

GOOD FRIDAY
The Wonderful Cross
April 10, 2020

As We Gather

It seems strange to call this day “good.” After all, on this day, Jesus, our Savior and Lord, was tortured, beaten, spit upon, and brutally crucified on a cross. What is good about that? Actually, the goodness of this day is extensive and amazing. At the cross, God’s plan to redeem the world came to full fruition. Rather than ignore our sin, pretend it away, or eternally turn away from us, God became one of us, and in an act of pure self-sacrifice and love, Jesus willingly suffered the worst. For you. For me. For the world. Ours is not a God who says to us, “If you obey Me well enough, then I might love you.” Our God says to us at the outset, “I love you. I willingly gave My life for yours. If you want to see the extent of My love, look to the cross. Let My love draw you to hear and obey Me.” So today’s service is not a funeral for Jesus. It is a way to remember the events of Jesus’ death—including the allusions to it already in the Old Testament. It is an occasion for us to be drawn closer in love to the God who loves us unconditionally. It is an occasion to weep over our sin that made the crucifixion of Jesus necessary. It is an occasion to rejoice in the forgiveness and peace that comes from putting our faith in our crucified Lord. It is an occasion to marvel at the breadth, height, and depth of God’s love for us. Yes, it is Good Friday.

+ WORD +

Introit

Psalm 38:1–4, 18, 22; antiphon: Isaiah 53:5

- P He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;
C **upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.**
- P O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger,
C **nor discipline me in Your wrath!**
- P For Your arrows have sunk into me,
C **and Your hand has come down on me.**
- P There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation;
C **there is no health in my bones because of my sin.**
- P For my iniquities have gone over my head;
C **like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.**
- P I confess my iniquity;
C **I am sorry for my sin.**
- P Make haste to help me,

C O Lord, my salvation!

P He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;

C upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same 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 52:13—53:12

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

and with his stripes we are healed.
⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
 we have turned every one to his own way;
 and the LORD has laid on him
 the iniquity of us all.
⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
 yet he opened not his mouth;
 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
 and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
 so he opened not his mouth.
⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
 and as for his generation, who considered
 that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
 stricken for the transgression of my people?
⁹And they made his grave with the wicked
 and with a rich man in his death,
 although he had done no violence,
 and there was no deceit in his mouth.
¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
 he has put him to grief;
 when his soul makes an offering for sin,
 he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
 the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
 by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
 make many to be accounted righteous,
 and he shall bear their iniquities.
¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
 because he poured out his soul to death
 and was numbered with the transgressors;
 yet he bore the sin of many,
 and makes intercession for the transgressors.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 31:1–24

¹In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;
 let me never be put to shame;
 in your righteousness deliver me!

²Incline your ear to me;

rescue me speedily!
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!

³For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

⁴you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

⁶I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,
but I trust in the LORD.

⁷I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction;
you have known the distress of my soul,

⁸and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;
you have set my feet in a broad place.

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief;
my soul and my body also.

¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my iniquity,
and my bones waste away.

¹¹Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,
especially to my neighbors,
and an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹²I have been forgotten like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many—
terror on every side!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God."

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

¹⁶Make your face shine on your servant;
save me in your steadfast love!

¹⁷O LORD, let me not be put to shame,
for I call upon you;
let the wicked be put to shame;
let them go silently to Sheol.

¹⁸Let the lying lips be mute,
which speak insolently against the righteous
in pride and contempt.

¹⁹Oh, how abundant is your goodness,
which you have stored up for those who fear you
and worked for those who take refuge in you,
in the sight of the children of mankind!

²⁰In the cover of your presence you hide them
from the plots of men;
you store them in your shelter
from the strife of tongues.

²¹Blesséd be the LORD,
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
when I was in a besieged city.

²²I had said in my alarm,
“I am cut off from your sight.”
But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy
when I cried to you for help.

²³Love the LORD, all you his saints!
The LORD preserves the faithful
but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

²⁴Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD!

Gradual

Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

P Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,

C **thus securing an eternal redemption.**

P Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,

C so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

P He sent redemption to His people;

C He has commanded His covenant forever.

Epistle

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn “*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*”

LSB 440 st. 1

1 Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suffering, pain, and death
That I may not perish.

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The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

John 18:1–19:42

P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men

go.”⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.”¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

Hymn “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*”

LSB 450 st. 1

1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

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¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.”

