

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

If It Should Bear Fruit

March 19 & 20, 2022

### AS WE GATHER

How then shall we live? What a profound question for Christians to consider midway through Lent! The Lord has shown His mercy to us, forgiven our sins, and delivered us from death. Then what? What is the focus of our lives? The call of the Readings for this Sunday points us to the repentance that bears the good fruit of God's kingdom. Like trees that have failed to produce good fruit, the Lord has tended us with His Word, with the warning of the Law and the promise of the Gospel. But if the tree remains unfruitful, the tree will have to be cut down. It is a hard word to hear, but God remains merciful, and most of all, He seeks that we bear the good fruits of faith and repentance in our daily lives.



### 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.

### ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE I *LSB 151*

+ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** +

### OPENING HYMN **LSB 809** "GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain
  
- ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
  
- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain
  
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Text: Public domain

+ **CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** +

*(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 I will go to the altar of God,

C **to God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God’s wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you.” It is as if He said, “I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat.”

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and 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.” Again, it is as if He said, “I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink.”

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C **Amen.**

P Having heard the Word of God, 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 Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

P Jesus Christ forgives you all your sins.

C **Amen.**

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in T peace.

C **Amen.**

### + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

**INTROIT** *Psalm 5:4–8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6*

P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

C **For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;  
evil may not dwell with you.**

P The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;  
you hate all evildoers.

C **You destroy those who speak lies;  
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**

P But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.  
I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

C **Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies;  
make your way straight before me.**

**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 the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**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, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray  
from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace  
and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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** *Ezekiel 33:7–20*

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a  
word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked  
one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that  
wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn  
the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his  
iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our  
transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we  
live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the  
wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways,  
for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not  
deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it  
when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his  
righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he  
trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered,

but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup>“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it.

<sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

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

**PSALM** *Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 8*

P <sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

C <sup>2</sup>**You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.**

P <sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

C <sup>4</sup>**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!**

P <sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

C <sup>6</sup>**Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**

P <sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.

C <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.**

P <sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

C <sup>10</sup>**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

P <sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

C <sup>12</sup>**Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

P <sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

**EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that

followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1–9***

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

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

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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**

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**SERMON** *“When Christ Deals with Our Temptations”* 1 Corinthians 10:1–13

Introduction:

Have you ever been so accustomed to your surrounds that you forget the danger nearby? For instance, working around machinery, how many accidents happen because one forgets the danger? At my previous congregation, one of the farmers who knew better, in order to save time stepped over the power take off and his overhauls got caught. Just that quick he grabbed the tractor and stood firm as his overhauls were ripped off. He came away only with bruises. A farmer in the neighbor town was not so fortunate. He got caught up in the running augers when he was cleaning the combine. In a moment his life was gone.

There are so many situations in our lives when we become so accustomed to our surrounds we can forget the danger that surrounds us. And this is true of our lives as Christians here on earth. Because we live in the grace and under the protection of Christ we may be tempted to forget the danger of temptation.

I. When fall into it we displease Him

It is important that as we discuss temptation, we know that we are saved from the curse of sin. This is vitally important because to forget God’s grace through Jesus Christ talking about temptation would be frightening. It could lead us to despair. And this is exactly what Satan wants to accomplish. He wants us to despair of God’s grace and mercy and believe that we have sinned so grievously that God will not forgive us.

With this securely in our heart, we can talk about temptation, or more accurately when we fall into temptation.

We must remember that our sins are displeasing to God. It is not a matter of disappointment in His people and the disappointment that they should have done better. It is a matter of displeasing Him so that His wrath would come into play.

The children of Israel displeased God time and time again. He had delivered them out of the bondage of slavery. He miraculously saved them by walking them through the Red Sea on dry ground. He provided bread and water and meat. He saved them time and time again.

Yet, they would turn away from Him. They would follow other gods, the golden calf being one instance. They would grumble against His goodness and generosity. These were down right slaps in the face of God. Their thoughts, words and deeds were deemed punishable by the wrath of God.

