

**Savior, Servant, Friend  
Services for Lent  
April 2, 2025**

**Protector**

*I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15*

**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)**



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.

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## 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 discomfort of sin and the comforting assurance of Christ's forgiveness.)*

**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. Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Psalms 121:1-8*

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.

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

**C** **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.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*John 14:18-27*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

"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."

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

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**



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 -  
 your 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!

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## Prayers

**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.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C** **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!**

**Closing Hymn:**

**How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds**

LSB 524



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In  
 2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And  
 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My  
 4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,  
 calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the  
 shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing  
 Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.  
 hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.  
 trea - sury filled With bound - less stores of grace.  
 way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,  
 How cold my warmest thought!  
 But when I see Thee as Thou art,  
 I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim  
 With ev'ry fleeting breath;  
 And may the music of Thy name  
 Refresh my soul in death!

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**Postlude:**

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