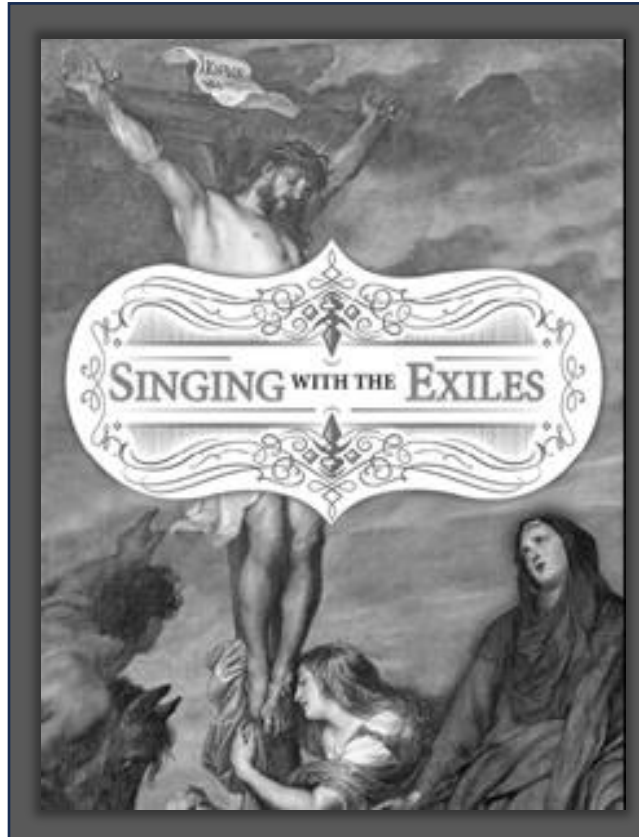


# The Order of Worship for **MIDWEEK LENT 5**

“Get Out”  
April 2, 2025



Consider these words, penned by Isaiah and promised by God, “I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins” (Isaiah 43:25). “I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist” (44:22). Jesus cleanses us from sin through His blood. Blood was all He had. His disciples had deserted Him. His garments had been gambled away. Even His Father had turned His back. Blood was all He had, but the blood of Jesus is all we need.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

*Welcoming all to walk together  
toward abundant life in Christ.*

## SINGING WITH THE EXILES

Gathered by the waters of Babylon, Judean exiles wistfully wondered: Is God for real? If so, does He really care about us? What does our future hold? Will this ever change? God's people had watched their world shatter into a million pieces. They were demoralized and disillusioned. Their disaster looked terminal.

Do you feel this way? Does it look as though your current problems are more than you can bear? Do you find yourself asking: Why did this happen? Why did God allow it? Is there any order in the world? Will God really deliver on what He said?

Isaiah answers these questions in chapters 40–55 of his book. He announces that just when Israel's history seemed closed and controlled by hopeless Babylonian imperial policy, to the shock and surprise of everyone the Lord will stir up a king named Cyrus and a new exodus will explode in the desert! A Servant will be wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. And barren Zion will be given so many children that, like the old woman in the shoe, she won't know what to do! Standing behind these marvelous promises is God's almighty Word. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). The exiles are going home!

**That's why we are "Singing with the Exiles" as they are restored to their home.**

This Lent, Isaiah 40–55 will shape us through...

<i>Lent Six</i>	<b>"One Little Word Can Fell Him"</b>	(Isaiah 49:1–6)
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<b>"He Prepares a Table"</b>	(Isaiah 49:7–13)
<i>Good Friday</i>	<b>"All"</b>	(Isaiah 52:13–53:12)
<i>Easter</i>	<b>"We Are Going Home"</b>	(Isaiah 55:6–13)

This Lent, our Call to Worship/Confession and Absolution, is drawn from the Seven Penitential Psalms, so named by Cassiodorus (c. AD 485–c. AD 585) in the sixth century AD. For centuries, Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143 have served as a source of prayer and reflection during Lent. Their honest confessions invite us to turn to our Lord with the same candor and humility.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC & RINGING OF THE BELL

### INVOCATION

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

C **Amen.**

1. Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness  
My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these  
arrayed,  
With joy shall I lift up my head.

3. Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,  
Which at the mercy seat of God  
Pleads for the captives' liberty,  
Was also shed in love for me.

2. Bold shall I stand in that great day,  
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to  
pay;  
Fully absolved through these I am  
From sin and fear, from guilt and  
shame.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B.  
Wesley, 1703–91, alt.  
Text: Public domain

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Psalm 102*

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry for help come to You.

C **Do not hide Your face from me when I am in distress. Turn Your ear to me;  
when I call, answer me quickly.**

P For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers.

C **My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food.**

P Because of my loud groaning I am reduced to skin and bones.

C **I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.**

P I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof.

C **My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. But You, O  
LORD, sit enthroned forever; Your renown endures through all generations.**

P You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the  
appointed time has come.

C **For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in His glory.**

P He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; He will not despise their plea.

