



Fourth Wednesday in Lent  
March 15, 2023

## The Order of Worship

### Welcome

### Opening Praise

“O Gracious Light”

*Christian Worship: Evening Prayer*



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of

Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where - fore you are through

blest is he, And blest are you, his on - ly Son.  
Spir - it: God Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the world;

**C: The Light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Stay with us, for it is evening;

**C: And the day is almost over.**

P: Let your light scatter the darkness of sin and death;

**C: Let it shine in our hearts and lives. Amen.**

### Opening Prayer

P: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and purify our hearts with your forgiving love in Jesus, our Savior. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in light of your presence while we pass through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Response

### “Let My Prayer Rise Before You” *Christian Worship: Evening Prayer*

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

P: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight, O Lord. Come and help us in our time of need that we may sing of praise in holy joy now, and forever through Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

## Evening Litany

### The Fifth Petition *Excerpts from Luther's Large Catechism Readers Edition, Concordia Publishing House*

P: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. This petition now applies to our poor miserable life. Although we have and believe God's Word, do and submit to His will, and are supported by His gifts and blessings, our life is still not sinless.

**C: Indeed I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my sinful flesh. The desire to do good is present with me, but I am not able to carry it out. So I fail to do the good I want to do. Instead, the evil I do not want to do, that is what I keep doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me.**

*Romans 7:18-20*

P: We stumble daily and transgress because we live in the world among people. They do us much harm and give us reason for impatience, anger, revenge, and such. Besides we have the devil at our back. He attacks us from every side and fights—as we have heard—against all the previous petitions. So it is not possible to stand firm at all times in such a constant conflict.

**C: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.**

*1 John 1:8-10*

P: The flesh in which we daily live is of such a nature that it neither trusts nor believes God. It is ever active in evil lusts and devices, so that we sin daily in word and deed, by what we do and fail to do. By this the conscience is thrown into unrest, so that it is afraid of God's wrath and displeasure. So it loses the comfort and confidence derived from the Gospel.

**C: There is no one who is righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands. There is no one who searches for God. They all turned away; together they became useless. There is no one who does what is good; there is not even one. The way of peace they did not know. There is no fear of God in front of their eyes—no one will be declared righteous in his sight by the works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.**

*Romans 3, selected verses*

P: It is, therefore, the intent of this petition that God would not

regard our sins and hold up to us what we daily deserve. But we pray that He would deal graciously with us and forgive, as He has promised, and so grant us a joyful and confident conscience to stand before him in prayer. Such a confident and joyful heart can spring from nothing else than the certain knowledge of the forgiveness of sin.

**C: I sought the LORD, and he answered me. From all my terrors he delivered me. His people look to him and are radiant, and their faces will never blush. This poor one called, and the LORD heard. From all my distress the LORD saved me. Taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is everyone who takes refuge in him.**

*Psalms 34:1-6, 8*

**Sung Response**

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

*Christian Worship 129 st.1-2, 5*

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
And did my Sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head  
For sinners such as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!

But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away —  
'Tis all that I can do.

**The Lessons from God's Word**

*“These things are written that we may believe that  
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!”*

<sup>13</sup> Look, my servant will succeed. He will rise. He will be lifted up. He will be highly exalted.

<sup>14</sup> Just as many were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured that he did not look like a man, and his form was disfigured more than any other person—<sup>15</sup> so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him, because they will see something they had never been told before, and they will understand something they had never heard before.

<sup>53:1</sup> Who has believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot and like a root from dry ground. He had no attractiveness and no majesty. When we saw him, nothing about his appearance made us desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man who knew grief, who was well acquainted with suffering. Like someone whom people cannot bear to look at, he was despised, and we thought nothing of him.

<sup>4</sup> Surely he was taking up our weaknesses, and he was carrying our sufferings. We thought it was because of God that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted, <sup>5</sup> but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced.

He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent in front of its shearers, he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup> He was taken away without a fair trial and without justice, and of his generation, who even cared?

