

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

God Would; We Would Not

March 13, 2022

AS WE GATHER

The theme of Lent is repentance. Today, we are given a prophet's story of warning against a people who refused His mercy. But it is not the only story. The Lord still invites us to find a refuge in the wings of His mercy and, to all who will receive Him and believe on His name, there is no limit to His grace. The Lord is determined to go to the cross for us and to bestow upon us all the treasures of His grace, but the path that leads to Christ is the way of repentance and faith. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work in our hearts so that we may not refuse the Lord's invitation and may rejoice in the wings of His mercy forevermore.



PRAYER

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord.

CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS WITH THEIR ANSWERS

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves these questions:

P *1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?*

C **Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.**

P *2. How do you know this?*

C **From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.**

P *3. Are you sorry for your sins?*

C **Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.**

P *4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?*

C **His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Romans 6:21, 23.**

P *5. Do you hope to be saved?*

C **Yes, that is my hope.**

P *6. In whom then do you trust?*

C **In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.**

P *7. Who is Christ?*

C **The Son of God, true God and man.**

- P *8. How many Gods are there?*
 C **Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**
- P *9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?*
 C **He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.**
- P *10. Did the Father also die for you?*
 C **He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.**
- P *11. How do you know this?*
 C **From the Holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.**
- P *12. What are the Words of Institution?*
 C **Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**
- P *13. Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?*
 C **Yes, I believe it.**
- P *14. What convinces you to believe this?*
 C **The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.**
- P *15. What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?*
 C **We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**
- P *16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?*
 C **First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.**
- P *17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?*
 C **His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.**
- P *18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?*

C **That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.**

P *19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?*

C **First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.**

P *20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?*

C **To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.**

NOTE

These questions and answers are no child's play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."

DIVINE SERVICE I *LSB 151*

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

OPENING HYMN *LSB 508 "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"*

- 1 The day is surely drawing near
When Jesus, God's anointed,
In all His power shall appear
As judge whom God appointed.
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,
And flames on flames shall ravage earth
As Scripture long has warned us.
- 2 The final trumpet then shall sound
And all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground
Shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hour,
By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,
Be changed at His commanding.

3 The books are opened then to all,
A record truly telling
What each has done, both great and small,
When he on earth was dwelling,
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen,
And all be known as they have been
In thoughts and words and actions.

4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord
And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word
And loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand
And at the judge's stern command
To Satan be delivered.

5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

6 May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.
Text: Public domain

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins.
C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 74:1-3; antiphon: Psalm 69:9*

- P For zeal for your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.
C **O God, why do you cast us off forever?
Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?**
P Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!
Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.
C **Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;
the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!**
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P For zeal for your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

KYRIE *LSB 152*

- A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 26:8–15*

⁸When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die!” ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, “This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD.

¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 4; antiphon: v. 8*

P¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

C² **O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?**

How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

P³ But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;

the LORD hears when I call to him.

C⁴ **Be angry, and do not sin;**

ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.

P⁵Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

C⁶**There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!”**

P⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

C⁸**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

EPISTLE *Philippians 3:17–4:1*

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 13:31–35*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 708 “LORD, THEE I LOVE WITH ALL MY HEART”

1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercy cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share.
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.

Thou art the portion I have sought;
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify Thy lavish grace
And help and serve my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile;
Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.

3 Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

SERMON *“The Comfort of Dual Citizenship”* Philippians 3:17—4:1

Introduction:

“I’m But a Stranger Here. Heaven is My Home” is one of the most beautiful lines written and song by Christians. It is so true and so important to us today as it has been throughout our whole life.

I. On Earth

We are citizen of this world, this earth. We can't escape it. We may try. We may bury our heads in denying all that is going on. We may be tempted to think it is not our problem. Let others resolve it. Yet, we are affected by the events and actions of others in this world as they are affected by our thought, words and deeds. We are a part of this world. And under the command of God, we are to take care of His creation.

So we do concern ourselves about the war in Ukraine and other parts of the world. We do concern ourselves about the misuse of natural resources and over consumption. We do concern ourselves about the living conditions of all nations, not only in shelter but also the conditions of living under oppression of any type. We do concern ourselves about things that are beyond our control. In doing so, we do not want to become enemies of Christ.

Paul writes to the Christians in Philippi about the false teachers and prophets who claim to speak for God. They come with teachings and philosophies that tickle the ears of the hearers. They proclaim earthly blessings and prosperity if one just does follows their teachings. They teach and preach in order to fill their bellies' and enjoy the riches of the earth.

These are the most obvious enemies of Christ. Their teachings undermine and destroy the faith, the trust people have in Christ. And we examine ourselves to see where we have thought, acted or spoken as enemies of Christ.

Yes, our sinful nature continues to rebel against Christ. We are concerned about the troubles of this world, but we want Christ to fix them so that we can have a peaceful and better life here on earth. We are concern about our own wealth rather than the souls of others. This sinful flesh seeks its own good and clings to this world as if it is our forever home.

We are tempted to reject sound and good doctrine that benefits us and keeps us in the one true faith for glory and honor on earth. We seek glory and honor for our children while settling for false doctrines and practices that harm our children's faith. We want what is good for our families and ourselves here on earth rather than the good and salvation Christ has prepared and given to us.

II. In Heaven

We confess our sins for swallow thankfulness, for seeking the good for others only to make our earthly life better. We forget that we are but strangers here and heaven is our home.

