

February 25, 2026 - Midweek 1
Salt That Sweetens and Preserves

We are blessed to be God’s children—cleansed of sin, renewed by the Spirit, and salted in Christ Jesus. The promised treasures in God’s Word remind us of the importance of salt, which both sweetens and preserves things for our enjoyment. When Paul reminds us to let our conversations be “seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6), and when Jesus tells us that we are “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), the image is rich, for it is not only visual, but it also engages the sense of taste. We are reminded today that we are blessed to sweeten this world with the presence of Christ in us, even as Jesus Himself preserves our lives through His Word and Spirit.

Opening Sentences

- 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.

PSALMODY

Psalm

Psalm 107:28–36

- P** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
C **and He delivered them from their distress.**
- P** He made the storm be still,
C **and the waves of the sea were hushed.**
- P** Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
C **and He brought them to their desired haven.**
- P** Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,
C **for His wondrous works to the children of men!**
- P** Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people,
C **and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.**
- P** He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,
C **a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants.**
- P** He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.
C **And there He lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in.**

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.

418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin,
And free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and You won;
Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust
In God’s eternal Word.

3 Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed
And fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves,
Since we have known God's love.

4 Be with us through this season, Lord,
And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns,
We join in heaven's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001801

READINGS

Reading

2 Kings 2:19–22

P A reading from Second Kings, the second chapter.

¹⁹Now the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” ²⁰He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. ²¹Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the LORD, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.” ²²So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Colossians 4:2–6

P A reading from Colossians, the fourth chapter.

²Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

⁵Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Matthew 5:13–16

P A reading from St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Lent Responsory

LSB, p. 231

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

- P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**
P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

543 What Wondrous Love Is This

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this
 That caused the Lord of bliss
 To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
 To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
- 2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
 When I was sinking down, sinking down,
 When I was sinking down
 Beneath God's righteous frown,
 Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
 Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
 To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
 To God and to the Lamb,
 Who is the great I AM,
 While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
 While millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
 And when from death I'm free,
 I'll sing His love for me,
 And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
 And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Sermon

CANTICLE

Antiphon

- P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Magnificat

- P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
C **for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham
and to his seed forever.

- 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.**

Offering

786 Lord of All Good

- 1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
That our whole life is offered to Your will.
- 2 We give our minds to understand Your ways;
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great design;
Hearts with the flame of Your own love ablaze—
Thus for Your glory all our pow'rs combine.
- △ 3 Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt.
Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001801

PRAYER

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

Collects

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, You call Your people to be the salt of the earth, to sweeten and preserve this world even as You have sweetened our lives with Your forgiveness and have preserved us by Your Spirit. 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.
- C** **Amen.**

- P** 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.
- C** **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**
- P** Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C** **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**
- P** Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.
- C** **Enable us to see that we are the salt of the earth, preserved by Your grace and sweetened by Your forgiveness.**
- P** 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.
- C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. 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

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

- 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.**

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.