



**“The
LORD
is the
Stronghold
of My Life!”**

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

God Places His Name on Us

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

C: And also with you!

Opening Litany

P: Few words can equal the beauty and consolation offered by the proclamation—Jesus lived for us, Jesus died for us, and Jesus rose for us! With these we have every confidence God invites to come to him and find compassion through the work Jesus faithfully accomplished on our behalf.

Jesus Lived for Us!

P: Saint Paul quotes the psalmist: “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 have become useless” (*Romans 3:10-12*).

Because all lack true righteousness before God, all need a Substitute to secure the holiness required to stand acceptable before the Lord. It was provided by Jesus through his sin-free life. The writer to the Hebrews proclaims: “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin” (*Hebrews 4:15-16*).

Congregation Sings

“Your Works, Not Mine”
Christian Worship 401 st. 1

Your works, not mine, O Christ, speak gladness to this heart.
They tell me all is done; they bid my fear depart.
To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord shall I flee?

Jesus Died for Us!

P: From the very first sin in Eden, death was the sentence handed down. God stood by his judgment when he declared: “You will return to the soil, for out of it you were taken. For you are dust and to dust you will return” (*Genesis 3:19*).

This sentence was further explained by Paul who wrote, “The wages of sin is death” (*Romans 6:23*). Yet God would not have the sinner die. He sent his Son to take the place of sinners under his just judgment, and endured the punishment all deserved. So, God shows his great love for us in this: “While we were still sinners, Christ Jesus died for us” (*Romans 5:8*).

Congregation Sings

“Your Works, Not Mine”
Christian Worship 401 st. 4

Your death, not mine, O Christ, has paid the ransom due;
Then thousand deaths like mine would have been all too few.
To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord shall I flee?

Jesus Rose for Us!

P: Our rescue from sin and its condemnation is made certain through the work of Jesus Christ. He is the perfect Substitute. He is the righteous sacrifice. He is the one who triumphed over death, the devil and the grave to proclaim the victory is complete.

This is the message into which we put our confidence, and of which Paul writes: “That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” (*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*).

Congregation Sings

“Your Works, Not Mine”
Christian Worship 401 st. 5

Your righteousness, O Christ, alone can cover me;
No other righteousness can set a sinner free.
To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord shall I flee?

P: It is because Jesus lived, died, and rose that we know we can come before the Lord, because “God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (*1 John 1:9*). Therefore, let us confess our sin and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Absolution

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e—



ter — nal; it stands firm in the heav —



ens. Your faith — ful — ness con — tin — ues for -



ev — er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless — ed are they who take ref — uge in him.

Prayer for the Day

P: O gracious Lord, you provide everything we need for this life. Your day to day care for our temporal needs is evident in every good gift. Your care also extends beyond our bodies. You have gone to great lengths to provide for our spiritual well-being. You give us guidance by your Word. You provide for our rescue through Jesus. You even give us the assurance you will keep us secure from every enemy. Continue to keep us in your care until we arrive safely in heaven. There we will praise you for your undeserved love. We will also praise you as the God of our rescue—Father, Son and Spirit—throughout all eternity.



C: A — — — men.

The Lessons from God's Word

"The Lord is with His People to Save Them!"

Old Testament

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴I have been silent for a long time.
I have kept still. I have restrained myself.
But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream.
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will dry up mountains and hills.
I will make all their grass wither.
I will turn rivers into islands.
I will dry up pools.
¹⁶I will lead the blind on a way they do not know.
Along paths they do not know I will direct them.
Ahead of them I will turn darkness into light
and rough places into level ground.
These are the things I will accomplish for them.
I will not abandon them.
¹⁷They will be turned back and completely disgraced—
those who trust in an idol,
those who say to molten images, “You are our gods.”
¹⁸You deaf ones, listen!
You blind ones, watch carefully so that you can see!
¹⁹Who is as blind as my servant?
Who is as deaf as my messenger whom I sent?
Who is as blind as my associate,
as blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰You, Israel, see many things, but you do not observe.
Israel opens his ears, but he does not hear.
²¹Because of his own righteousness,
the LORD was pleased to make his law great and glorious.

Congregation responds “Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear”
Christian Worship 282 st. 1-2

Lord, open now my heart to hear,
And through your word to me draw near.
Let me your Word e'er pure retain;
Let me your child and heir remain.

Your Word inspires my heart within;
Your Word grants healing from my sin.
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless;
Your Word brings peace and happiness.

Epistle*Ephesians 5:8-14*

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. ¹⁰Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord, ¹¹and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. ¹⁴Therefore it is said, “Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Congregation responds

“Praise the One Who Breaks”
Christian Worship 353 st 1 & 3

Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
Praise the one who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the Gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands
with the Father's word of peace.

Let us praise the Word incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
praise the one who makes us one.

Gospel*John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39*

¹As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that God’s works might be revealed in connection with him. ⁴I must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World.”

⁶After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man’s eyes. ⁷“Go,” Jesus told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

¹³They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight.

“He put mud on my eyes,” the man told them. “I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Then some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others were saying, “How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?”

There was division among them, ¹⁷so they said to the blind man again, “What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴They answered him, “You were entirely born in sinfulness! Yet you presume to teach us?” And they threw him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

³⁶“Who is he, sir,” the man replied, “that I may believe in him?”

³⁷Jesus answered, “You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you.”