²²When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?” ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Hymn “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*”

LSB 450 st. 2

2 How pale Thou art with anguish,

With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish
That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor,
Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
Thy strength, in this sad strife.

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²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

³⁸Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

LSB 450 st. 3

3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
 Was all for sinners' gain;
 Mine, mine was the transgression,
 But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
 And grant to me Thy grace.

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¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him,

saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus,

Hymn *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

LSB 450 st. 4

4 My Shepherd, now receive me;
 My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me,
 O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me
 With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me
 To heav'nly joys above.

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¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in

one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things,

Hymn “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*”

LSB 450 st. 5

5 What language shall I borrow
 To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
 Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever!
 And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
 Outlive my love for Thee.

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²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hymn “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*”

LSB 450 st. 6

6 My Savior, be Thou near me
 When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me,
 Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
 O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish
 By virtue of Thine own!

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³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and

water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Hymn “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

LSB 450 st. 7

7 Be Thou my consolation,
My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee.
Who dieth thus dies well.

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Silence

Hymn

Behold the Savior of Mankind

Behold the Savior of mankind
Nailed to the shameful tree!
How vast the love that Him inclined
To bleed and die for thee!

’Tis done; the precious ransom’s paid;
“Receive My soul!” He cries.
See where He bows His sacred head;
He bows His head and dies.

But soon He’ll break death’s envious chain
And in full glory shine.
O Lamb of God, was ever pain,
Was ever love, like Thine?

Text: Samuel Wesley, Sr., 1662–1735. Public domain.

Hymn “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”

LSB 438

- 1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
 The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
 None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
 That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
 “All this I gladly suffer.”
- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend,
 The Lamb of God, our Savior,
Whom God the Father chose to send
 To gain for us His favor.
“Go forth, My Son,” the Father said,
“And free My children from their dread
 Of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by Your passion they will share
 The fruit of Your salvation.”
- 3 “Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
 I’ll bear what You command Me.
My will conforms to Your decree,
 I’ll do what You have asked Me.”
O wondrous Love, what have You done!
The Father offers up His Son,
 Desiring our salvation.
O Love, how strong You are to save!
You lay the One into the grave
 Who built the earth’s foundation.
- 4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see
 And taste Your kingdom’s pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be,
 My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before Your throne,
Your righteousness shall be my crown;
 With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
As Your own bride shall we be brought
 To stand in joy beside You.

Sermon *Based on Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9*

“The Source of Salvation”

There is a need at times to find the source, for example, COVID-19. Finding where the source of this disease began, helps in finding the cure. Knowing how it began, helps in understanding the disease and how it is spread. It gives the medical field an insight in how to treat the person who has coronavirus. It can lead to saving lives.

Knowing the source of our salvation is even more important than combatting any disease. For, if one does not know the source of their salvation, they are lost and still dead in their sins. They are left to their own conclusion as to the source of sin and salvation.

If one were to declare the source of salvation begins within us, we will miss the cure. It is a logical conclusion. If the disease, sin, dwells within us then the cure must start with us. If sin is disobedience to God than obedience to God is the cure. We surely can teach ourselves to be obedient.

We miss diagnose sin. We miss the source of sin. Sin is more than a thought, or word, or deed. Sin is a rebellious nature that puts us under the wrath of God. The condemnation of our sin begins with God’s just and holy wrath. The punishment of our sins comes from God the Father. It is the heart of God that needs to change. He is the One who needs satisfaction. And we cannot satisfy the wrath of God. The sin is too great and the source of sin continues within our being.

So, we are to look outside ourselves for the source of our salvation. This is why man will make up gods and false religions. We know that we can’t save ourselves. So, we go down different avenues and paths seeking salvation. All these other paths lead us to look to ourselves and there is no hope for salvation there.

But out of great love for us, God our heavenly Father has shown and revealed the source of our salvation. It is Jesus the Christ. He alone is the source. There is no other name that can bring us salvation.

God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. Christ is the one who made the ultimate and complete sacrifice for sin. He is the one who fulfilled the law for us. He is the one who suffered the full wrath of God for us. He is the one who laid down His head and died as payment for our sins. He was the perfect Lamb of God and High Priest who takes away the sin of the world.

This is the source of our eternal salvation. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we go to Christ and, in faith, cling to Him knowing that He is the source of our salvation.

