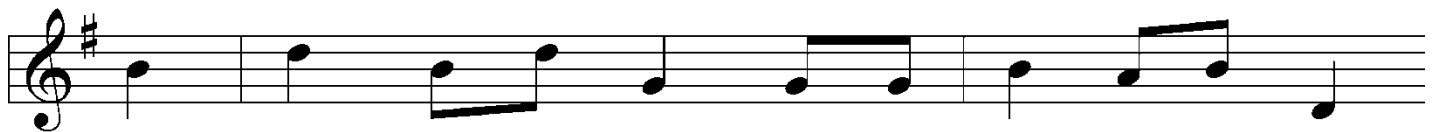
728 How Firm a Foundation



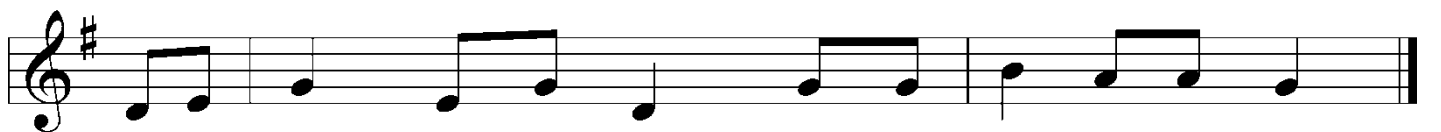
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.



What more can He say than to you He has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

- 5 "Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."

Sermon: Rev. Christopher Fairbairn, *St. Paul Lutheran Church, Northville*

*Our offerings at the circuit **noon services** will support the ministry of
Another Way Pregnancy Center*

OFFERINGS

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

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-raise;



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

Prayer of the Church

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 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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!

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
 When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
 Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Where We Serve

Preacher Pastor Chris Fairbairn
Officiant Pastor Jim Frusti
Music Director Paul Ventimiglia