So, he was cut off from the land of the living. He was struck because of the rebellion of my people. <sup>9</sup> They would have assigned him a grave with the wicked, but he was given a

grave with the rich in his death, because he had done no violence, and no deceit was in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and to allow him to suffer. Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring. He will prolong his days, and the LORD's gracious plan will succeed in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> After his soul experiences anguish, he will see the light of life. He will provide satisfaction. Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the many, for he himself carried their guilt.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great, and with the strong he will share plunder, because he poured out his life to death, and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners. He himself carried the sin of many, and he intercedes for the rebels.

***Response by the congregation***

“Sweet the Moments”

*Christian Worship 111 st. 1-2, 5*

Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,  
Which before the cross we spend,  
Life and health and peace possessing  
From the sinner's dying friend.

Here we rest in wonder, viewing  
All our sins on Jesus laid;  
Here we see redemption flowing  
From the sacrifice he made.

Lord, in loving contemplation  
Fix our hearts and eyes on you  
Till we taste your full salvation  
And your unveiled glory view.

**Passion History Reading**

*According to the Gospel of Matthew 26:57-75*

<sup>57</sup>Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the experts in the law and the elders were assembled. <sup>58</sup>Peter was following him at a distance and went as far as the courtyard of the high priest. He went inside and sat down with the guards to see how it would turn out.

<sup>59</sup>The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. <sup>60</sup>They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward <sup>61</sup>and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’”

<sup>62</sup>The high priest stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?”

<sup>63</sup>But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!”

<sup>64</sup>Jesus said to him, “It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

<sup>65</sup>Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! <sup>66</sup>What do you think?”

They answered, “He is deserving of death!” <sup>67</sup>Then they spit in his face and punched him.

Some slapped him <sup>68</sup>and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?”

<sup>69</sup>Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, “You were also with Jesus the Galilean.”

<sup>70</sup>But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, “I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

<sup>71</sup>When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

<sup>72</sup>Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, “I do not know the man.”

“<sup>73</sup>After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, “Surely you are also one of them because even your accent gives you away.”

<sup>74</sup>Then he began to curse and to swear, “I do not know the man!” Just then the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

### **Prayer for the Blessing of the Word**

P: Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here, and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen!**

### **Hymn of the Day**

“Upon the Cross Extended”

*Christian Worship 113 st. 1, 3-5*

Upon the cross extended,  
See, world, your Lord suspended;  
Your Savior yields his breath.  
The Prince of life from heaven  
Himself has freely given  
To shame and blows and bitter death.

‘Tis I who should be smitten,  
My doom should here be written;  
Bound hand and foot in hell.  
The fetters and the scourging,  
The floods around you surging,  
‘Tis I who have deserved them well.

A crown of thorns you’re wearing,  
My shame and scorn you’re bearing  
That I might ransomed be.  
My bondsman, ever willing,  
My place with patience filling,

From sin and guilt has made me free.

Your cords of love, my Savior,  
Bind me to you forever;  
I am no longer mine.  
To you I gladly tender  
All that my life can render  
And all I have to you resign.

### **Sermon**

*Luke 23:26, 32-38*

<sup>26</sup> As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>32</sup> Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed.

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

They cast lots to divide his garments among them. <sup>35</sup> The people stood watching. The rulers were ridiculing him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the Chosen One!"

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also made fun of him. Coming up to him, they offered him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

<sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription written above him: "This is the King of the Jews."

### **The Impassioned Prayers of the Passion** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **"Father, Forgive Them!"**

A prayer for an immediate need

A prayer for an eternal need



**The Confession of our Christian Faith:**

*(We unite in the words of Luther's Explanation  
to the Second Article of the Apostles Creed)*

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.  
This is most certainly true.**

**Prayer and Praise**

**P:** O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,  
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,  
Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God.

**C: Have mercy on us.**

**P:** Remember not, O Lord, our offenses, nor hold them against us. Spare us, good Lord; spare your people whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.

