

Vespers Fourth Midweek in Lent

March 23rd, Anno Domini 2022

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

Stand

Common Versicles

LSB 229

- L O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- 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.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 6

- ¹O LORD, rebuke me not in your | anger,*
nor discipline me | in your wrath.
- ²Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | languishing;*
heal me, O LORD, for my bones are | troubled.
- ³My soul also is greatly | troubled.*
But you, O LORD— | how long?
- ⁴Turn, O LORD, deliv- | er my life;*
save me for the sake of your | steadfast love.
- ⁵For in death there is no remem- | brance of you,*
in Sheol who will | give you praise?
- ⁶I am weary with my moaning;
every night I flood my | bed with tears,*
I drench my couch with my | weeping.
- ⁷My eye wastes away be- | cause of grief,*
it grows weak because of | all my foes.
- ⁸Depart from me, all you workers of | evil,*
for the LORD has heard the sound of my | weeping.
- ⁹The LORD has | heard my plea;*
the LORD ac- | cepts my prayer.
- ¹⁰All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly | troubled;*
they shall turn back and be put to shame in a | moment.

Sit

Office Hymn

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

- 1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."

- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

Readings

The First Reading

Romans 12:1–2

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Ephesians 3:14–21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

John 8:31–43

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son

remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

³⁹They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did, ⁴⁰but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹You are doing what your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” ⁴²Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

LSB 230

L Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

L Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

Sermon. Text, The Gospel Reading. Theme, Jesus' Love Forms Our Love.

Canticle

Stand

Antiphon

LSB 231

L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Magnificat

LSB 231

- C My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**
! for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
@ For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
! For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
@ and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
! He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
@ He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
! He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty
away.
@ He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He
spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
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.

Sit

Offering

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233

- C Lord, have mercy;**
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God, You order and number our days according to Your wisdom. Give us repentant hearts, lest we perish with this world of violence and suffering, that we would hold fast to Christ for life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they would turn and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death. Give all Christians strength to defend that message. Turn sinners to life by the proclamation of Christ, who delivers from all unrighteousness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, guard Your people against immorality. Grant that our homes would be havens of godly instruction and chastity, and fill marriages with fidelity and love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, You establish justice not through the desires of sinners but by Your Law, which is for all. Enlighten the authorities of this and every nation, that they might rule justly for true good. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, remember Your people who cry to You for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil. Deliver those in need of healing and comfort and strengthen them to look to You for help in their time of affliction. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of life, You have brought us into Your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for Your patience, and grant that we would show Your love and grace in all that we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You led Your people, Israel, through the sea and fed them in the wilderness until You delivered them to the Promised Land. You also have faithfully enlivened Your people with Christ by means of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Receive our thanks for Your kindness to the saints who now rest from their labors, and sustain us by Your Means of Grace until You deliver us also to heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

Collects

Introduction to Collects

LSB 233

- L O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day

- P 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.

Collect for Peace

- L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Hymn to Depart

887 Now the Light Has Gone Away

sts. 1-5

- 1 Now the light has gone away;
Father, listen while I pray,
Asking Thee to watch and keep
And to send me quiet sleep.
- 2 Jesus, Savior, wash away
All that has been wrong today;
Help me ev'ry day to be
Good and gentle, more like Thee.
- 3 Let my near and dear ones be
Always near and dear to Thee;
O bring me and all I love
To Thy happy home above.
- 4 Now my evening praise I give;
Thou didst die that I might live.
All my blessings come from Thee;
Oh, how good Thou art to me!
- 5 Thou, my best and kindest Friend,
Thou wilt love me to the end.

Let me love Thee more and more,
Always better than before.
Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, alt.
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