

✠ SERVICE OF VESPERS ✠

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.

Stand

OPENING VERSES

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

Cong.: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

Cong.: make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Cong.: 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

✠ PSALMODY ✠

(Psalm 145:10-13)

Pastor: All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,

Cong.: and all Your saints shall bless You!

Pastor: They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and tell of Your power,

**Cong.: to make known to the children of man Your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.**

Pastor: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Cong.: The LORD is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.

SERIES PSALM

(Psalm 67:1; 41:6-8)



Cantor: May God be gracious to us and | bless us*
and make His face to shine up- | on us.

**Cong.: May God be gracious to us and | bless us*
and make His face to shine up- | on us.**

Cantor: And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,
while his heart gathers in- | iquity;*
when he goes out, he tells | it abroad.

**Cong.: All who hate me whisper together a- | bout me;*
they imagine the | worst for me.**

Cantor: They say, “A deadly thing is poured | out on him;*
he will not rise again from | where he lies.”

**Cong.: May God be gracious to us and | bless us*
and make His face to shine up- | on us.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

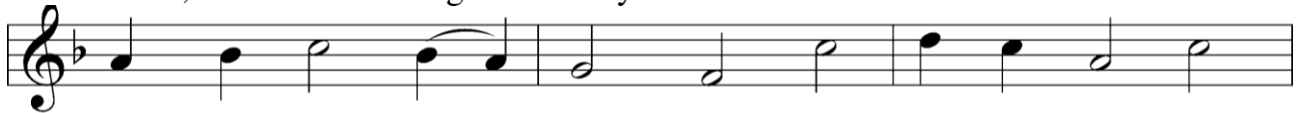


HYMN

“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” [LSB hymn 438]



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.

QUARTET ANTHEM (7:00 PM)
“O Christ, You Walked the Road”
LSB 424

✠ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✠

First Reading (page 474 in the pew Bibles)

Psalm 52:1-9

Elder: A Reading from Psalms, the fifty-second chapter.

Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?

The steadfast love of God endures all the day.

Your tongue plots destruction,

like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

You love evil more than good,

and lying more than speaking what is right.

You love all words that devour,

O deceitful tongue.

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.

The righteous shall see and fear,

and shall laugh at him, saying,

“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!”

But I am like a green olive tree

in the house of God.

I trust in the steadfast love of God

forever and ever.

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.

Elder: O Lord, have mercy on us.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading (page 1012 in the pew Bibles)

James 3:1-10

Elder: A Reading from James, the third chapter.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 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. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 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. 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! 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. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

Elder: O Lord, have mercy on us.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Reading (page 833 in the pew Bibles)

Matthew 26:57-62

Pastor: A Reading from St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. 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. Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

Sit

RESPONSORY FOR LENT

Pastor: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

Cong.: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Pastor: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

Cong.: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Pastor: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

Cong.: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

HYMN

“In Silent Pain the Eternal Son” [LSB hymn 432]



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.

SERMON

“Empty Words”

(Pastor Mark Pierson)

✠ CANTICLE ✠

Stand

Pastor: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

Cong.: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT [LSB hymn 248]

My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
 joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag - ni - fies the
 Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son

1 the lowliness of His hand - maiden.
 2 and holy is His name;
 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;

1 For be - hold, from this day
 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,

1 all generations will call me blessèd.
 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
 5 is now, and will be forever. A - - - - - men. *Refrain*

OFFERINGS

You may place your offering in the plate as you exit the service.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Mathew 6: 9-13)

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

COLLECTS

Pastor: O Lord, hear my prayer.

Cong.: And let my cry come to You.

Pastor: 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.

Cong.: Amen.

Cong.: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong.: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Cong.: Amen.

HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” [LSB hymn 427]



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.

POSTLUDE

SERVING OUR LORD AND HIS PEOPLE THIS EVENING

	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
Acolyte/Elder/Reader	Steve Snyder	Reinhard Stenzel
Quartet:		Adam & Bonnie Volkert, Karen Miller, Rick Ritchie
Pianist:	Beth Hansen	

2024 LENT WORSHIP SERVICES AT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH BE GRACIOUS TO ME

Wednesday Services at 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Soup supper at 5:15 PM

March 20	“Empty Words”	Pastor Pierson
March 24	Palm Sunday Divine Service	<i>8:00 AM & 11:00 AM</i>
March 28	Maundy Thursday Divine Service “My Close Friend”	<i>4:00 PM & 7:00 PM</i>
March 29	Good Friday Service of the Word “Be Gracious To Me”	<i>4:00 PM & 7:00 PM</i>
March 30	Easter Vigil Divine Service “Contradiction”	<i>7:00 PM</i>
March 31	Resurrection of Our Lord Divine Service “Because of My Integrity”	<i>8:00 AM & 11:00 AM</i>

