

SPRUCE RUN LUTHERAN CHURCH – LENTEN VESPERS – MARCH 8, 2023

OPENING DIALOGUE

Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

By day, O God,

you grant your steadfast love,

And at night your song is with me,

a prayer to the God of my life.

LBW#272 "ABIDE WITH ME"

VERSE 1



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

EVENING SUFFRAGES

Show us your mercy, O God,
and grant us your salvation.

Give us the joy of your saving help again,
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Give peace in all the world;
for only in you can we live in safety.

Keep the nations under your care,
and guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.

Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come before you.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray together.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

WORD

PSALMODY

ALL:

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

CANTOR:

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you.

ALL:

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

CANTOR:

Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.
Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing; let me not be oc - cu -
pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers. But my eyes are
turned to you, Lord God; in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.

ALL:

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

CANTOR:

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

ALL:

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

Amen.

PSALM 42

As the deer longs | for the water-brooks,
so longs my soul for | you, O God.

I thirst for God, for the | living God;

when shall I come to appear before the pres- | ence of God?

My tears have been my food | day and night,
while all day long they say to me, "Where now | is your God?"

I pour out my soul when I think | on these things;

**how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God, with
shouts of thanksgiving, among those | keeping festival.**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquiet- | ed
within me?

Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the one who is my help | and my
God.

My soul is heav- | y within me;

**therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from the peak
of Mizar among the | heights of Hermon.**

One deep calls to another in the roar of | your cascades;
all your rapids and floods have gone | over me.

The Lord grants lovingkindness | in the daytime;

**in the night season the Lord's song is with me, a prayer to the God | of my
life.**

I will say to the God of my strength, "Why have you re- | jected me,
and why do I wander in such gloom while the enemy op- | presses me?"

**While my bones are being broken, my enemies mock me | to my face;
all day long they mock me and say to me, "Where now | is your God?"**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquiet- | ed
within me?

Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the one who is my help | and my
God.

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

HOMILY

LBW#272 "ABIDE WITH ME"

VERSE 2 & 3

CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. We rest now in his peace and rise in the morning to serve him.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

LBW#272 "ABIDE WITH ME"

VERSE 4 & 5

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.