

SHEPHERD OF THE SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

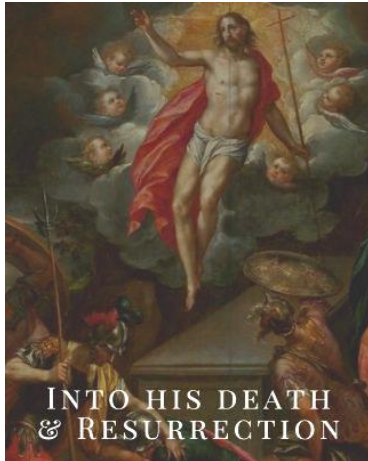
THE OFFICE OF VESPERS

VESPERS AFTER OCULI

“How can water do such great things?”

7:00 p.m.

March 26, 2025



[We rise]

Opening Hymn

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” #440

Opening Sentences p. 229

PSALMODY
Psalm 29

[Read responsively by half verse]

[Be seated]

READINGS

First Reading **Titus 3:1-11**
O Lord, have mercy on us. **Thanks be to God!**

[We rise]
Holy Gospel **St. John 3:1-21**
O Lord, have mercy on us. **Thanks be to God!**

Responsory for Lent p. 231

[Be seated]

Office Hymn
“May God Bestow On Us His Grace” #823
[Rise stanza 3]

Sermon

[We rise]
“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” #422
[replacing the Canticle]

[Be seated]

The offering is received

[We rise]

PRAYER

Kyrie, Lord's Prayer p. 233

O Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day: LORD God, heavenly Father, who has sent Your Son into the world to destroy the works of the devil, we beseech You, keep us from false security, curb the tyranny of the wicked foe, protect us against him, and graciously preserve us by Your Holy Spirit as we continually partake of Your Son’s Body and Blood; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit: One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Collect for Peace p. 233

Benedicamus, Benediction p. 234

Closing Hymn

“The Gifts Christ Freely Gives” #602

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the Word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without God’s Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying” (Titus 3:5-8).

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