

Welcome to Vespers for **Thursday (Week 3)**. The Service for Vespers can be found on p142-153 in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). The Psalms for this evening are **Psalm 81 found on page 253 and Psalm 116 found on page 272**. The hymn is **#340**.

PSALM 81 *(The cantor will speak / sing the antiphon. The psalm will be spoken / sung in unison.)*

ANTIPHON

Sing with joy to God our strength.

¹Sing with joy to | God our strength*
and raise a loud shout to the | God of Jacob.

²Raise a song and | sound the timbrel,*
the merry harp, | and the lyre.

³Blow the ram's horn at | the new moon,*
and at the full moon, the day | of our feast;

⁴for this is a stat- | ute for Israel,*
a law of the | God of Jacob.

⁵He laid it as a solemn charge | upon Joseph,*
when he came out of the | land of Egypt.

⁶I heard an unfamil- | iar voice saying,*
"I eased his shoulder from the burden; his hands were set free from bear- | ing the load."

⁷You called on me in trouble, | and I saved you;*
I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the wa- | ters of
Meribah.

⁸Hear, O my people, and I will ad- | monish you:*
O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!

⁹There shall be no strange | god among you;*
you shall not worship a | foreign god.

¹⁰I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of E- | gypt and said,*
"Open your mouth wide, and | I will fill it."

¹¹And yet my people did not | hear my voice,*
and Israel would | not obey me.

¹²So I gave them over to the stubbornness | of their hearts,*
to follow their | own devices.

¹³Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,*
that Israel would walk | in my ways!

¹⁴I should soon sub- | due their enemies*
and turn my hand a- | gainst their foes.

¹⁵Those who hate the LORD would | cringe before him,*
and their punishment would | last forever.

¹⁶But Israel would I feed with the | finest wheat*
and satisfy him with honey | from the rock.

ANTIPHON

Sing with joy to God our strength.

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PSALM 116 (The cantor will speak / sing the antiphon. The psalm will be spoken / sung in unison.)

ANTIPHON

You, O LORD, have rescued my | life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling.*

¹I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my | supplication,*
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I | called upon him.

²The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took | hold of me;*
I came to | grief and sorrow.

³Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:*
“O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.”

⁴Gracious is the | LORD and righteous;*
our God is full | of compassion.

⁵The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent;*
I was brought very low, | and he helped me.

⁶Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.*
for the LORD has treat- | ed you well.

⁷For you have rescued my | life from death,*
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling.

⁸I will walk in the presence | of the LORD*
in the land | of the living.

⁹I believed, even when I said, “I have been brought | very low.”*
In my distress I said, “No one | can be trusted.”

¹⁰How shall I re- | pay the LORD*
for all the good things he has | done for me?

¹¹I will lift up the cup | of salvation*
and call upon the name | of the LORD.

¹²I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of | all his people.

¹³Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
is the death | of his servants.

¹⁴O LORD, I | am your servant;*

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁵I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving*

and call upon the name | of the LORD.

¹⁶I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD*

in the presence of | all his people,

¹⁷in the courts of | the LORD's house,*

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah!

ANTIPHON

*You, O LORD, have rescued my | life from death,**

my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling.

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense and my Sav - ior, ev - er liv - eth!
2 Je - sus, my re - deem - er, lives; I, too, un - to life shall wak - en.
3 No, too close - ly am I bound un - to him by hope for - ev - er;
4 I am flesh and must re - turn un - to dust, whence I am tak - en;



Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence rests up - on the hope it giv - eth,
He will bring me where he is; shall my cour - age, then, be shak - en?
faith's strong hand the rock has found, grasped it, and will leave it nev - er;
but by faith I now dis - cern that from death I shall a - wak - en,



though the night of death be fraught still with man - y an anx - ious thought.
Shall I fear, or could the head rise and leave his mem - bers dead?
e - ven death now can - not part from its Lord the trust - ing heart.
with my Sav - ior to a - bide in his glo - ry, at his side.

5 Then these eyes my Lord will know,
my redeemer and my brother;
in his love my soul will glow—
I myself, and not another!
Then the weakness I feel here
will forever disappear.

6 Then take comfort and rejoice,
for his members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear his voice;
dying, they will never perish;
for the very grave is stirred
when the trumpet's blast is heard.

7 Oh, then, draw away your hearts
from earth's pleasures base and hollow.
Strive to share what he imparts
while you here his footsteps follow.
As you now still wait to rise,
fix your hearts beyond the skies!