

Midweek Lenten Service

April 2, 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 Protector

AS WE GATHER

Welcome! In this service for Week 4 of Lent, we acknowledge that 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 The protecting presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, the power of God the Father, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Spread your protection over us

C That those who love your name may exult in you. (Psalm 5:11)

P May the Lord answer us in the day of trouble!

C May the name of the God of Jacob protect us! (Psalm 20:1)

P Father of the fatherless and protector of widows

C Is God in his holy habitation. (Psalm 68:5)

P Spread your wings over your servants,

C For you are a redeemer. (Ruth 3:9)

P In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

C For you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8)

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Lord Jesus, our protecting friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

C Forgive me, Jesus, from the sin that assails my heart and soul.

P Protect me from the punishment that my sin rightly brings.

C Have mercy on me, Lord Jesus, for the times that I have failed to protect others.

P Undo the hurts that I have caused with my sinful words and actions.

C Lead me away from the dangerous way of rebellion.

P Lead me, Jesus, in paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

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

(Please silently reflect on the danger of sin and the protecting forgiveness of Jesus.)

P Your friend Jesus, does indeed have mercy! Jesus protects you from the punishment of sin as he has lived for you, died for you, is risen for you, and now forgives you of all of your sins. His mercy provides protection, and his salvation makes you new. Rejoice now in the protecting presence and forgiveness of your friend Jesus.

C What a friend we have in Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

P Mighty Savior and fortress of my soul, let this season of Lent be a time of return. Bring us back to your protecting presence, and cover us with your grace and mercy. Remind us that we are never alone because you are our ever-present friend. We pray this in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading, Psalm 121:1

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading, 2 Thessalonians 3:3-4

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading, John 14:18-27

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat -'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
 vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
 fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
 self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
 o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
 of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
 hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
 we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
 child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Sermon: Rev. Joel A. Werner, *Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Livonia*

*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 Mighty fortress, protector and friend, our Lord and Savior, Jesus: we come before you in prayer. Incline your ear to us, and hear the prayers and petitions of your people.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Protect us from pride and arrogance, lest we think that we can live on our own apart from you.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- P Protect us from sin and temptation, sending us your Spirit of truth and deliverance so that we can lead lives of righteousness and holiness according to your will.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Protect the weak and vulnerable, the sojourner and fatherless, the widow and orphan and the dying.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Protect those in warring nations, and provide your perfect peace to places caught in the midst of warfare and strife.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Protect those who are charged with the task of protecting others—police, firefighters, soldiers, parents, caretakers and all others whose task it is to protect and serve their neighbors.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Protect us from ingratitude and indifference so that we can always thank and praise you for all your goodness and mercy.
- C Lord, hear our prayer and protect us unto eternity. Amen.**

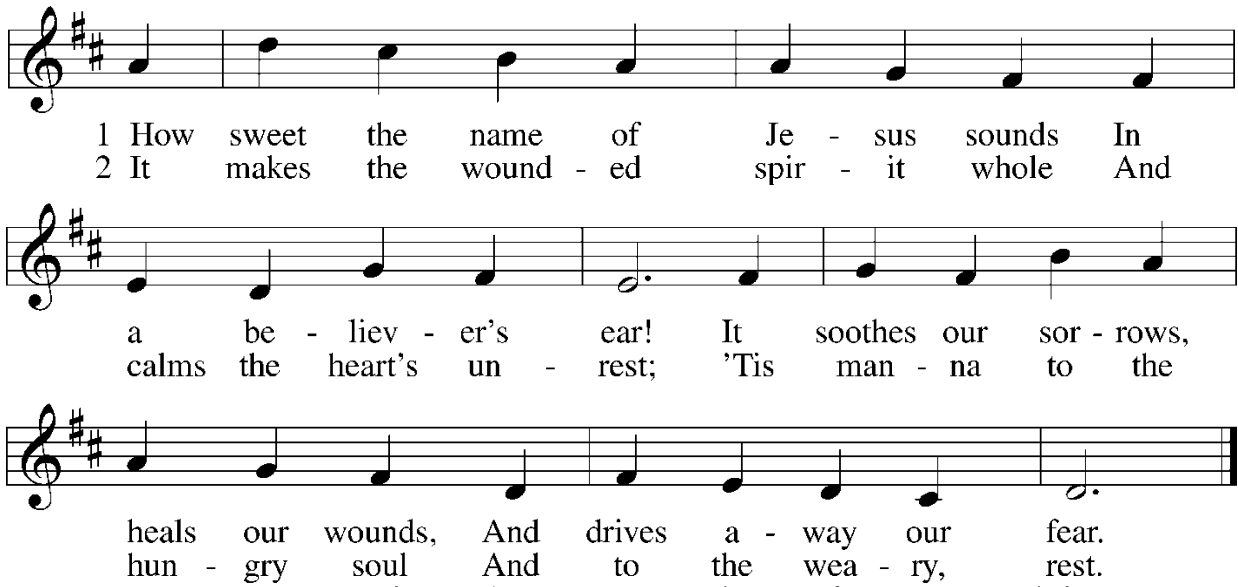
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 Go now with the peace and power, the protection and provision of your friend, Jesus. The Lord bless and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.
- C What a friend we have in Jesus!**

524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And

a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the

heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place:
My never-failing treasury filled with boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart, how cold my warmest thought;
But when I see you as you are, I'll praise you as I ought.

Till then I would your love proclaim with ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of your name refresh my soul in death.

Where We Serve

Preacher Rev. Joel A. Werner
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Livonia

Officiant Pastor Jim Frusti

Music Director Paul Ventimiglia