These accounts are not to frighten us into obeying our God. They are instruction on how our sin affects and treat our beloved Father and our dear Savior. Our sins are not mere accidents or slip ups. They are thoughts, words and deeds punishable by death. This is the danger of our sins. And this is why we hear His Law so that we do not complacent toward sin and fall to our deaths.



## II. He provides an escape

How cling to the grace of God as you and I ponder our sins. We would have died if it wasn't for the grace of God through Jesus Christ. He took the wrath of God upon Himself for all of our sins. This just anger of God for our sins was poured down on Christ when He was on the cross. The Father sent His Son to the cross so that He could do this to His own Son. It sounds cruel. It sounds unjust. It is unfair. Yet, it was His Son He chose to suffer His wrath.

He chose Him because His Son could endure the full wrath of God for all the sin of the world, die as payment for those sins and then rise again to live and reign at His right hand for all eternity.

God has provided an escape for us when temptation comes. First in the light of His forgiveness, we cannot help but sin when temptation comes. Second, He strengthens our faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, to flee temptation and to turn to Christ unceasingly for the forgiveness of sin which helps us to flee temptation. And third, He guides and empowers us by His Holy Spirit to seek to fill our lives with service to Him and to others.

Christ provides an escape from temptation. He has given us His Word. He has given us our Baptism, He has given us His body and blood, He has given us faith to trust and call upon Him in the day of temptation to preserve us in the one true faith till life everlasting.

### Conclusion:

One of the joys we have is that we live under the grace and protection of our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. We can spend our days in thanksgiving and seeing the blessings He has given us. We do not have to be afraid of Satan or his evil and deadly lies. We pray that we just don't forget how Christ protects and delivers us from these surrounding dangers.

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** Restore us, O Lord, according to Your promise, and hear the prayers of Your people who cry to You in need.

Blessed Lord, it is Your good and gracious will not to condemn but to save the sinner through the merits of Christ alone. Open our hearts to the voice of Your call, lead us to repentance, and grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may show forth the good fruits of that repentance in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty God, we live in a world filled with temptation, fear, and threat. Grant us a refuge in Your Word that our hearts may not despair. Deliver us from all our enemies and bring us to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Merciful Lord, the tragedies and disasters of this life unsettle our hearts and feed our anxieties. Remind us of Your great compassion and faithfulness, and support the victims of such events as well as the emergency personnel who imperil themselves on our behalf. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Gracious God, our world cries out in search of hope; grant to those who preach Your Word the grace to proclaim it faithfully, and bless the missionaries far and near who bring Your Gospel to those who sit in the darkness of sin and death. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, bless us with good and faithful leaders who will hear and heed Your Word. Move us to have compassion on the oppressed, to seek justice for those who suffer wrongly, and to sustain goodness in our life and conduct. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Deliver, O Lord, the sick from their afflictions, the sorrowing from their grief, the troubled in mind from depression, and the dying from fear. Hear us [*especially for . . . and*] for all who cry to You in need. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*Additional petitions may be inserted here.*

**P** Holy Lord, all things are Yours and yet You show Your great mercy in giving us all we need for this life and for eternal life. Give us also a grateful heart, so that we may respond with gratitude and return to You the tithes and offerings You are due for all Your kindness; 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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## **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 761 “ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME”**

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure:  
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.
  
- 2 Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy Law’s demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
  
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;  
Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.
  
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78  
Text: Public domain

**HYMN LSB 765 “GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY”**

- 1 God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.
  
- 2 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
Faith sees a smiling face.

- 3 His purposes will ripen fast,  
 Unfolding ev'ry hour;  
 The bud may have a bitter taste,  
 But sweet will be the flow'r.
- 4 Blind unbelief is sure to err  
 And scan His work in vain;  
 God is His own interpreter,  
 And He will make it plain.
- 5 You fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
 The clouds you so much dread  
 Are big with mercy and will break  
 In blessings on your head.

Text: William Cowper, 1731–1800, 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 917** *“SAVIOR, AGAIN TO THY DEAR NAME WE RAISE”*

- 1 Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
 With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
 Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,  
 Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.
- 2 Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;  
 With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.  
 Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
 That in this house have called upon Thy name.
- 3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
 Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.  
 From harm and danger keep Thy children free;  
 For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

4 Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–93  
Text: Public domain

## **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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