



Fourth Wednesday in Lent
March 22, 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 melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. 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.

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 your 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.

Psalm 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
“Here is My Servant, My Chosen One!”

The Prophecy of the Savior

Isaiah 42:1-10

- ¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight.
I am placing my Spirit on him.
He will announce a just verdict for the nations.
- ²He will not cry out.
He will not raise his voice.
He will not make his voice heard in the street.
- ³A bent reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.
He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.
- ⁴He will not burn out, and he will not be broken
until he establishes justice on the earth.
The coastlands will wait for his law.
- ⁵This is what the true God says,
the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth
and everything that it produces,
who gives breath to the people on it
and life to those who walk on it.
- ⁶I am the LORD.
I have called you in righteousness.
I will hold on to your hand, and I will guard you.
I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,
to be a light for the nations,
⁷to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.
- ⁸I am the LORD; that is my name.
I will not give my glory to another, nor my praise to idols.
- ⁹Look, the former things have taken place, and I am declaring
new things. I am making them known to you before they
spring forth.
- ¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song. Sing his praise from the end of
the earth.

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 27:1-26

¹Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people reached the decision to put Jesus to death. ²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

³Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders ⁴and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.”

⁵He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money.” ⁷They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day.

⁹Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him,¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord commanded me.

¹¹When Jesus stood in the presence of the governor, the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say."

¹²When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, "Don't you hear how many things they are testifying against you?"

¹⁴But he did not answer him—not even one word, so that the governor was very surprised.

¹⁵At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas.

¹⁷So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For Pilate knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate's wife sent him a message. "Have nothing to do with that righteous man," she said, "since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him." ²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death.

²¹The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

"Barabbas!" they said.

²²Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Crucify him!"

²³But the governor said, "Why? What has he done wrong?" But they kept shouting even louder: "Crucify him!"

²⁴When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of

this righteous man's blood. It is your responsibility.”

²⁵And all the people answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

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

“There is a Fountain Filled with Blood”

Christian Worship 112

There is a fountain filled with blood —
Immanuel was slain —
And sinners who are washed therein
Lose ev’ry guilty stain, lose ev’ry guilty stain.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away, washed away my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood
Shall never lose its pow’r
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved and sin no more, be saved and sin no more.

E’er since by faith I saw the stream
Your flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die.

When this poor lisping, stamm’ring tongue

Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing your pow'r to save, I'll sing your pow'r to save.

Sermon

Luke 23:29-43

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation?" ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."

⁴³ Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise."

The Impassioned Prayers of the Passion

"Remember Me in Your Kingdom!"

A Prayer worked by Repentance

A Prayer searching for Mercy

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

Evening Prayer

P: In the closing hours of this day as night surrounds us, hear us as we pray, O Lord; and answer us according to your great compassion.



C: Lord, have mer – cy.

P: For your undeserved love which caused you to send your Son into the world and offer him as the payment for our release; and for your unyielding commitment to liberate us from sin and hell by his sinless death on the cross; we pray, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer – cy.

P: For the treasure of your Gospel and the gift of the Holy Spirit through which our eyes are fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith; we pray, O Lord;



C: Lord, have mer – cy.

P: Send us your holy angels to keep us safe from harm and danger. Help us realize they are your faithful servants who serve according to your will. Let our faith always be centered in you and in your gracious promises. Because you are our Refuge and Strength, we plead:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For every needed blessing for body and soul. For every good and perfect gift that flows freely from your love. For the powerful working of your Gospel in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. And for the wisdom to acknowledge you as the true God and our God, we humbly ask:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: In your compassion you invite us to pray. In your undeserved love you answer all of them for our good. In your never-failing care you support us in good times, as you do in times of need. For this, and every blessing, we rejoice:



C: Thanks be to God.

P: In humble thanks and faithful devotion, we commend ourselves into your loving care. Never let us be shaken, nor let us ever fail to put our complete trust in you—our Lord, our God and our Savior:



C: A - - men!

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 musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The first staff begins with a C-clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part
 ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen
 your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry
 peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
 and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

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

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name”
Christian Worship 321

Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.

Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
With thee began, with thee shall end the day.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon thy name.

Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep thy people free,
For dark and light are both alike to thee.

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife.
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Tonight—In our faithful Savior’s name **WELCOME** to our mid-week Lenten worship! We rejoice in our Savior’s undeserved love and mercy which invites us to come to him in repentance to hear about our forgiveness and the promise of life in heaven.

Thursday—Handbell Choir practice at 7:00 pm.

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

Saturday—Clean up and work day around the church and its property. We will start at 9:30 am—weather permitting.

Sunday, March 26th—Morning 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 for serving as our Hymnsoft operator; to Josh Schueler and Jim Everson for monitoring the audio and video for the live-stream.

Acknowledgements

Scriptures are quoted by permission, and are from THE HOLY BIBLE—Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV). Copyright 2021 by The Wartburg Project. (www.wartburgproject.org)

Liturgical resources were taken from “Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal.” Copyright 1993 by Northwestern Publishing House.



OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

770 Vala Drive

Santa Barbara, California 93111

www.orlcsb.net

For more information, contact

pastor.orlcsb@gmail.com

James N. Proeber, Pastor

805.967.1128 – Office & 805.967.3570 – Home
