



Sixth Wednesday in Lent
March 29, 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 acknowledge your will and rejoice in doing it. Come and bless us as we worship you: God the Father, God the God the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Response

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

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.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and ends with a quarter rest. The second staff ends with a quarter rest. The third staff ends with a quarter rest. The fourth staff ends with a quarter rest. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

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, and 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
“God's Faithful Promise of Rescue is Kept in Jesus”

The Prophecy of the Savior

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

⁴Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level,
and the rough places will become a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁶A voice was saying, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside. ⁷Grass withers, flowers fade,
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

⁸Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.

⁹Get up on a high mountain, O Zion, you herald of good news.

Lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.

Lift it up! Do not be afraid!

Say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

¹⁰Look, God the LORD will come with strength, and his arm is ruling for him.

Look, his reward is with him. The result of his work is in front of him. ¹¹Like a shepherd he will care for his flock. With his arm he will gather the lambs. He will lift them up on his lap. He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

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 27:27-66

²⁷Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head.

³¹After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³²As they were going out of the city, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon. They forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. ³³They came to a place called Golgotha, which means, “The place of the skull.” ³⁴They offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵After

they had crucified him, they divided his clothing among themselves by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there. ³⁷Above his head they posted the written charge against him: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

³⁸At the same time two criminals were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, “You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law, and elders kept mocking him. They said, ⁴²“He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he’s the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” ⁴⁴In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him kept insulting him.

⁴⁵From the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

⁴⁷When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “This fellow is calling for Elijah.”

⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. ⁴⁹The rest said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

⁵⁰After Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹Suddenly, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. ⁵²Tombs were opened, and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. ⁵³Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus’ resurrection and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were guarding

Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, “Truly this was the Son of God.”

⁵⁵Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and who had served him were there, watching from a distance. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut in the rock. He rolled a large stone over the tomb’s entrance and left. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²On the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered in the presence of Pilate ⁶³and said, “Sir, we remembered what that deceiver said while he was still alive: ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ⁶⁴So give a command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples might steal his body and tell the people, ‘He is risen from the dead.’ And this last deception will be worse than the first.”

⁶⁵Pilate said to them, “You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting a guard.

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

“Stricken, Smitten, and afflicted”
Christian Worship 127 st. 1-3

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted see him dying on the tree!
‘Tis the Christ, by man rejected; yes my soul, ‘tis he, ‘tis he.
‘Tis the long-expected Prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it; ‘Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, as you hear him groaning,
was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning,
foes insulting his distress,
Many hands were raised to wound him,
none would intervene to save,
But the deepest stroke that pierced him
was the stroke that justice gave.

If you think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; see who bears the awful load —
‘Tis the Word, the Lord’s Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Sermon

Matthew 27:45-49

⁴⁵ From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “This fellow is calling for Elijah.”

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

The Impassioned Prayers of the Passion _____

“My God, Why have You Forsaken Me!”

A Prayer recognizing God’s Justice

A Prayer rejoicing in God’s 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 Litany *(we read responsively)*

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 your prayers and supplications.

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

P: Lord God, in all humility we stand before you. Hear our impassioned prayer. We recognize we deserve nothing but your just judgment. We should have been the ones who cried out, “Why have you forsaken me!” Instead of rejecting us, you forsook your Son. You made him carry the full weight of your justice so we could be declared not guilty. Give us thankful hearts which treasure your undeserved love. Give us faith to cling to it alone. Keep us in your love until we receive the blessing of heaven—all through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and rules with you and the Spirit, as the God of our rescue.



C: A - - men!

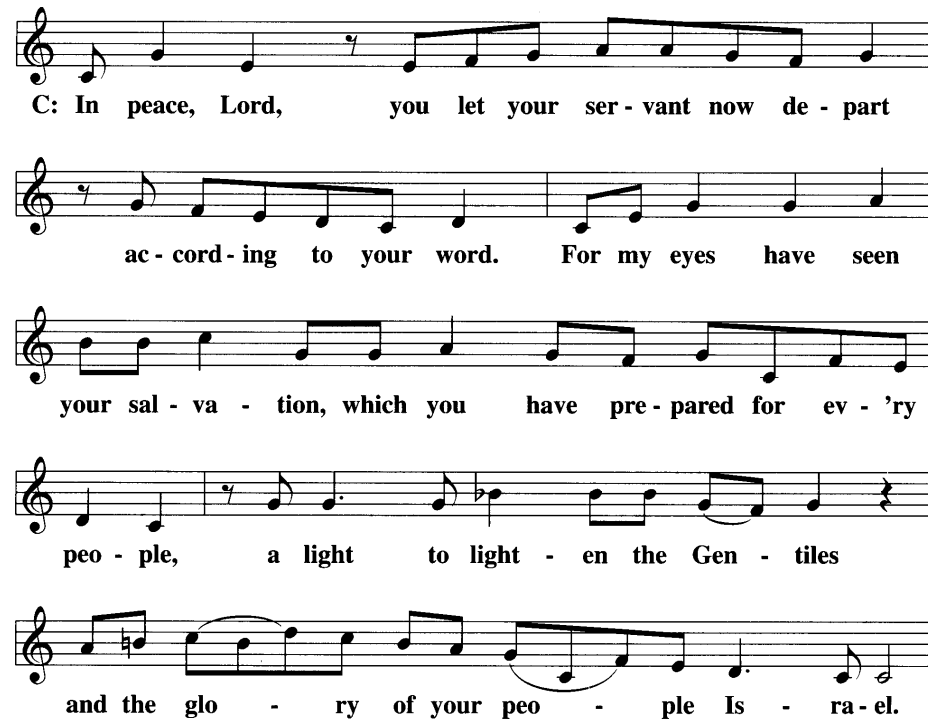
The Lord’s Prayer:

(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



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.



C: A - men.

Closing Hymn

“Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow”
Christian Worship 587 st. 1-4

(The Hymn is printed on page 15)

Now rest beneath night's shadow
The woodland, field and meadow;
The world in slumber lies.
But you, my heart, awaken,
With prayer and song be taken;
Let praise to your Creator rise.

The rule of day is over
And shining jewels cover
The heaven's boundless blue.
Thus I shall shine in heaven,
Where crowns of gold are given
To all who faithful prove and true.

Lord Jesus, since you love me,
Oh, spread your wings above me
And shield me from alarm,
Though Satan would assail me,
Your mercy will not fail me;
I rest in your protecting arm.

My loved ones, rest securely,
For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may he send you
And bid his hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Tonight—In our faithful Savior's name *WELCOME* to our mid-week Lenten worship! May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who endured shame and crucifixion on the cross, lead you to pray passionately, boldly, and confidently.

Thursday—Memorial Service for Wilma Heidenrich at 11:00 am. Tables will be prepared after this evening's service.

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

Saturday—Easter Festival at 4:00 pm. If you can lend a hand, please come around 3:00 pm.

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 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