**C: Spare us, good Lord.**

**P:** From all spiritual blindness; from pride, self glory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice, and from a lack of love;

**C: Good Lord, deliver us.**

**P:** From all deadly sin and from the deceits of the world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh;

**C: Good Lord, deliver us.**

P: From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism, from hardness of heart and contempt for your Word and will;

**C: Good Lord, deliver us.**

P: By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom:

**C: Good Lord, deliver us**

P: By your bloody sweat and bitter agony, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial:

**C: Good Lord, deliver us.**

P: By your triumphant resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by the promised coming of the Holy Spirit:

**C: Good Lord, deliver us.**

P: In our times of trouble, in our times of prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment:

**C: Good Lord, deliver us.**

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**C: Have mercy on us.**

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**C: Have mercy on us.**

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**C: Grant us your peace.**

P: Son of God, at your invitation we come with our prayers, requests, and supplications.

**C: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.**

P: O gracious Lord, how blessed we are you came into this world. How blessed we are that you carried our burden of sin,

guilt and punishment. Because of your faithful and obedient sacrifice, we have every assurance we are forgiven. Send us your Holy Spirit, so that we live in that forgiveness. Make us forgiving as we have been forgiven—all to the glory of your name, because you are our only Savior, and because you live and rule together with the Father and the Spirit—throughout all eternity.



### The Lord's Prayer:

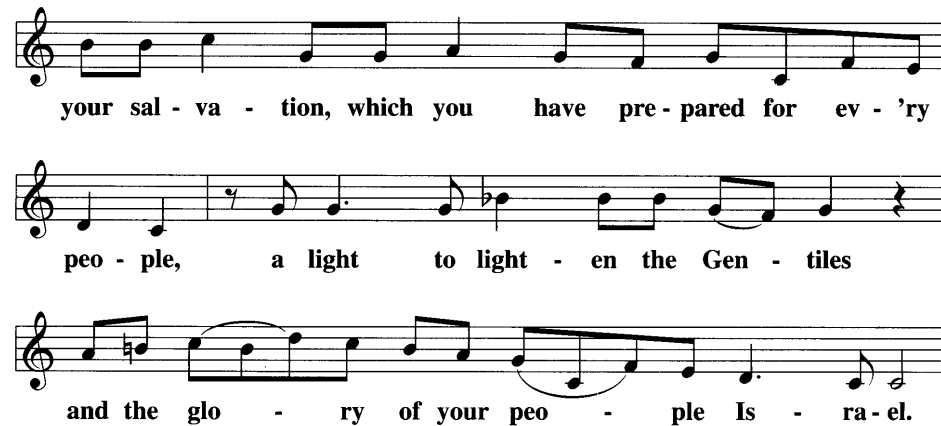
*(the congregation will join with the pastor)*

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins,  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
 now and forever. Amen!**

### Closing Praise

### Song of Simeon





### The Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 and the love of God the Father,  
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit -  
 be with you always.



### Closing Hymn

“Now the Day is Over”  
*Christian Worship 589 st. 1-5*

Now the day is over; night is drawing nigh,  
 Shadows to he evening steal across the sky.

Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose  
 With your tend'rest blessing may my eye-lids close.

Comfort ev'ry suff'rer watching late in pain;  
 Those who plan some evil, from their sin restrain.

Through the long night watches may your angels spread  
 Their bright wings above me, watching round my head.

When the morning wakens, then may I arise  
Pure and fresh and sinless in your holy eyes.

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Announcements**

**Tonight**—In our faithful Savior’s name **WELCOME** to our mid-week Lenten worship!

**Thursday**—Handbell Choir practice at 7:00 pm.

**Friday**—Office hours from 10:30—2:30 pm

**Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**—In-person Worship and Live-Streaming at 9:30 am. In another beautiful, and familiar psalm, David reminds us who the Lord is, and what he does for us—he is our Light, he is our salvation, he is the stronghold of our life.

- Christian Education will follow the service. We will focus on the miracle of Jesus healing the man born blind. In this lesson Jesus also explains that what we may think is bad is not God’s way of punishing.

### **Thank You**

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### **Acknowledgements**

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