

**THE FIFTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT**  
**APRIL 9, 2025**  
**7:00PM**

**AS WE GATHER**

***The Hand of the Lord Who Holds All Things***

To the faithless, unrepentant world, taken together with the climax of the events of Holy Week, it appears that, after all, Jesus ends up only a disappointment, dead and gone! To the eyes of faith, however, all His deeds, including His suffering and death, describe the most powerful and mighty act of God, by which He redeems and saves the world and us!

The Christian liturgy preserves certain words in their original language to express their full meaning. For instance, we do not end prayers saying, “Yes, yes, it shall be so,” but the original “Amen.” Likewise, every Sunday we sing the Sanctus, “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth.” *Tsebaot* in Hebrew means “hosts” or “armies.” “Lord God of hosts” is a way of saying God is over all—all powerful. So also, Greek art depicts the risen, ascended, and reigning Lord Jesus as *Pantokrator*, “the Almighty!” The church has always claimed that, before and after all, Jesus Christ indeed holds all things. By faith in Jesus, we know that we are forgiven, renewed, redeemed, and destined for eternal glory.

**LENT EVENING PRAYER PROPERS INSERT**

*(continue from page 8 of worship book)*

PSALM

*Psalm 95:1–7a*

- L** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- C** **Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;**  
**let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**  
**For the LORD is a great God,**  
**and a great King above all gods.**  
**In His hand are the depths of the earth;**  
**the heights of the mountains are His also.**  
**The sea is His, for He made it,**  
**and His hands formed the dry land.**  
**Oh come, let us worship and bow down;**  
**let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**  
**For He is our God,**  
**and we are the people of His pasture,**  
**and the sheep of His hand.**

## Psalm Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, all things are in Your hands, both creation and our very lives. Turn our eyes to follow the finger of John the Baptist pointing to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus has received nails into His hands for our sins to bring us forgiveness. When and where You will, use us to point others to Jesus and where He promises to be found in His Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## FIRST READING *Daniel 7: 13-14*

<sup>13</sup>I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and He came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before Him.

<sup>14</sup>And to Him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve Him;  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and His kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING *Revelation 1: 9-20*

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters.

<sup>16</sup>In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. <sup>19</sup>Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. <sup>20</sup>As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### THIRD READING *John 3: 11-18, 22-36*

<sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak of what We know, and bear witness to what We have seen, but you do not receive Our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. . . .

<sup>22</sup>After this Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside, and He remained there with them and was baptizing. <sup>23</sup>John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized <sup>24</sup>(for John had not yet been put in prison).

<sup>25</sup>Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. <sup>26</sup>And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, He is baptizing, and all are going to Him.” <sup>27</sup>John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. <sup>28</sup>You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him.’ <sup>29</sup>The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. <sup>30</sup>He must increase, but I must decrease.”

<sup>31</sup>He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup>He bears witness to what He has seen and heard, yet no one receives His testimony. <sup>33</sup>Whoever receives His testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. <sup>34</sup>For He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure. <sup>35</sup>The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. <sup>36</sup>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## LENT RESPONSORY *LSB, p. 231*

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

**P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

*All who are able, stand.*

### 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,  
5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



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.  
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



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  
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



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.  
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.

Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester

Text and tune: Public domain

*Sit*

**MEDITATION**

*All who are able, stand.*

*The Liturgy continues on page 8 of the worship booklet with the ANNUNCIATION and MAGNIFICAT.*

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