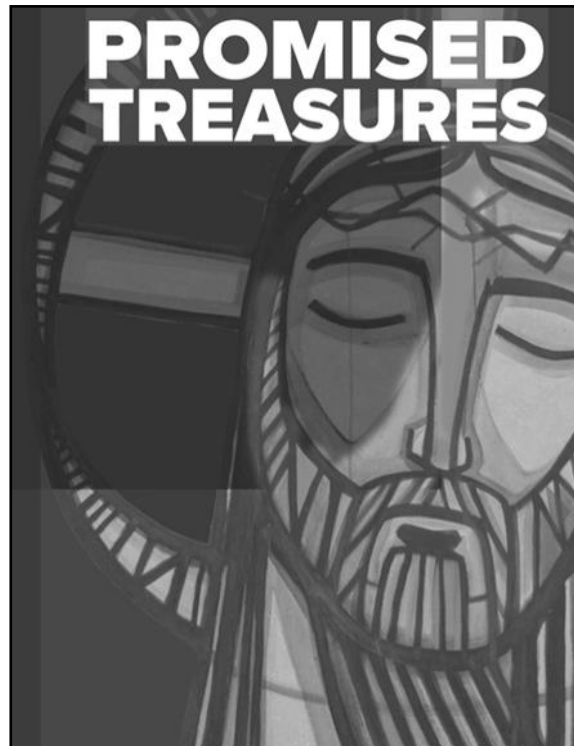


# Wednesday in Lent 4

March 22, 2023



**Concordia Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

Beulah, North Dakota

## Hymn # 424

### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### Opening Sentences

*2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5*

For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,  
**so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**  
But He was wounded for our transgressions;  
**He was crushed for our iniquities;**  
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
**and with His stripes we are healed.**

### Confession and Absolution

*Based on Philippians 2:1-11*

Lord, Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

*We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.*

With humble hearts, let us pray together:

**Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

Darkness seeks to overtake us and rob us of the light, distracting us from Your never-failing presence in our lives.

**Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and actions is why You died for us—**

to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

**With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, the true bread from heaven who satisfies the hunger of our souls. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reveal Yourself as the bread of life who satisfies all the hungry souls that return to You in repentance and faith.

**Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;**

for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Psalm 19:7—10, 14**

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
**reviving the soul;**  
the testimony of the Lord is sure,  
**making wise the simple;**  
the precepts of the Lord are right,  
**rejoicing the heart;**  
the commandment of the Lord is pure,  
**enlightening the eyes;**  
the fear of the Lord is clean,  
**enduring forever;**  
the just decrees of the Lord are true,  
**and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
**sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
**be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

*Exodus 16:2-5, 11-18*

O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle**

*1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 15-17*

O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Verse**

*Joel 2:13b*

**Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Holy Gospel**

*John 6:32-37*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn # 642**

**Sermon**      Bread of Life

**Offering**

## Prayer

Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

**Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**

Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

**that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and, that He died so that we may live.**

Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

**Enable us to savor You as the true bread of life, trusting that You forgive us, renew us, satisfy us, and give our lives meaning..**

Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*] and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

**All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

*Inside back cover of hymnal*

## Luther's Evening Prayer

**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.**

## Benediction

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

**Amen.**

## Hymn # 883