We do not use our faith and belief in Christ to bury our heads and hide from all the troubles of this world. We do not isolate ourselves from others. We seek to help others, ease their suffering and encourage them to stay true to Christ. For the troubles of this world are temporary. This life on earth is temporary. This world will come to an end.

Our forever home is in heaven. It is a placed already prepared for us. It is secured and paid in full by Christ's death and resurrection. There will be no wars there. There will be no

destruction of property or misuse of natural resources. There will be no more tears, sorrows, sickness and death. Sin will not be a part of our lives in heaven.

We hold fast to this hope not as to blind us to the difficulties of this life. Rather, as a foundation in dealing and living in this world.

My father told me this about summer jobs. "You can work any job as long as you know you are going back to school in the fall." We face any troubles, sorrows and difficulties on earth knowing that we will be heaven someday.

Conclusion:

So, we go forth and actively serve God and our neighbor. We fight for justice. We seek to relief hunger, thirst and homelessness. We seek to train our children up in the right understanding of the teachings of Christ. We call on Christ to help us in temporal affairs. But above all we can call on Him to keep us in the one true faith till life everlasting.

T AMEN T

PRAYER

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

APOSTLES' CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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 T everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Bidden by Your mercy, O Lord, we come in prayer to petition Your aid for the Church, the nation, the sick, and all people who have requested our prayers.

O Lord, as once You warned Your people to mend their ways and their deeds and heed the voice of Your Word, so grant us grace that we mend our sinful ways, repent of all the things we have done wrong, and heed the voice of Your Word. Bring us to the obedience of faith that we may enjoy Your mercy and tender compassion. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant grace to Your Church and those who preach and teach Your Word, that they be faithful to Your Word and truth and that Your Church may prosper and many be brought to faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Guide and prosper our nation in paths of goodness and virtue. Bless our president, governor, and all elected and appointed government officials, that we may be free to worship You in spirit and truth and live as godly citizens while on earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Deliver us from stubbornness of heart and willful desire that we may learn in all humility and patience and share with others the Gospel of the cross. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Show Your compassion to all who cry to You for mercy and who bear any afflictions of body and soul, [*especially . . .*]. Grant them healing in accordance with Your will and patience until Your deliverance comes. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give us generous hearts, that what we have received we share with those in need and that we support the work of Your kingdom with all our abilities and with the tithes and offerings we bring. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Humble our hearts that we may approach Your altar in good conscience, forgiven of our sins and trusting in Jesus' Word. Grant that we come united in doctrine, receive here His body and blood with thanksgiving, and depart His Table to serve our neighbor in love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions may be inserted here.

P Hear Your people, O Lord, who come to You at Your own invitation, with the concerns of our hearts and praise of our lips, trusting that You will grant us all things needful and protect us from all things harmful to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING HYMN LSB 788 “*FORGIVE US, LORD, FOR SHALLOW THANKFULNESS*” sts. 1, 5–6

1 Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware:

5 Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,
For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,
For walls and wars that hide Your mercies vast
And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:

6 Open our eyes to see Your love’s intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;
May thankfulness be days in service spent,
Reflection of Christ’s life and love and light.

Text: William Watkins Reid, Sr., 1890–1983, alt.

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OFFERTORY *LSB 159*

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

LORD’S PRAYER

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN LSB 748 “I’M BUT A STRANGER HERE”

- 1 I’m but a stranger here,
Heav’n is my home;
Earth is a desert drear,
Heav’n is my home.
Danger and sorrow stand
Round me on ev’ry hand;
Heav’n is my fatherland,
Heav’n is my home.
- 2 What though the tempest rage,
Heav’n is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage,
Heav’n is my home;
And time’s wild wintry blast
Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last,
Heav’n is my home.
- 3 Therefore I murmur not,
Heav’n is my home;
Whate’er my earthly lot,
Heav’n is my home;
And I shall surely stand
There at my Lord’s right hand;
Heav’n is my fatherland,
Heav’n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–35

Text: Public domain

HYMN LSB 730 “WHAT IS THE WORLD TO ME”

- 1 What is the world to me
With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone,
Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord,
My soul’s delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest.
What is the world to me!
- 2 The world seeks to be praised
And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects
That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize
Above all things is He,

My Jesus, He alone.
What is the world to me!

3 The world seeks after wealth
And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content
Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good,
Content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my wealth.
What is the world to me!

4 What is the world to me!
My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth,
My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all,
My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

HYMN LSB 673 “JERUSALEM, MY HAPPY HOME”

1 Jerusalem, my happy home,
When shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end?
Thy joys when shall I see?

2 O happy harbor of the saints,
O sweet and pleasant soil!
In thee no sorrow may be found,
No grief, no care, no toil.

3 Thy gardens and thy gallant walks
Continually are green;
There grow such sweet and pleasant flow'rs
As nowhere else are seen.

4 There trees forevermore bear fruit
And evermore do spring;
There evermore the angels dwell
And evermore do sing.

5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there
Around my Savior stand;

And soon my friends in Christ below
Will join the glorious band.

- 6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare
For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore
With all Thy saints above.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt.
Text: Public domain

NUNC DIMITTIS *LSB 165*

- C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry
people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION *LSB 166*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
C Amen.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE LSB 725 "*CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER*"

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
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PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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