

SPRUCE RUN LUTHERAN CHURCH – LENTEN VESPERS – MARCH 15, 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 27**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

**When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

**One thing I ask of the Lord; one | thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze  
upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God | in the temple.**

For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.

**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I  
will sing and make music | to the Lord.**

Hear my voice, O Lord, | when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

**My heart speaks your message— | "Seek my face."**

**Your face, O Lord, | I will seek.**

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my  
salvation.

**Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,  
the Lord will | take me in.**

Teach me your | way, O Lord;

lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

**Subject me not to the will | of my foes,**

**for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.**

This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the Lord  
in the land | of the living!

**Wait for the Lord | and be strong.  
Take heart and wait | for the Lord!**

*SILENCE FOR MEDITATION*

***ROMANS 5:1-11***

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

***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.**