³⁸Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” and he knelt down and worshipped him.

³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind.”

P: This is the Word of our God.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day "If You But Trust in God to Guide You"
Christian Worship 444

Sermon *Psalm 27, selected verses*

"God is the Stronghold of My Life!"

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation —who shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life —of whom shall I be afraid?

When I face my enemies!

⁴One thing I ask from the LORD. This is what I seek: that I live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD, and to seek him in his temple."

When I Dwell in God's House!

⁷Hear me, O LORD. With my voice I call. Be merciful to me and answer me. ⁹Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God, who saves me.

When I Seek Forgiveness!

¹¹LORD, teach me your way, and lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. Do not give me up to the desire of my foes.

¹⁴Wait for the LORD. Be strong and take heart, and wait for the LORD!

When I Follow Him to Heaven!

The Confession of Faith

(we unite in the words of the Apostles' Creed)

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church—the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Thanksgiving and Prayer

Prayer for the Lord's Blessing

Special Prayers and Requests

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”
Christian Worship 382

Closing Psalm and Prayer

Psalm 27

P: ¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be
afraid?

C: ² **When evildoers advance against me to eat my flesh, when
my foes and my enemies come against me, it is they who will
stumble and fall.**

P: ³ If an army lines up against me, my heart will not fear.
If war rises against me, even then I will keep trusting.

C: ⁴ **One thing I ask from the LORD. This is what I seek: that
I live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze
on the beauty of the LORD, and to seek him in his temple.**

P: ⁵ Yes, he will hide me in his shelter on the day of trouble.
He will hide me in his tent. He will set me high on a rock.

⁶ Then my head will be lifted up above the enemies who surround
me.

C: **I will offer sacrifices at his tent with a joyful shout. I will
sing and make music to the LORD.**

P: ⁷ Hear me, O LORD. With my voice I call. Be merciful to me
and answer me.

C: ⁸ **When you say, “Seek my face,” my heart says to you,
“Your face, LORD, I will seek.”** ⁹ **Do not hide your face from
me. Do not turn your servant away in anger.**

P: You have been my help. Do not reject me or forsake me, O
God who saves me.

C: ¹⁰ **If my father and my mother abandoned me, the LORD would take me in.**

P: ¹¹ LORD, teach me your way, and lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. ¹² Do not give me up to the desire of my foes, because false witnesses rise up against me, and so do those who breathe out violence.

C: ¹³ **Unless I was confident to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**

P: ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD. Be strong and take heart, and wait for the LORD!

P: O gracious Lord and Savior, you give me every reason to be strong and take heart. You are my God, and you will do all for my good. This is why I can patiently wait for you to work in my life. Continue to strengthen my trust. Guide me with your Word. Rescue me when I stray. Most important, be my stronghold to which I can always go until I enjoy the peace of life in heaven. There I will live with you and praise you—together with your Son and the Spirit—for ever and ever.



C: A ——— men.

The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord in gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord look on you with his favor; and

give you peace.



C: A — men. A — men. A ——— men.

Closing Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul”
Christian Worship 415

Silent Prayer

Announcements . . .

Today - *Welcome in the name of our good and gracious God!*
How blessed we are that our Lord has provided so much for our welfare. He is our ever-present guide. He is our sure salvation. He is our place of security to which we can flee, and where we can find every comfort and protection. If you are visiting this morning, please sign the guest book. We also invite you to worship again, soon!

- Coffee and will be served following the service. Stay and enjoy this special time with friends in the Lord.
- Bible Class will begin at 11:00 am. We will complete the lesson from last week on “justification by grace through faith.” We will also start on the miracle of Jesus healing the man born blind.

Tuesday—Outreach / Fellowship planning meeting. We will start at 7:00 pm to prepare for April and Easter events.

Wednesday—**Mid-Week Lent Worship at 7:00 pm.** We will continue with the “Impassioned Prayers of the Passion.” This evening we turn to the repentance thief’s prayer—“Remember me, in your kingdom.”

Thursday—Handbell choir practice at 7:00 pm.

Friday—Office hours from 10:30 am—2:30 pm.

Saturday—Clean: G. Grunewald

- Lawn mowing beginning March 19th—G. Grunewald

Sunday, March 26th—**In Person Worship and Live Streaming at 9:30 am.** In a passionate plea the psalmist cries out to the Lord to hear his voice. He also pleads that the Lord will not reject his cry for mercy because of his sinfulness. It is this prayer which we pray daily throughout our life.

- Christian Education will follow the service. We will turn to the familiar words of Romans 8 where we see the same confidence David expressed in Psalm 130.

Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Jim Everson for monitoring the sound; to Josh Schueler for controlling the live stream; to the Proeber family for placing flowers on the altar—to the glory of God, and in Jesus’ gracious call to eternal life for Wilma Heidenrich and Pastor’s parents.

Easter Plans Preparations

Every Easter we enjoy a brunch following the worship service. This year will be no different. Please check the table in the back of the church for what you can bring, and how you can help.

In addition, there is a sheet for the Memory Garden. These are flowers given to the glory of God for all those who died in the Lord and are not enjoying eternal life. Remember to sign your name, as well as the name of those you are remembering.

Church and Property Work Day

Clean up inside and outside of the church is scheduled for Saturday, March 25th. There are many tasks, so with many hands the work will be done quickly. We will start at 9:30 am. Please speak to Jim Brown for more information.

Acknowledgements

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