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Fourth Midweek in Lent

**The Hand of the Lord
Who Raises the Dead**

April 6, 2025



AS WE GATHER

Sin is a matter of life and death; as we were reminded on Ash Wednesday, “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The ultimate punishment for sin is death. But God’s ultimate salvation is, as we confess in the Nicene Creed, “the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” Already in the Old Testament, the hand of the Lord raised individuals who had died, as at the hands of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. Everyone believed that the Messiah, the Savior, would raise the dead when He came. Today we hear of one such incident: Jesus raising the widow’s son in Nain (Luke 7). When Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the tomb, it could no longer be denied who Jesus is. Jesus finally proved that He is, as He said, “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25) by His own resurrection. In the resurrection, God has turned death from enemy into the remedy in our deliverance from sin. The risen, ascended, and reigning Lord promises to raise us daily in repentance and faith, and on the Last Day, free us from sin in eternal life in our human bodies. “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,

whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another" (*Job 19:25–27*).

HYMN "Christ the Life of All the Living" *LSB* 420, Sts. 1-4

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
 Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 Who, Thyself for me once giving
 To the darkest depths of woe:
 Through Thy suff'rings, death, and
 merit
 I eternal life inherit.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall
 be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
 Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
 Pain and scorn were heaped upon
 Thee,
 O Thou sinless Son of God!
 Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
 From the bonds of sin forever.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall
 be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
 That my wounds might all be
 whole;
 Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
 Rest to give my weary soul;
 Yea, the curse of God enduring,
 Blessing unto me securing.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall
 be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
 Treating Thee with shameful scorn
 And with piercing thorns they
 crowned Thee.

All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall
be,

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 3–4): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis

Text: Public domain

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 102:1

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;

C let my cry come to You!

Psalm 118:14–18

P The LORD is my strength and my
song;

C He has become my salvation.

P Glad songs of salvation are in the
tents of the righteous:

C “The right hand of the LORD does
valiantly,

P the right hand of the LORD exalts,

C the right hand of the LORD does
valiantly!”

P I shall not die, but I shall live,

C and recount the deeds of the LORD.

P The LORD has disciplined me
severely,

C but He has not given me over to
death.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 17:8–24

⁸Then the word of the LORD came
to him [Elijah], ⁹ “Arise, go

to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel that I may drink.”¹¹ And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”¹² And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.”¹³ And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first, make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward, make something for yourself and your son.”¹⁴ For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’”¹⁵ And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days.¹⁶ The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Elijah Raises the Widow’s Son

17 After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!”

19 And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. 20 And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” 21 Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child’s life come into him again.”

22 And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” 24 And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN “For Me to Live Is Jesus”

LSB 742

- 1 For me to live is Jesus,
 To die is gain for me;
 So when my Savior pleases,
 I meet death willingly.
- 2 For Christ, my Lord, my brother,
 I leave this world so dim
 And gladly seek another,
 Where I shall be with Him.
- 3 My woes are nearly over,
 Though long and dark the road;
 My sin His merits cover,
 And I have peace with God.
- 4 Lord, when my pow'rs are failing,
 My breath comes heavily,
 And words are unavailing,
 O hear my sighs to Thee.
- 5 In my last hour, O grant me
 A slumber soft and still,
 No doubts to vex or haunt me,
 Safe anchored in Thy will;
- 6 And so to Thee still cleaving
 When death shall come to me,
 I fall asleep believing
 And wake in heav'n with Thee!

Text: Ein schön geistlich Gesangbuch, 1609, Jena; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

GOSPEL READING *Luke 7:11–17*

¹¹Soon afterward [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a great crowd went with Him.

¹²As He drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow,

and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” ¹⁴Then He came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited His people!” ¹⁷And this report about Him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters” *LSB 598*

- 1 Once in the blest baptismal waters
I put on Christ and made Him mine;
Now numbered with God’s sons and daughters,
I share His peace and love divine.
Refrain
- ref O God, for Jesus’ sake I pray
Your peace may bless my dying day.
- 2 His body and His blood I’ve taken
In His blest Supper, feast divine;
Now I shall never be forsaken,
For I am His, and He is mine. Refrain
- 3 And thus I live in God contented
And die without a thought of fear;

My soul has to God's plans
consented,

For through His Son my faith is clear.

Refrain

Text: Emilie Juliane von Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, 1637–1706; tr.
The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr., alt.

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LSB Hymn License no. 110002688

SERMON Jesus Is the Hand of the Lord *Luke 7:11-17*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” *LSB 422*

- 1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme,
1856–1921, alt.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

G **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You sent Jesus
with a compassionate hand to
stop death in its tracks. Bless us
that we may ever hold fast to His
promises for us through His death
and resurrection. Help us to always

remember our Baptism, where we have been united to both Christ's death and resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P 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, our Lord.

C Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C 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.

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

HYMN “Abide with Me”

LSB 878, Sts 1, 5 & 6

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me
abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts

flee,
 Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to
 bless;
 Ills have no weight and tears no
 bitterness.
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave,
 thy victory?
 I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing
 eyes;
 Shine through the gloom, and point
 me to the skies.
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's
 vain shadows flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with
 me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.

Text: Public domain



THE HANDS OF JESUS series of Midweek Lenten Series continues next **Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 pm**. So far, we have observed the Lord Jesus USING HIS HANDS during His earthly ministry to accomplish our salvation. We have watched Jesus use His hands to Freely Give, Rescue Drowning Lives, Cast our Demons, Heal the Sick, and Raise the Dead. Next week, we will observe Him use His hands to HOLD ALL THINGS - including you, me, our children, and grandchildren. We also encourage you to join us for the fifth and final LENTEN SOUP SUPPER at 5:30 pm - where we can use our HANDS to “break bread and sip soup” together.

TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS will take place at Trinity this coming Sunday, **April 6.**

1. The second All-Congregation Stewardship Bible Study will unfold from 9:00 - 9:45 am in the Family Life Center. Your pastor will facilitate the discussion under the theme: *Stewardship Is a Spiritual Issue*. The godly management of our lives for the Lord is not a “business” - but a “ministry” that blesses the Lord and His people. All youth and adult members and friends of Trinity are encouraged to “plug into” this spiritual growth opportunity.
2. The important Congregation Call Meeting will be held at approximately 11:00 am - soon after the Sunday morning worship service. The Call Committee (Ray Swanson, Chairman) will provide information and ministry-style information on the pastor candidates on the call list provided to us by the Michigan District-LCMS. The Constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church requires that only Voting Members of the congregation may cast votes to issue a divine call to a qualified pastor at this meeting. However, congregation youth and other non-voting Members and friends of the congregation are welcome to attend and ‘audit’ the conversation.