

Midweek Vespers

Lent 5 – 2024 March 20

LSB 229



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.
L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
C Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.
Lent: Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

Psalmody

Psalm 46 (antiphon v.2)



- ²[W]e will not fear though the | earth gives way,*
though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea.
- ¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,*
a very present help in | trouble.
- ²Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way,*
though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,
- ³though its waters | roar and foam,*
though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.
- ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,*
the holy habitation of the | Most High.
- ⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved,*
God will help her when | morning dawns.
- ⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter,*
he utters his voice, the | earth melts.
- ⁷The LORD of hosts is | with us,*
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

⁸Come, behold the works | of the LORD,*

how he has brought desolations | on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end | of the earth;*

he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots | with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, and know that | I am God.*

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted | in the earth!"

¹¹The LORD of hosts is | with us;*

the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

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.

²[W]e will not fear though the | earth gives way.*

though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea.

Office Hymn:

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

LSB 905

1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
△ 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal

name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign

glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,

Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text: English, before 1760, alt.; public domain.

Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796; public domain.

Readings

Zechariah 14:1-21

Zechariah 14:1-21

§ A reading from Zechariah, the fourteenth chapter.

¹Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ²For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. ⁴On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ⁵And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

⁶On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. ⁷And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

⁸On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

⁹And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

¹⁰The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. ¹¹And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

¹²And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

¹³And on that day a great panic from the LORD shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of the other. ¹⁴Even Judah will fight against Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance. ¹⁵And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps.

¹⁶Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁹This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

²⁰And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. ²¹And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day.

§ O Lord, have mercy on us.

* **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 24:1-51

Matthew 24:1-51

§ A reading from Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

¹Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ²But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

³As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁵For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹²And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁵"So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²²And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ²³Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and

great glory. ³¹And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³²"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁶"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

⁴⁵"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' ⁴⁹and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

§ O Lord, have mercy on us.

* **Thanks be to God.**

Acts 1:6-12

Acts 1:6-12

§ A reading from Acts, the first chapter.

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

§ O Lord, have mercy on us.

* **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory (Lent)

LSB 231

Verse *To Refrain*



L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.

Refrain



C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

Sermon:

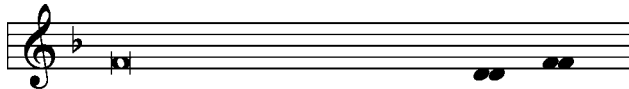
"Lift up your eyes to the Bible's Mountains:
The Mount of Olives"

The Readings

Canticle

LSB 231

Magnificat



I Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be - hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



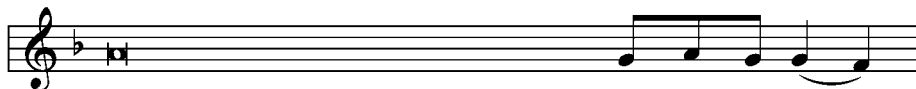
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



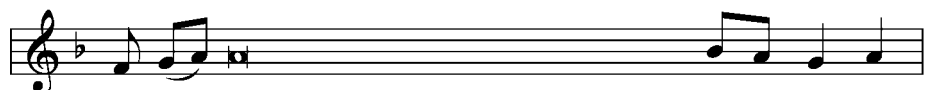
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



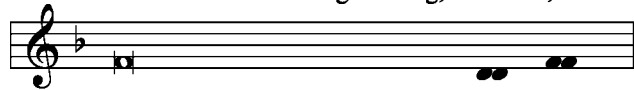
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



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



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



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Offering

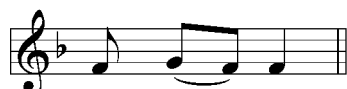
LSB 232

Prayer

Litany (Musical Setting)



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.



L O Christ,



C have mer - cy.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.



L O Christ,



C hear us.



L God the Fa - ther in heaven,



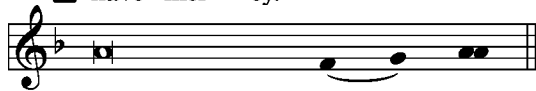
C have mer - cy.



L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L God the Holy Spir - it,



C have mer - cy.



L Be gra - cious to us.



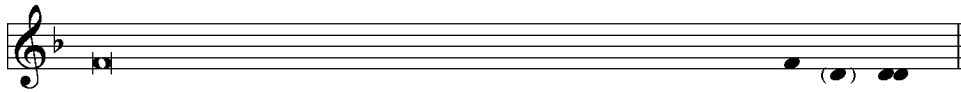
C Spare us, good Lord.



L Be gra - cious to us.



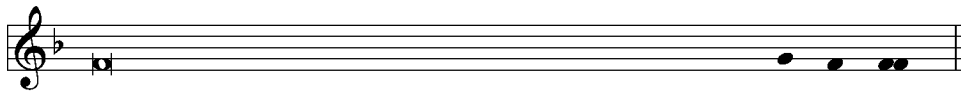
C Help us, good Lord.



L From all sin, from all error, from all e - vil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and e - vil death;
From pestilence and famine;
from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from re - bel - lion;
From lightning and tempest;
from all calamity by fire and water; and from ever - last - ing death:



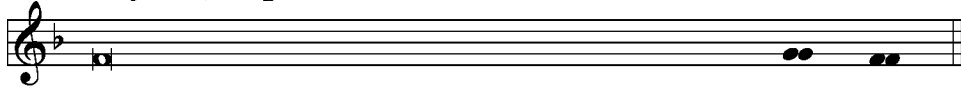
C Good Lord, de - liv - er us.