C **Father, You invite us to come into Your loving embrace. Doing so, we confess  
our sin; make known our stubborn pride; and renounce all ungodly thoughts,  
words, and actions.**

*Silence for private confession of sins*

P Upon this, your confession, I announce the amazing and transforming grace of God to all of you. Christ's blood was shed; His tomb is empty; His return is certain, and you are eternally forgiven in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

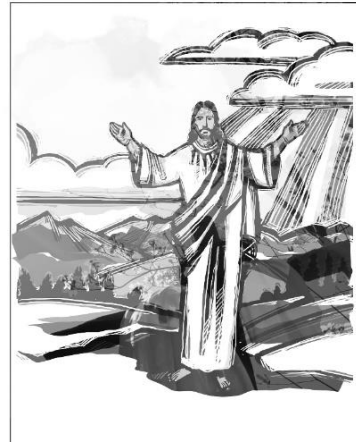
## RESPONSE

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563 sts. 4

4. Lord, I believe, were sinners more  
Than sands upon the ocean shore,  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,  
For all a full atonement made.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.  
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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Gracious Father, You provided the gift of Your Son who suffered and died to cleanse us from our iniquities. As our atoning sacrifice and Passover Lamb, His blood forgives us and frees us from all sin. Hear us as we give You thanks and praise for this wonderful salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

## THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS HAVE AS THEIR THEME “CONFESSING CHRIST IN A HOSTILE LAND”

### OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 48:17–22*

<sup>17</sup> Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go. <sup>18</sup> Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea; <sup>19</sup> your offspring would have been like the sand, and your descendants like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me.” <sup>20</sup> Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it out to the end of the earth; say, “The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!” <sup>21</sup> They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and the water gushed out. <sup>22</sup> “There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

*Hebrews 9:11–14*

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

<sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL LESSON**

*Matthew 10:26–33*

<sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. <sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

C **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 T everlasting. Amen.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Not all the blood of beasts<br/>On Jewish altars slain<br/>Could give the guilty conscience<br/>peace<br/>Or wash away the stain.</p> <p>2. But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,<br/>Takes all our sins away;<br/>A sacrifice of nobler name<br/>And richer blood than they.</p> <p>3. My faith would lay its hand<br/>On that dear head of Thine,<br/>While as a penitent I stand,<br/>And there confess my sin.</p> | <p>4. My soul looks back to see<br/>The burden Thou didst bear<br/>When hanging on the cursèd tree;<br/>I know my guilt was there.</p> <p>5. Believing, we rejoice<br/>To see the curse remove;<br/>We bless the Lamb with cheerful<br/>voice<br/>And sing His bleeding love.</p> |
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- Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
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SERMON

“Get Out”

Pastor Menk

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

- P Father in heaven, You command Your church,  
C **“Get out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare it with a shout of joy.”**  
(Isaiah 48:20a)
- P Hear our shouts of joy.  
C **What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**  
**What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**
- P O God, You give us this mandate,  
C **“Proclaim salvation; to send it out to the ends of the earth.”** (Isaiah 48:20b)
- P And so we say to the world,  
C **For my pardon this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus.**  
**For my cleansing this my plea, nothing but the blood of Jesus.**
- P Lord God, with gladness and great delight we say,  
C **“The LORD has redeemed His servants!”** (Isaiah 48:20c)  
**Nothing can for sin atone; nothing but the blood of Jesus.**  
**Naught of good that I have done; nothing but the blood of Jesus.**
- P Hear us, loving Father, as we pray the family prayer, “Our Father . . . ”

## BENEDICTION

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

LSB 437

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Alas! And did my Savior bleed,<br>And did my sov'reign die?<br>Would He devote that sacred head<br>For such a worm as I?          | 4. Thus might I hide my blushing face<br>While His dear cross appears,<br>Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,<br>And melt mine eyes to tears. |
| 2. Was it for crimes that I had done<br>He groaned upon the tree?<br>Amazing pity, grace unknown,<br>And love beyond degree!         | 5. But drops of grief can ne'er repay<br>The debt of love I owe;<br>Here, Lord, I give myself away:<br>'Tis all that I can do.               |
| 3. Well might the sun in darkness hide<br>And shut his glories in<br>When God, the mighty maker, died<br>For His own creatures' sin. | Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.<br>Text: Public domain  |

## SILENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, blood was all You had, but Your blood is all we need. And so we get out of Babylon, we flee Chaldea, and we declare it with a shout of joy! Amen and Amen.

## POSTLUDE

### Acknowledgments

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**For next week,** read Isaiah 49:1–6 and answer these questions:

1. The Servant joins others who were set apart at birth for God’s purposes (Isaiah 49:1; e.g., Jeremiah 1:4–5; Luke 1:13–17, 31–33; Galatians 1:15). What does this tell you about God’s plan for your salvation? for your life?
2. How would you describe a “mouth like a sharp sword” (Isaiah 49:2)? What do you recall from Christ’s ministry that reminds you of His powerful Word?
3. How is our Savior’s plan of bringing His light to the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:6) being realized in your life?

## **SERMON NOTES**

### **“Get Out”**

“Get out of Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare it with a shout of joy.” (Isaiah 48:20)

HANDS WERE \_\_\_\_\_; BLOOD WAS \_\_\_\_\_; AND THE CHILD WAS \_\_\_\_\_.

In Isaiah 48, the prophet calls the exiles stubborn, unyielding, headstrong, prone to idolatry, deaf, deceptive, and stubborn rebels from birth. All because Israel refused to listen. *Shema*—the Hebrew verb meaning “listen”—is the governing verb of the chapter. It appears eleven times in Isaiah 48.

“I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” (Isaiah 43:25)

“I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist.” (Isaiah 44:22)

HANDS WERE \_\_\_\_\_; BLOOD WAS \_\_\_\_\_; AND WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_.

