

A painting of a sunrise with rays of light and a bright sun. The sun is a bright yellow circle with a blue and green aura, surrounded by a large, glowing orange and yellow sunburst. The background is a dark blue and purple sky with some clouds. The overall style is expressive and somewhat abstract.

“My Soul Waits
for the Lord —

More than
Watchmen Wait
for Morning!”

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 God, you invite us to cast all our cares on you, because you care for us. Sadly we must confess, we do not always trust you first. As a result we see our troubles grow and our burdens increase. Forgive us. Turn us away from our selfish self-reliance. Fill us with the confidence we need to trust you first, and in all things. It is because of your undeserved love that we can place ourselves and our lives into your care. Be with us. Strengthen us. Lead us through this life to life in heaven. There we will be with you and praise you—Father, Son, and Spirit—throughout endless ages.



C: A — — — men.

The Lessons from God's Word *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart!"*

Old Testament

2 Kings 4:17-37

¹⁷But the woman conceived, and she gave birth to a son at that same time of year, just as Elisha said to her.

¹⁸The boy grew up, and one day he went out to his father, who

was with the reapers. ¹⁹Then he said to his father, “My head! My head!”

His father said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.” ²⁰So he picked him up and carried him to his mother, and the boy sat on her lap until noon. Then he died.

²¹Then she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She shut the door behind her and went out. ²²Then she called to her husband and said, “Send one of the servants to me with one of the donkeys, so that I can run to the man of God and come back.”

²³He said, “Why are you going to him today? It’s not the new moon, and it’s not the Sabbath.”

But she said, “It’s all right.”

²⁴Then she saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead the way. Don’t slow down for me unless I tell you.”

²⁵So she went to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When the man of God saw her from a distance, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look! That’s the woman from Shunem! ²⁶Now run to meet her and say, ‘Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your son all right?’ ”

She answered, “We’re all right.”

²⁷Then she came to the man of God at the mountain, and she grasped his feet. Gehazi stepped forward to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone, for her soul is in distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me. He has not told me.”

²⁸Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Didn’t I say, ‘Don’t give me false hope?’”

²⁹Then Elisha said to Gehazi, “Hike up your garments for travel, and take my staff in your hand and go! If you meet someone, do not greet him, and if someone greets you, do not answer. Put my staff on the boy’s face.”

³⁰But the boy’s mother said, “As surely as the LORD lives and your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her. ³¹Gehazi went ahead of them and put the staff on the boy’s face. But there was no sound, and there was no response. So he went back to Elisha and told him, “The boy did not wake up.”

³²When Elisha came to the house, there the boy was—dead,

lying on his bed. ³³So he went in and he shut the door behind the two of them. Then he prayed to the LORD. ³⁴He got up and lay down on top of the boy. He put his mouth to the boy's mouth, his eyes to the boy's eyes, his palms to the boy's palms. Then he bent down over him, and the boy's flesh became warm. ³⁵He went back into the house and paced back and forth. Then he went up and bent down over him, and the boy sneezed seven times. Then the boy opened his eyes.

³⁶Then Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call the woman of Shunem!" So he called her, and she came in. He said, "Pick up your son." ³⁷So she came in and fell at Elisha's feet and bowed down to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

Congregation responds

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"
Christian Worship 402 st. 1-2

My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!

As thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

Epistle

Romans 8:11-19

¹¹And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit, who is dwelling in you.

¹²So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in harmony with it. ¹³For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live.

¹⁴Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are

afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “*Abba, Father!*” ¹⁶The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children.

¹⁷Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed.

Congregation responds

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”
Christian Worship 402 st. 3-4

While life’s dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life’s transient dream,
When death’s cold sullen stream shall o’er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me save above, a ransomed soul!

Gospel

John 11:17-27, 38-45

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. ¹⁹Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them concerning their brother.

²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary was sitting in the house.

²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”

²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴Martha replied, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection

² Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to the sound of my cry for mercy.
³ If you, LORD, kept a record of guilt,
O Lord, who could stand?
⁷ Israel, wait confidently for the LORD,
because with the LORD there is mercy.
With him there is abundant redemption.
⁸ So he himself will redeem Israel from all its guilt.

“It’s Worth Waiting for the Lord!”
He hears us in our desperate need
He answers us with his compassionate care

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.**

Handbells

“Take Up Thy Cross, the Savior Said”

Arranged by Bill Ingram

Published by Choristers Guild

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

“I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”

Christian Worship 414

Closing Psalm and Prayer

Psalm 130

P: ¹ Out of the depths I have called to you, O LORD. ² Lord, hear my voice.

C: Let your ears be attentive to the sound of my cry for mercy.

P: ³ If you, LORD kept a record of guilt, O Lord, who could stand?

C: ⁴ But with you there is pardon, so you are feared.

P: ⁵ I wait for the LORD. My soul waits, and in his word I have

put my hope.

C: ⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

P: ⁷ Israel, wait confidently for the LORD, because with the LORD there is mercy. With him there is abundant redemption.

C: ⁸ **So he himself will redeem Israel from all its guilt.**

P: Dearest heavenly Father, because you are gracious and compassionate, we can put ourselves into your care. You showed love and mercy when we didn't deserve it. You called us to your side when we should have been turned away. You forgave our sin when you should have condemned us. Let this undeserved love lead us to you, and make it our motivation to put our complete trust in you as we wait for your loving response. Because you are the true God, and our God through faith, accept our prayers and our praise—now and throughout all eternity.



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

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

Christian Worship 439

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—*Welcome in the name of our good and gracious God!*
How blessed we are to know that God has faithfully heard and answered all our prayers for our good, especially our prayer for forgiveness and peace. If you are visiting this morning, please sign the guest book. We also invite you to worship again, soon!

- Coffee and snacks 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 turn our attention to last week's Gospel lesson when Jesus healed a man born blind, and cured him of his spiritual blindness.

Wednesday—Mid-Week Lent Worship at 7:00 pm. We will continue with the “Impassioned Prayers of the Passion.” This evening we listen to our Savior's impassioned prayer— “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!”

Thursday—Memorial Service for Wilma Heidenrich. It will begin at 11:00 am. A lunch will follow. Please speak with Pam Schueler or Margaret Brown regarding preparations and helping.

- Handbell choir practice at 7:00 pm.

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

Saturday—Easter Festival at 4:00 pm. Please see the last page of the service folder for more information.

- Clean: Hanna
- Lawn mowing beginning April 2nd—Everson

Sunday, April 2nd—In Person Worship and Live Streaming at 9:30 am. On Palm Sunday, we rejoice to hear how Jesus entered Jerusalem not simply to receive the hosannas of the crowds, but to give himself as a sacrifice to take away sin.

- Christian Education will follow the service and will review Paul's exhortation from Philippians 2— “let this attitude be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to the members of the Handbell choir; to Jim Everson for monitoring the sound; to Josh Schueler for controlling the live stream; to Julie Schroeder and Emily Schroeder for serving snacks after the service; and to Sue Proeber for placing flowers on the altar—to the glory of God and in grateful thanks for the gift of his love.

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 no enjoying eternal life. Remember to sign your name, as well as the name of those you are remembering.

Acknowledgements

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