



By Arden W. Mead

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Order of Service for the Second Wednesday in Lent

March 3, 2021

Behold!

Call to Worship:

Opening Hymn: "Words that Last Forever" sung to #606 ELW

**With words that last forever you speak in richest grace,
Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior, upon your cross disgraced.**

**With open ears I listen, with open mind believe,
With heart embrace you: I, Lord, your words receive.**

"Forgiveness" granted sinners, and "Paradise, today!"

"Behold your son, your mother!" to family you say.

The air is split with anguish in your "Forsaken" cry.

As "Thirsty," work "Accomplished," in "Father's hands" you die.

**Pray, sanctify the silence with which I contemplate
Your boundless love for sinners, your sacrifices so great,**

**Till at the tomb I waken to your new word for me:
These words, not last, but lasting, shall ring eternally!**

Approaching the Word

P: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

C: **“Behold your son... Behold your mother.”**

P: The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.

C: **“Behold your son... Behold your mother.”**

P: The Lord sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

C: **“Behold your son... Behold your mother.”**

P: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

C: **“Behold your son... Behold your mother.”**

P: “The word that goes forth from my mouth shall not return to me empty,” say the Lord. “It shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

C: **“Behold your son... Behold your mother.”**

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Honk your horns to greet one another.

P: Let us pray.

All: **O God our Father, your love for sinners is boundless, sparing not even your only begotten Son as a sacrifice for sin. So motivate us by your grace and our Brother’s selfless love for us that we may be bold to carry on the family name. We are sons and daughters of the God of grace. Make us gracious... and graceful. Through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Anthem:

First Lesson: Proverbs 23:22-25

Listen with respect to the father who raised you, and when your mother grows old, don't neglect her. Buy truth—don't sell it for love or money; buy wisdom, buy education, buy insight. Parents rejoice when their children turn out well; wise children become proud parents. So make your father happy! Make your mother proud!

Responsive Psalmody: Psalm 27

P: Light, space, zest—that's GOD!

C: So, with him on my side I'm fearless, afraid of no one and nothing.

P: When besieged, I'm calm as a baby.

C: When all hell breaks loose, I'm collected and cool.

P: I'm asking GOD for one thing, only one thing:

C: To live with him in his house my whole life long.

P: I'll contemplate his beauty. I'll study at his feet.

C: That's the only quiet, secure place in a noisy world. The perfect getaway, far from the buzz of traffic.

P: God holds me head and shoulder above all who try to pull me down. I'm headed for his place to offer anthems that will raise the roof!

C: Already I'm singing God-songs; I'm making music to GOD.

P: Listen, GOD, I'm calling at the top of my lungs, "Be good to me! Answer me!"

C: When my heart whispered, "Seek God," my whole being replied, "I'm seeking him!"

Don't hide from me now!

P: You've always been right there for me; don't turn your back on me now.

C: Don't throw me out, don't abandon me; you've always kept the door open.

P: My father and mother walked out and left me, but GOD took me in.

C: I'm sure now I'll see God's goodness in the exuberant earth. Stay with GOD! Take heart. Don't quit.

P: I'll say it again: Stay with GOD.

Theme Hymn, vs. 1: "Our Savior Speaks in Love" sung to Southwell SM

Our Savior speaks in love

To sinners in their need.

Oh, hear the message from above;

His gracious promise heed.

Gospel: John 16: 16-24

¹⁶ “In a day or so you’re not going to see me, but then in another day or so you will see me.” ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ That stirred up a hornet’s nest of questions among the disciples: “What’s he talking about: ‘In a day or so you’re not going to see me, but then in another day or so you will see me’? And, ‘Because I’m on my way to the Father’? What is this ‘day or so’? We don’t know what he’s talking about.” ¹⁹⁻²⁰ Jesus knew they were dying to ask him what he meant, so he said, “Are you trying to figure out among yourselves what I meant when I said, ‘In a day or so you’re not going to see me, but then in another day or so you will see me’? Then fix this firmly in your minds: You’re going to be in deep mourning while the godless world throws a party. You’ll be sad, very sad, but your sadness will develop into gladness.

²¹⁻²³ “When a woman gives birth, she has a hard time, there’s no getting around it. But when the baby is born, there is joy in the birth. This new life in the world wipes out memory of the pain. The sadness you have right now is similar to that pain, but the coming joy is also similar. When I see you again, you’ll be full of joy, and it will be a joy no one can rob from you. You’ll no longer be so full of questions. ²³⁻²⁴ “This is what I want you to do: Ask the Father for whatever is in keeping with the things I’ve revealed to you. Ask in my name, according to my will, and he’ll most certainly give it to you. Your joy will be a river overflowing its banks!

Children’s Word

Theme Hymn, vs. 2: “Our Savior Speaks in Love” sung to Southwell SM

**To Mary, looking on,
“Behold your son,” he says.
“Behold your mother”; thus on John
Love’s burden gently lays.**

Homily: “Behold!”

Hymn: “Jesus Loving to the End” sung to Ack, Vad Ar Dock Livet Har 777 6

**Jesus, loving to the end
Her whose heart your sorrows rend,
And your dearest human friend: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we in your sorrows share,
For your sake all peril dare,
And enjoy your tender: Hear us, holy Jesus**

**May we all your loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving, since your love we see: Hear us, holy Jesus**

Prayers of the Church

Honk your horn three times as part of the congregation's response to each petition.

P: In Jesus Christ, God is with us, Emmanuel. We are never alone. Gathered together in his name, let us join in fervent prayer.

C: Lord, make us mindful of one another.

P: That this congregation and the Christian Church throughout the world may prove itself to be a fellowship of sisters and brothers, united in faith and hope and love, concerned about the welfare of all, let us join in fervent prayer.

C: Lord, make us mindful of one another.

P: That people and nations may not live selfishly, but in communities and in the context of the global village God provides for us our home, let us join in fervent prayer:

C: Lord, make us mindful of one another.

P: That we may become instruments of help and healing for all who in their sickness or distress find themselves in need of kindly companionship, let us join in fervent prayer.

C: Lord, make us mindful of one another.

P: And that even in the midst of tears and loss our eyes may be fixed on our heavenly home, our steps guided by the life-giving Spirit of God, and our hearts refreshed by the sweet hope of a blessed reunion with those we love, let us join in fervent prayer:

C: Lord, make us mindful of one another.

P: 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

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. You have been welcomed into the family of God.

C: Amen.

Theme Hymn, vs. 3: "Our Savior Speaks in Love" *sung to Southwell SM*

**Our Savior speaks; may we
Give heed to ev'ry word,
And grace be given faithfully
To trust what we have heard.**

Postlude: