

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The Father Still Waits

March 26 & 27, 2022

### AS WE GATHER

No parable more fully describes the profound character of God's mercy than the prodigal son and the waiting father. We are the rebels who begin to think we deserve our heavenly Father's kindness and who demand from Him what is not our right to claim. But instead of disowning us, He meets us with joy, welcomes us with His forgiveness, restores our tattered righteousness with the robe of Christ's holiness, and sets His Table before us. This is what happens every Sunday as the Lord reclaims us from our sins, restores joy to our heavy hearts, reminds us of His baptismal promise, and feeds our body and soul with the body and blood of His Son. This is the source of our holy joy and this is the peace that passes all understanding.



### PRAYER

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake.

### + CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

### OPENING HYMN LSB 686 "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter

Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,  
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;  
Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry  
Me to realms of endless day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt.  
Text: Public domain

P Let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P Jesus Christ forgives you all your sins.

C **Amen.**

+ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** +

**INTROIT** *Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1*

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

P For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**

P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

C **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

**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 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we  
deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of  
body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give  
thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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** *Isaiah 12:1-6*

<sup>1</sup>You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned away,  
that you might comfort me.

<sup>2</sup>“Behold, God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid;  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.”

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,  
call upon his name,

make known his deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that his name is exalted.  
<sup>5</sup>“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.  
<sup>6</sup>Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

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

**PSALM** *Psalm 32; antiphon: v. 11*

C **Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

A Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.  
Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.  
For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.  
Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.  
You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;  
You surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.  
Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.  
Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.  
Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

C **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.**  
**Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

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**EPISTLE** *2 Corinthians 5:16–21*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are

ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE (LENT)** *LSB 157*

C **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 609** *“JESUS SINNERS DOTH RECEIVE”*

- 1 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
    Oh, may all this saying ponder  
    Who in sin’s delusions live  
    And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
  
- 2 We deserve but grief and shame,  
    Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
    Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
    Here our ills have perfect healing.  
Firmly in these words believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
  
- 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray  
    No true shepherd e’er forsaketh;  
Weary souls that lost their way  
    Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh  
In His arms that they may live:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
  
- 4 I, a sinner, come to Thee  
    With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me;  
    Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
  
- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
    Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
    By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
For these words I now believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
  
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
    From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release  
    And my ev’ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
  
- 7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
    Also I have been forgiven;

And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756  
Text: Public domain

## **PRAYER**

O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **SERMON “A Change in Our Perspective” *2 Corinthians 5:16–21***

### Introduction:

Jesus changes the way we think.

### I. The way we look at others

Take for instance the way we think about others. Our opinions about others are basically formed on the way the other person thinks, speaks, believes and even what they look like. First impressions are based on what we see and hear. Some people put too much stock in first impressions. They make their decision about the other person and then begin to justify the way they think, speak and treat the other person.

Others are more willing to change their opinions as they get to know the other person. This can lead to a greater respect and even starting a friendship with them. It can work the other way. As they get to know the person better the less likely they are to continue to develop any deeper relationship with that person.

All this is based on the flesh of the person. I am not just talking about outward appearance. I am including what we call, “What’s inside the person that counts.” This is all a part of the flesh. People can be kind and generous. Or they can be cruel and selfish. In most cases, it depends on the day. If we caught them on a good day or a bad day, we judge them according to our flesh.

Now, Christ changes our way of thinking. While we identify sin in ourselves and in others, Christ leads us to think about the relationship we have and others have with the Father in heaven. While we and others at times can be real jerks to others, we stand forgiven in Christ. We begin to think of them not as a good Christian, but one who has been reconciled to Christ as we have been. Christ leads us to think of our self as not better than others but as one whom by His grace have been saved from the coming wrath of God. He leads us to see that our sin and their sin can only be removed by Christ. We both have been made children of God by Christ.

## II. The way we look at the work of Christ

Therefore we begin to look at the work of Christ differently than the world. He is not a keeper of our wrongs. He is not merely an observer of human kind. He is not just a sideline coach encouraging us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

He is a reconciler. He brings two parties that were separated and brings them together. He makes it possible for the Father in heaven to accept the sinner. He does it by offering His life in the sinner's place.

Christ came in the flesh. He came to bear our sin. He became sin for us who knew no sin. He became guilty of sin though He was innocent of sin. He willingly bore the punishment of our sin and suffered death as to reconcile us to the Father. Because of Christ, the Father could welcome us into His arms as His dear children. And we can approach God as our dear Father.

Christ took on flesh and blood. But we no longer think of Him as a man, a good man who lived on earth. We think of Him as our Savior, our Lord, the Son of God, eternal, almighty, all-knowing, everywhere present with us throughout all our days.

This does not surprise us. Many of us from our childhood have always known and believed this. We know nothing different. Yet, it was Christ who changed our thinking to think thus of Him.

### Conclusion:

Yet, when it comes to our fellow human beings, the Holy Spirit often times has to bring to our remembrance that this fellow Christian that we are dealing with is a redeemed Child of God. Christ has put as much work into them as He has into us. And through the eyes of Christ we are to think of them as Christ thinks of us.

In this way, we remember to confess our sins, to God seeking always to be reconciled to our Father in heaven. We have no desire to be alienated from Him. We want no thought, word or deed on our part to break the relationship we have with our Father through Christ Jesus. So, we ask Christ and thank Christ for being our reconciler with the Father.

## T A M E N T 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.

## **NICENE CREED**

**C I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P As prodigals, we come into the arms of our heavenly Father, waiting even more for us to  
pray than we are to petition His mercy.**

Heavenly Father, we have all been one with Adam in the rebellion of our stubborn wills and  
in suffering the consequences of sin with its death. Grant us grace that we may return to  
You with humble hearts and rejoice in Your forgiveness so that our hearts may be at peace  
and we may be rescued from our guilt, shame, and despair. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Blessed Lord, in Baptism You made us anew, raising up from the water a new person, created in Christ Jesus for good works. Give us the will and desire to do what is good, right, and pleasing in Your sight. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Mighty God, deliver the nations from violence and war, and teach us generosity, compassion, and the path of peace. Bless our president, Congress, governor, legislature, and all who make, administer, and judge Your laws. Bless also those who labor for peace and justice even at the peril of their own lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, deliver us from rebellion and bitterness that we not only find a home in Your mercy but show forth Your grace, forgiveness, and joy to all those around us. Bless the missionary and church planter as they bring Your saving Word to those who have not heard it and plant congregations for Your people to gather around Your Word and Table. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Compassionate Father, You know our needs even before we ask but still we cry to You on behalf of all the sick and those who suffer, [*especially . . .*]. Give them healing in accordance with Your will, grace to endure their affliction, and peace in the hour of death. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Blessed Lord, Your mercies are daily new and with fresh goodness You replenish the earth. Give us wisdom to use well all Your resources, and grant us giving hearts that we share with those in need all that You have given in abundance. Receive also these tithes and offerings, signs of our faith and symbols of our thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

*Additional petitions may be inserted here.*

P O Lord, remembering the faithful who have gone before us, we ask You to keep us by Your grace through the days to come, that we not be lost to You again but kept in faith now until the day of the resurrection of the dead, when we shall join the saints in glory in Your presence forevermore; 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 571** *"GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE"*

1 God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

- 3 God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.
- D 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Text: Public domain

**HYMN LSB 569 “IN ADAM WE HAVE ALL BEEN ONE”**

- 1 In Adam we have all been one,  
One huge rebellious man;  
We all have fled that evening voice  
That sought us as we ran.
- 2 We fled Thee, and in losing Thee  
We lost our brother too;  
Each singly sought and claimed his own;  
Each man his brother slew.
- 3 But Thy strong love, it sought us still  
And sent Thine only Son  
That we might hear His Shepherd's voice  
And, hearing Him, be one.
- 4 O Thou who, when we loved Thee not,  
Didst love and save us all,  
Thou great Good Shepherd of mankind,  
O hear us when we call.
- 5 Send us Thy Spirit, teach us truth;  
Thou Son, O set us free  
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways,  
To make us one in Thee.

D 6 Then shall our song united rise  
To Thine eternal throne,  
Where with the Father evermore  
And Spirit Thou art one.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76 Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001507

**HYMN LSB 562 “ALL MANKIND FELL IN ADAM’S FALL”**

- 1 All mankind fell in Adam’s fall;  
One common sin infects us all.  
From one to all the curse descends,  
And over all God’s wrath impends.
- 2 Through all our pow’rs corruption creeps  
And us in dreadful bondage keeps;  
In guilt we draw our infant breath  
And reap its fruits of woe and death.
- 3 From hearts depraved, to evil prone,  
Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;  
God’s image lost, the darkened soul  
Seeks not nor finds its heav’nly goal.
- 4 But Christ, the second Adam, came  
To bear our sin and woe and shame,  
To be our life, our light, our way,  
Our only hope, our only stay.
- 5 As by one man all mankind fell  
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,  
So by one Man, who took our place,  
We all were justified by grace.
- 6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,  
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow’rs.  
This grace our ev’ry way attend  
Until we reach our journey’s end.

Text: Lazarus Spengler, 1479–1534; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, 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 568** *“IF YOUR BELOVED SON, O GOD”*

- 1 If Your beloved Son, O God,  
Had not to earth descended  
And in our mortal flesh and blood  
Had not sin’s power ended,  
Then this poor, wretched soul of mine  
In hell eternally would pine  
Because of my transgression.
- 2 But now I find sweet peace and rest;  
Despair no more reigns o’er me.  
No more am I by sin oppressed,  
For Christ has borne sin for me.  
Upon the cross for me He died  
That, reconciled, I might abide  
With You, my God, forever.
- 3 I trust in Him with all my heart;  
Now all my sorrow ceases.  
His words abiding peace impart;  
His blood from guilt releases.  
Free grace through Him I now obtain;  
He washes me from ev’ry stain,  
And pure I stand before Him.
- 4 All righteousness by works is vain;  
The Law brings condemnation.  
True righteousness by faith I gain;  
Christ’s work is my salvation.  
His death, that perfect sacrifice,  
Has paid the all-sufficient price;  
In Him my hope is anchored.
- D 5 My guilt, O Father, You have laid  
On Christ, Your Son, my Savior.  
Lord Jesus, You my debt have paid  
And gained for me God’s favor.  
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace,

The good in me to You I trace;  
In faith and hope preserve me.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 1–4): Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; (st. 5): Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1661, Braunschweig  
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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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