L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy na - tiv - i - ty;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your
cross and passion; by Your precious death and bur - i - al;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Com - fort - er:



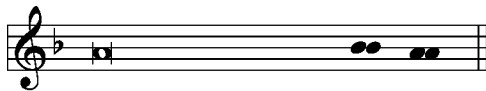
C Help us, good Lord.



L In all time of our tribulation; in all time
of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judg - ment:



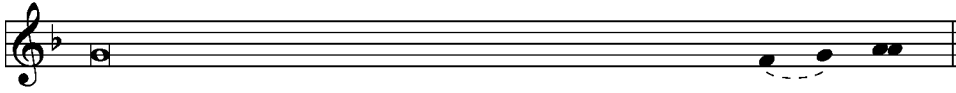
C Help us, good Lord.



L We poor sinners im - plore You



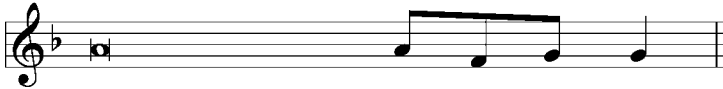
C to hear us, O Lord.



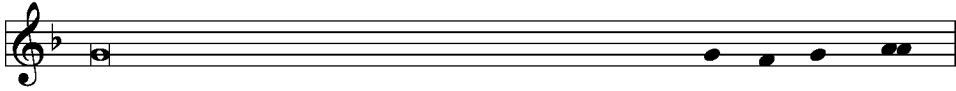
- L** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church;
to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your
Church in the true knowledge and understanding
of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy liv - ing;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense;
to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are de - ceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful laborers into Your harvest;
and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spir - it:



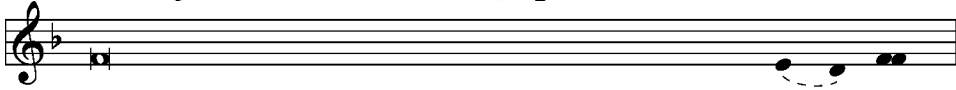
- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



- L** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those
who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the dis - tressed:



- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



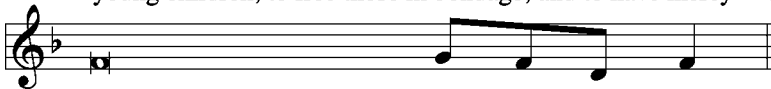
- L** To give to all peoples concord and peace;
to preserve our land from discord and strife;
to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president/queen/king and all in
authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our peo - ple;

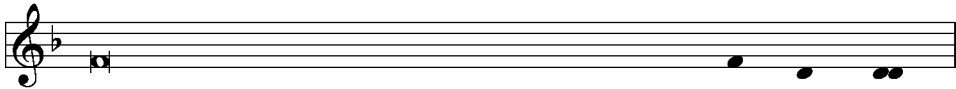
To watch over and help all who are in danger,
necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who trav - el;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers
with infant children, increasing happiness in
their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and pro-vide for them;

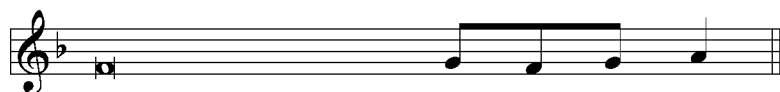
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and
young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:



- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



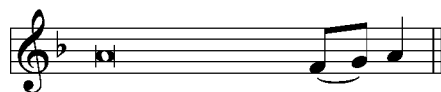
- L** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers
and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our
use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:



C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,



C we implore You to hear us.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C grant us Your peace.



L O Christ,



C hear us.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.

The first measure of the song 'The Sound of Silence' is shown in musical notation. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B-flat4. The bass line consists of a half note F3, followed by a quarter note G3, and then a quarter note A3. The measure ends with a double bar line.

 **C** have mer - cy.


L O Lord,


C have mer - cy. A - men.

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name.

Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as

it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly

bread; and for-give us our tres-pass-es as we for-give

those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -

to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -

ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Versicle and Response

§ O Lord, do not deal with us according | to our sins.*

* **Do not reward us according to our in- | iquities.**

Litany Collect

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we turn from our evil ways and live. Graciously spare us those punishments which we by our sins have deserved, and grant us always to serve You in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Collect for Lent 5

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Collect for Lent

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



Stand

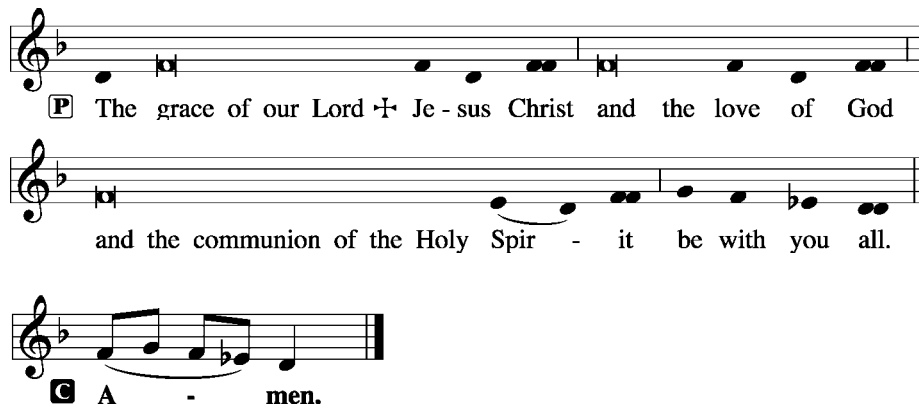
Benedicamus

LSB 234



Benediction

LSB 234



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

C A - men.

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created in part by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House (license #110005153).