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## THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO RAISES THE DEAD

Lent is about repentance of sin and faith in God's forgiveness. When we confess our sins, we normally think about the wrongs we have committed, whether in thoughts, words, or deeds, as well as the good things we have failed to do. But sin is no simple or temporary issue. 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. 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).

OPENING SENTENCES

*LSB*, p. 229

- P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**  
**C** **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.**  
**Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

PSALM

*Psalm 118:14–18*

- L** The LORD is my strength and my song;  
**C** **He has become my salvation.**  
**L** Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous:  
**C** **“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,**  
**L** the right hand of the LORD exalts,  
**C** **the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”**  
**L** I shall not die, but I shall live,  
**C** **and recount the deeds of the LORD.**  
**L** The LORD has disciplined me severely,  
**C** **but He has not given me over to death.**

HYMN

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” (*LSB* 423)

+ Readings +

READING *2 Kings 5:1–14*

**P** <sup>1</sup>Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. <sup>2</sup>Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman’s wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, “Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” <sup>4</sup>So Naaman went in and told his lord, “Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel.” <sup>5</sup>And the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.”

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes. <sup>6</sup>And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” <sup>7</sup>And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make

alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.”

<sup>8</sup>But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.” <sup>9</sup>So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha’s house. <sup>10</sup>And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” <sup>11</sup>But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. <sup>12</sup>Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup>But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” <sup>14</sup>So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING *Acts 3:1–10*

P <sup>1</sup>Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup>And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup>Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. <sup>4</sup>And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” <sup>5</sup>And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup>But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” <sup>7</sup>And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup>And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup>And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for

alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING *Matthew 8:1–17*

P <sup>1</sup>When He came down from the mountain, great crowds followed Him. <sup>2</sup>And behold, a leper came to Him and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, if You will, You can make me clean.” <sup>3</sup>And Jesus stretched out His hand and touched Him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

<sup>5</sup>When He entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to Him, appealing to Him, <sup>6</sup>“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” <sup>7</sup>And He said to him, “I will come and heal him.” <sup>8</sup>But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” <sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who followed Him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. <sup>11</sup>I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, <sup>12</sup>while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>13</sup>And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

<sup>14</sup>And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. <sup>15</sup>He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve Him. <sup>16</sup>That evening they brought to Him many who were oppressed by demons, and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. <sup>17</sup>This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY *LSB*, p. 231

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

SERMON

+ Canticle +

ANTIPHON *LSB*, p. 231

MAGNIFICAT *LSB*, p. 231

Presentation of Offering

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE *LSB*, p. 233

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

LORD’S PRAYER *LSB*, p. 233

COLLECTS

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C** And let my cry come to You.

**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.

**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.

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

**C** Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

*LSB*, p. 234

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

*LSB*, p. 234

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

HYMN

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” (*LSB* 435)