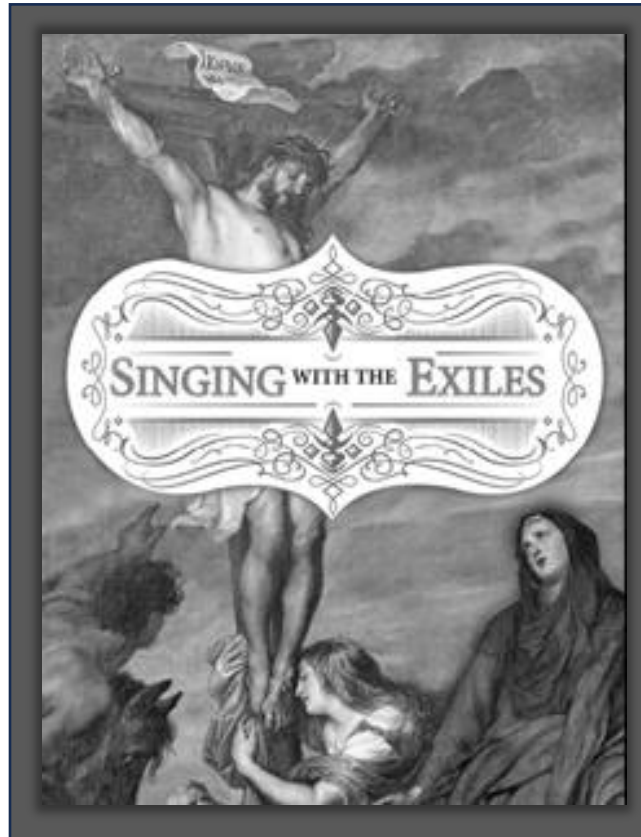


The Order of Worship for **MIDWEEK LENT 6**

“On Little Word Can Fell Him”

April 9, 2025



The Bible employs numerous images to depict the power and beauty of God’s Word. It is likened to a seed sown upon the ground (Matthew 13:1–9), a lamp shining in the darkness (Psalm 119:105), precious gold and sweet honey (Psalm 19:10), and a sharp sword (Isaiah 49:2; Hebrews 4:12). This last figure of speech indicates that when God speaks, things happen. In fact, sometimes Jesus only needed to say one word, and it changed everything.

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>Maundy Thursday</i>	"He Prepares a Table"	(Isaiah 49:7–13)
<i>Good Friday</i>	"All"	(Isaiah 52:13–53:12)
<i>Easter</i>	"We Are Going Home"	(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.**



2 Corinthians 13:14, ESV

OPENING HYMN

My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430 sts. 1–3

1. My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?
2. He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!
3. Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683
Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 130

P Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD;

C **O Lord, hear my voice. Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

P If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope.

C **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

P O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption.

C **He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.
for it and know we are sick from it. We seek new life.**

Silence for private confession of sins

- P And so together we confess,
C **Heavenly Father, to whom all hearts are open and all desires are known, we confess that we do not love You with our whole heart and we do not love our neighbors as ourselves. We repent of our sin and look to You for salvation.**
- P Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you every sin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. New life is yours!
C **Amen.**

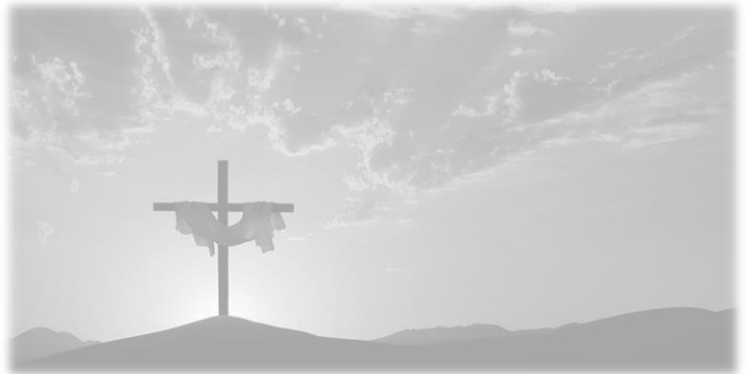
RESPONSE

My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430 sts. 7

7. Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683
Text: Public domain



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you,
C **And also with you.**
- P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 “GOD’S DELIGHT IN SMALL THINGS”

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 49:1–6

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” ⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.” ⁵ And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’ ” ⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:1–10

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of 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. Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!</p> | <p>4. Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.</p> |
| <p>2. Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind!</p> | <p>5. Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.</p> |
| <p>3. Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment
Did the world redeem!</p> | <p>6. Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!</p> |

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

SERMON

“One Little Word Can Fell Him”

Pastor Menk

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Heavenly Father, like Isaiah, we delight in this promise:
- C **“For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”** (Isaiah 9:6)
- P And we give thanks that,
- C **“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.”** (Isaiah 11:1)
- P And Father, we are amazed that
- C **“A little child shall lead them.”** (Isaiah 11:6)
- P Empower us to delight in
- C **Mustard seeds, five loaves and two fish, and little children.**

P For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
C **But chiefly on this day, we rejoice in our King Jesus,**

P Who travels to Jerusalem to take up a cross
C **For us and for our salvation.**

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 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken *LSB 439 sts. 1,5*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou
broken
That such sharp sentence should on
Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to
make confession,
What dark transgression? | 5. The sinless Son of God must die in
sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in
gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is
acquitted;
God is committed. |
|---|---|

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth,
1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER

Thank You, dear Savior, that You welcome children and You welcome us through Your mercy and grace. We, too, will delight in small things—in just a penny. In Your name we pray. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

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For Maundy Thursday, read Isaiah 49:7–13 and answer these questions:

1. The Suffering Servant is rejected by “the nation” and revered by “kings and princes” (49:7). What is it about Him that is so divisive?
2. How is the Suffering Servant’s mission defined in 49:8?
3. List the Suffering Servant’s shepherd-like qualities as they are described in 49:9–10. Which ones speak to you?

SERMON NOTES

“One Little Word Can Fell Him”

“You are My servant . . . in whom I will display My beauty.” (Isaiah 49:3)

Who gets excited _____?

We want what is _____!

God’s judgment is to make us _____.

The most awesome _____ in this long line of penny finders is _____.
(Mark 12:42; Matthew 13:31; Luke 19:9; Matthew 19:14)

TO DISPLAY GOD’S _____ IT WOULD HAVE TO GET REALLY _____.

(ISAIAH 49:7; 50:6; 52:14; 53:2–3)

