



Third Wednesday in Lent  
March 8, 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*

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 fermata over the word 'cense'. The second staff ends with a fermata over 'fice'. The third staff ends with a fermata over 'I'. The fourth staff ends with a fermata over 'cense'. 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 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.** *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  
“*These things are written that we may believe that  
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!*”

## **The Prophecy of the Savior**

*Isaiah 43:1-13*

- <sup>1</sup> But now this is what the LORD says, the LORD who created you,  
O Jacob, the LORD who formed you, O Israel.  
Do not be afraid, because I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine.
- <sup>2</sup> When you cross through the waters, I will be with you.  
When you cross the rivers, they will not sweep you away.  
When you walk through fire, you will not be burned,  
and the flame will not set you on fire.
- <sup>3</sup> Because I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior,  
I gave Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
- <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious and honored in my eyes,  
and I myself love you, I will give people in exchange for you,  
and peoples in exchange for your life.
- <sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid, because I am with you.  
From the east I will bring your offspring,  
and from the west I will gather you.
- <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them back!"  
and to the south, "Do not hold them."  
Bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
- <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
everyone I created for my glory,  
everyone I formed,  
yes, everyone I have made.
- <sup>8</sup> Bring out the people who are blind, though they have eyes,  
and the people who are deaf, though they have ears.
- <sup>9</sup> Let all the nations be gathered together,  
and let peoples be assembled.  
Who among them has declared this?  
Who has made known to us the former things?  
Let them produce their witnesses to show that they were right,  
so that people can hear and say, "This is truth."
- <sup>10</sup> You are my witnesses, declares the LORD.

You are my servant, whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know me and believe in me,  
so that you will understand that I am he.  
Before me no god was formed,  
and after me there will not be another.  
<sup>11</sup> I, yes I, am the LORD,  
and apart from me there is no savior.  
<sup>12</sup> I myself declared it.  
I brought salvation, and I announced it.  
It was not some strange god among you.  
You are my witnesses, declares the LORD,  
and I am God.  
<sup>13</sup> Indeed, from the first day, I am he.  
There is no one who can deliver anyone from my hand.  
I act, and who can reverse it?

***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 25:36-56*

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane. He told his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup>He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and he began to be sorrowful and distressed. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death. Stay here, and keep watch with me.”

<sup>39</sup>He went a little farther, fell on his face, and prayed. He said, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

<sup>40</sup>He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “So, were you not able to stay awake with me for one hour? <sup>41</sup>Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>42</sup>He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me<sup>a</sup> unless I drink it, may your will be done.” <sup>43</sup>Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before. <sup>45</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Rise. Let us go. Look, my betrayer is near.”

<sup>47</sup>While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

<sup>48</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” <sup>49</sup>Immediately

he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

<sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, “Friend, why are you here?”

Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. <sup>51</sup>Suddenly, one of the men with Jesus reached out his hand, drew his sword, and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>52</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by



the sword. <sup>53</sup>Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup>But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?"

<sup>55</sup>At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, "Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup>But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

### **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**

"Lord, to You I Make Confession"

*Christian Worship 302*

Lord, to you I make confession;  
I have sinned and gone astray;  
I have multiplied transgression,  
Chosen for myself my way.  
Led by you to see my errors,  
Lord, I tremble at your terrors.

Yet, though conscience' voice appall me,  
Father, I will seek your face.  
Though your child I dare not call me,  
Yet receive me to your grace.  
Do not for my sins forsake me;  
Do not let your wrath o'ertake me.

For your Son has suffered for me,  
Giv'n himself to rescue me,

Died to save me and restore me,  
Reconciled and set me free.  
Jesus' cross alone can vanquish  
These dark fears and soothe this anguish.

Lord, on you I cast my burden —  
Sink it in the depths below!  
Let me know your gracious pardon;  
Wash me, make me white as snow.  
Let your Spirit leave me never;  
Make me only yours forever.

### **Sermon**

*Matthew 26:69-75*

<sup>9</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.

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

**“Forgive Me, Lord!”**

Sorrow leads to repentance

Repentance leads to forgiveness

## 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:



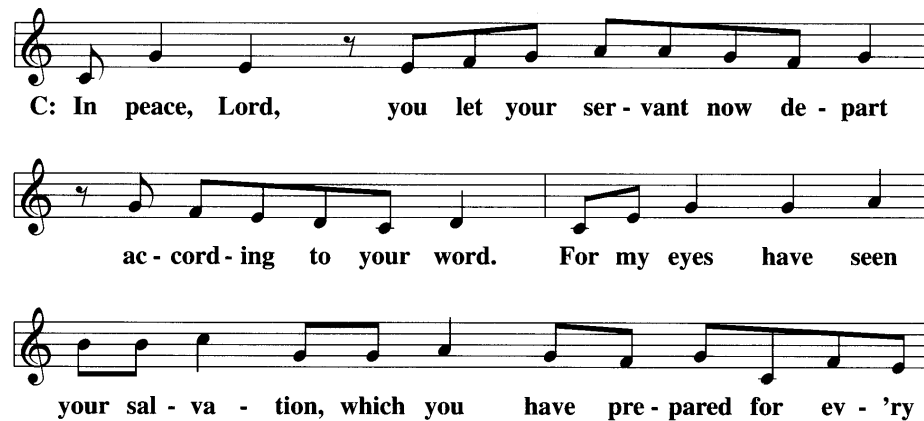
**The Lord's Prayer:**

*(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**



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 the Light has Gone Away”  
*Christian Worship 593*

Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,  
 Asking you to watch and keep and to send me quiet sleep.

Jesus, Savior, wash away all that I’ve done wrong today.  
 Make me ever more like you, good and gentle, kind and true.

Let my near and dear ones be safe with you eternally.  
 Oh, bring me and all I love to your happy home above.

Now my evening praise I give; you once died that I might live.  
 All your precious gifts are free —oh, how good you are to me!

Ah, my best and kindest Friend, you will love me to the end.  
 Let me love you more and more, always better than before.

**Silent Prayer**

### **Announcements**

**Tonight**—In our faithful Savior’s name *WELCOME* to our mid-week Lenten worship! We rejoice in our Lord’s invitation to bring all our requests and supplications to him, especially our prayer for forgiveness. We can come before him with full confidence he will hear and forgive us according to his great mercy.

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

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

**Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**—In-person Worship and Live-Streaming at 9:30 am. No matter what happens in our life—good or bad—we can always sing joyfully to the Lord. Psalm 95 gives us the reason why we can—the Lord is our Maker and he is our God.

### **Thank You**

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### **Acknowledgements**

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