It is here at the source of our salvation that we find the cure. It is here that we find peace and comfort. It is here that the forgiveness of sins is administered to us so that we may live now and

forever.

You know the source of your salvation. Don't wander off on any other path. Draw near to the throne of grace and continue to receive God's mercy and grace.

+ AMEN +

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 of the world to come. Amen.**

Bidding Prayer

P Let us pray for the Church throughout the world, that churches flourish in their working of connecting people with the love of Jesus.

Father God, by Your Holy Spirit, guide our church to present a clear witness to the love of Jesus. Let unity overcome division, truth overcome error, and love overcome strife; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for the Synod President, [name]; District President, [name]; for our pastors and teachers; for all servants of the Church; and for all the people of God.

Lord of the Church, You bless our church with pastors and teachers, musicians and custodians, deaconesses and Sunday School teachers, missionaries and theologians, and a wide variety of ministries to extend Your love to communities everywhere. Uphold and guide all whom You call to various ministries, that their work give glory to You and extend Your reign in all communities; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for those who are new to the Christian faith and are preparing for Baptism or confirmation.

Lord God, You bless our church with new people. Guide them as they learn and grow to love You. Protect them from distractions. Help them to find ways to live out their newly experienced faith in acts of service. Help our church to welcome new people with open arms; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for those who do not believe in Jesus Christ, that the Holy Spirit would gently guide hearts to the love of God for us in Jesus.

Merciful God, You often work in wonderfully mysterious ways. We ask that Your Spirit move powerfully in the lives of those who do not believe to draw them toward Your love in Christ Jesus. Enable those of us who believe to be good and faithful witnesses to the love of Christ. Keep us from placing unnecessary barriers in the way of the those who struggle to believe. Help us to be ready to rejoice when a lost sheep is found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God guide them to lead with wisdom, compassion, and concern for those most vulnerable in our society.

God of power and might, bless the leaders of our nation, state, and local communities. Create in them the humility to lead as those who serve. Protect us from corrupt and unjust leaders. Guide all who serve in public office to seek the peace, well-being, freedom, and joy of the people they serve; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for those in need: the sick, the dying, the oppressed, and the vulnerable.

Compassionate God, Your special care of those in difficult circumstances is evident in the mercy Jesus showed to those who were poor, blind, lame, or rejected by the world. Bless those in trouble with healing, peace, and the love of those they need to help them through each day. Help us to notice people's need and to respond with providing for both their physical and spiritual needs; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Finally, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

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.**

Reproach

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death.

C **O Lord, have mercy.**

Hymn *"Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved"*

LSB 945 st. 1

1 Cantor:
O God, Father in heaven,
have mercy upon us.

Congregation:

Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know,
By ev'ry evil, ev'ry woe;
Upon Your cross-forsaken Son
Our death is laid, and peace is won.

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Reproach

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell.

C **O Lord, have mercy.**

Hymn “*Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved*”

LSB 945 st. 2

2 Cantor:

O Son of God, Redeemer of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Congregation:

Your arms extend, O Christ, to save
From sting of death and grasp of grave;
Your scars before the Father move
His heart to mercy at such love.

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Reproach

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith.

C **O Lord, have mercy.**

Hymn “*Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved*”

LSB 945 st. 3

3 Cantor:

O God, Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

Congregation:

O lavish Giver, come to aid
The feeble child Your grace has made.
Now make us grow and help us pray;
Bring joy and comfort; come to stay.

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Concluding Collect

P Let us pray.

We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Hymn “*Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle*”

LSB 454

- 1 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;
Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy,
Sound the loud triumphant lay;
Tell how Christ, the world’s redeemer,
As a victim won the day.
- 2 Tell how, when at length the fullness
Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman,
Left for us His Father’s home,
Blazed the path of true obedience,
Shone as light amidst the gloom.
- 3 Thus, with thirty years accomplished,
He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing,
Did His work, and met His death;
Like a lamb He humbly yielded
On the cross His dying breath.
- 4 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom,
None in fruit thine equal be;
Symbol of the world’s redemption,

For the weight that hung on thee!

5 Unto God be praise and glory;
 To the Father and the Son,
 To the eternal Spirit honor
 Now and evermore be done;
 Praise and glory in the highest
 While the timeless ages run.

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All leave in silence.

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