Congregational Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt *between services*

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

SCRIPTURE ALONE GRACE ALONE FAITH ALONE CHRIST ALONE



16351 Springdale Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92649-2773

CHURCH: 714-846-6330 Office Hours: Tue-Fri 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM / 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Church email churchoffice@redeemer-lutheran.net Fax: 714-840-2679

Tom Miller, Specific Ministry Pastor email tmiller@redeemer-lutheran.net

Church Website: redeemer-lutheran.net

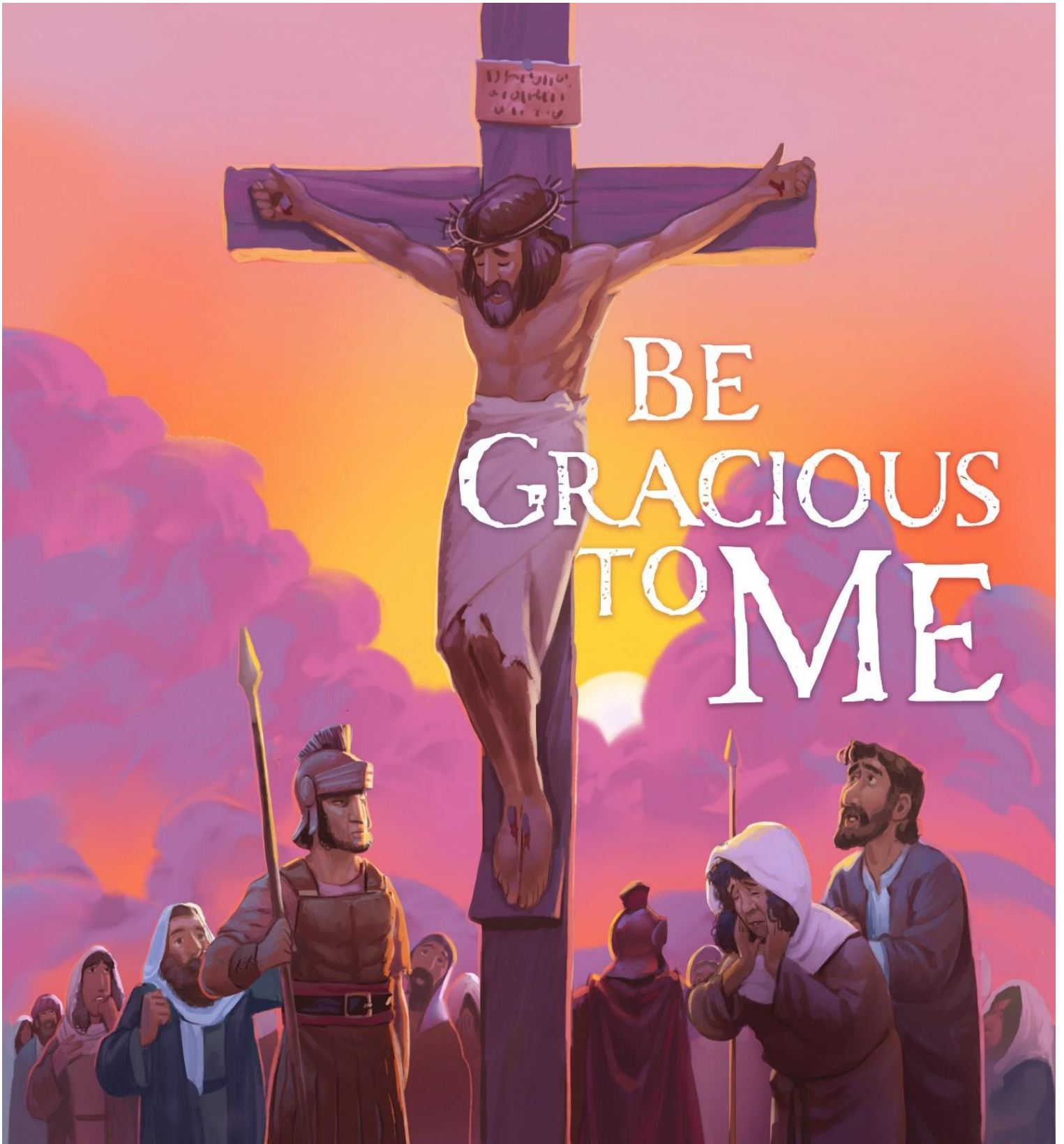
SCHOOL: 714-840-7117 Office Hours: Mon- Fri 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Mindy Weiss, Preschool Director email preschool.director@redeemer-lutheran.net

Preschool Website: school.redeemer-lutheran.net

Our mission is to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament, worship Him and grow in his grace and to share those Holy gifts, by making disciples for Christ, who reach out joyfully to the world around them.

A CONGREGATION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD



MIDWEEK LENTEN 5