

Laetare- Lent IV

March 15, 2026

674 Jerusalem, O City Fair and High



1 Je - ru - sa - lem, O cit - y fair and high, Your
2 O hap - py day, O yet far hap - pier hour, When
3 The pa - tri - archs' and proph - ets' no - ble train, With
4 Un - num - bered choirs be - fore the shin - ing throne Their



tow'rs I yearn to see; My long - ing heart to
will you come at last, When by my gra - cious
all Christ's fol - l'wers true, Who washed their robes and
joy - ful an - thems raise Till heav - en's arch - es



you would glad - ly fly, It will not stay with me.
Fa - ther's love and pow'r I see that por - tal vast?
cleansed sin's guilt - y stain, Sing prais - es ev - er new!
ech - o with the tone Of that great hymn of praise.



E - li - jah's char - iot take me A - bove the low - er skies, To
From heav - en's shin - ing re - gions To greet me glad - ly come Your
I see them shine for - ev - er, Re - splen - dent as the sun, In
And all its host re - joic - es, And all its bless - ed throng U -



heav - en's bliss a - wake me, Re - leased from earth - ly ties.
bless - ed an - gel le - gions To bid me wel - come home.
light di - min - ished nev - er, Their glo - rious free - dom won.
nite their myr - iad voic - es In one e - ter - nal song.

Text: Johann Matthäus Meyfart, 1590–1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Christlich Neu-vermehrt . . . Gesangbuch, 1663, Erfurt
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit

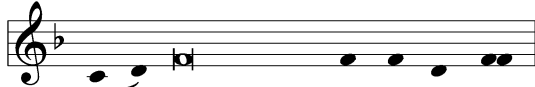
Psalm 122:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Isaiah 66:10a, 11a

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.
I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”
**Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!**
Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!*
May they be secure who | love you!
**For my brothers and com- | panions' sake*
I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!”**
**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.

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.

Kyrie

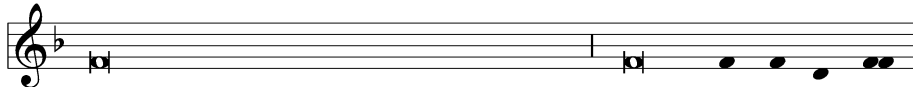
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.




A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



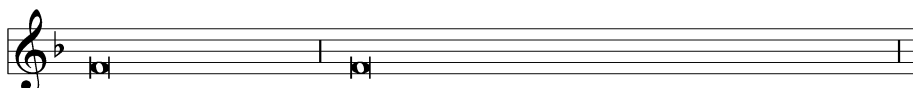
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,




and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



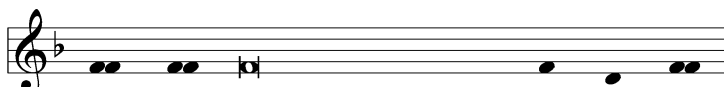
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



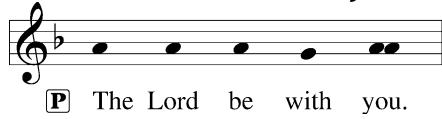
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:8–16

⁸Thus says the LORD:
“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;
I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages,
⁹saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’
They shall feed along the ways;
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;
¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.
¹¹And I will make all my mountains a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.
¹²Behold, these shall come from afar,
and behold, these from the north and from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.”
¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
for the LORD has comforted his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.
¹⁴But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me.”
¹⁵“Can a woman forget her nursing child,
that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?

Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.
¹⁶Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are continually before me.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 122:1, 7

I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”
Peace be with- | in your walls*
and security within your | towers!

Epistle

Galatians 4:21—5:1

²¹Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

²⁸Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.”

³¹So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse (Lent)

LSB 157



G Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

John 6:1–15

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



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish
 Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
 Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?
 Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
 Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.
 Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
 Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and
 God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its
 Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.
 Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;
Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me,
Come not forth again.
Past thy hour,
O pride and pow'r;
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!
For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er
I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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