

Confession and Absolution

490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

- 1 Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
 Death no longer can appall me;
 Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
 From the grave will Christ recall me.
 Brighter scenes will then commence;
 This shall be my confidence.
- 2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne
 High above all things is given.
 I shall go where He is gone,
 Live and reign with Him in heaven.
 God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
 This shall be my confidence.
- 3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
 Hence will I, to Jesus living,
 Pure in heart and act abide,
 Praise to Him and glory giving.
 All I need God will dispense;
 This shall be my confidence.
- 4 Jesus lives! I know full well
 Nothing me from Him shall sever.
 Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
 Part me now from Christ forever.
 God will be my sure defense;
 This shall be my confidence.
- 5 Jesus lives! And now is death
 But the gate of life immortal;
 This shall calm my trembling breath
 When I pass its gloomy portal.
 Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
 Jesus is my confidence!

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Stand

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

Invocation

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

Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take

refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution

LSB 203

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3

P Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

C How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

P Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!

C For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

P For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

C O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

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.

P Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Kyrie

LSB 204

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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

**3 For You alone are holy;
 You only are the Lord.
 Forever and forever,
 Be worshiped and adored;
 You with the Holy Spirit
 Alone are Lord Most High,
 In God the Father's glory.
 "Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Amos 5:18–24

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
 Why would you have the day of the LORD?
 It is darkness, and not light,
¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion,
 and a bear met him,
 or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
 and a serpent bit him.
²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
 and gloom with no brightness in it?
²¹"I hate, I despise your feasts,
 and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
 I will not accept them;
 and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
 I will not look upon them.
²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
 to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
 and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to

meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia

LSB 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse

LSB 205

C These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia

LSB 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.**

Sit

516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

- 1 “Wake, awake, for night is flying,”
 The watchmen on the heights are crying;
 “Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”
 Midnight hears the welcome voices
 And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
 “Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
 The Bridegroom comes, awake!
 Your lamps with gladness take!
 Alleluia!
 With bridal care
 Yourselves prepare
 To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”
- 2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
 And all her heart with joy is springing;
 She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
 For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
 The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
 Her star is ris’n, her light is come.
 Now come, Thou Blessèd One,
 Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,
 Hail! Hosanna!
 We enter all
 The wedding hall
 To eat the Supper at Thy call.
- 3 Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee,
 Let saints and angels sing before Thee
 With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone.
 Of one pearl each shining portal,
 Where, joining with the choir immortal,
 We gather round Thy radiant throne.
 No eye has seen the light,
 No ear has heard the might
 Of Thy glory;
 Therefore will we
 Eternally
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
 Text: Public domain

Sermon

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

I grew up with my maternal Grandmother living next door. Grandma always found a way to be encouraging. Doing your best was important. Even the time I broke the handle off the freezer door getting it off the back porch so I could replace the rotten flooring. That mistake cost Grandma about \$600, about one month's income. But she knew it was an accident and that I was doing my best. Dad, on the other hand, was demanding and expected discipline and was often discouraging. Getting a 95% wasn't good enough, the question "why not a 100%" was always asked. Dad also waited until I was 40 years old before asking me "If I would have encouraged you, would you have become an Eagle Scout, a question about 22 years too late to be helpful. Honestly, it probably would have made a difference.

After a hiatus for Reformation Sunday and All Saints Day, we return to 1 Thessalonians, this time in Chapter 4. Often, today's reading is used during a Funeral because it is encouraging and one of Paul's clearest teachings about the last day and our resurrection. The early church expected Jesus to come again within their lifetime. Matthew 16:28 provides a basis for that expectation, "28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." While there may have been other near-term fulfillments, the last day was in sight. Persecution was happening. Wars and rumors of wars. Earthquakes and famines. But Jesus was clear in today's Gospel, no one knows the hour or the day.

Over the millennia, the sense of urgency has dwindled. Most don't think about when the end will come. Many people over time have tried to predict when the end will be. Luther knew ³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, ^[b] but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Nonetheless, Luther is quoted "the world wouldn't continue to exist as it moved into the 1600s". Luther also interpreted the precariousness of the times in 1528 as a sign that the end might come before he finished translating the Bible, so he proposed translating Daniel, an apocalyptic prophetic book, first, to be a consolation to the people.

Our times could easily be interpreted as end times. Even though Revelation and Daniel were written to encourage Christians as bad things happened all around them, many have interpreted Revelation and Daniel to point to numerous current events. All the signs are still here. Wars, and rumors of wars. Earthquakes and famines. Could the Hamas/Israel conflict turn into Armageddon? What about famines in Africa?

Sin, secularization and worldliness run rampant today. Capitalism separates people into the haves and the have nots. Capitalism leads to consumerism, driving people to want more and more. Always wanting the best and when what people have isn't the latest and greatest, things are often unnecessarily replaced, filling houses and thrift stores with working cast-offs, things not good enough to use but too good to send to the landfill. Don't misunderstand. The US is still the best game on the planet. We live in unprecedented prosperity. While we have yet to face persecution, it isn't hard to imagine that coming soon. Sin is running rampant. Legally, Marriage has shifted from being focused on the family to just being about the two people involved. Roe v Wade was overturned, allowing some states to eliminate abortion and other states, like Illinois, to become abortion destinations. Until 2022, Carbondale didn't have an abortion clinic, but now has two from out of state and one from in state. Mass shootings have become all too frequent. It is easy to get discouraged. Even though we know that God is in control. Sometimes, it seems the bad guys are winning. Evil people seem to prosper while righteous people seem to suffer.

Imagine being in Thessalonica. Imagine being persecuted for your faith. Imagine watching family members and Christian Friends being put to death for their beliefs. And imagine thinking that to go to heaven, you have to be alive when the Lord comes again. From 2000 years away, that thinking is strange to us. Way too many saints have gone before us for that to be the case. How discouraging! How frustrating! As if being persecuted

isn't discouraging enough. But instead, being persecuted and put to death somehow would mean that you won't go to heaven?

In Paul's own words "¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words." Paul depicts, in simple but powerful words, the last day. Jesus will return. The dead will rise first. Then the living will rise. We will be with Jesus body and soul for all eternity. All the struggles of this life will be gone. All the pain and suffering will be gone. All our worries will be gone. All our tears will be gone. All that will matter is being with Jesus in His Kingdom. How encouraging is that? How encouraging is it knowing that we are the Lord's. We belong to Jesus and He will come to bring us home.

It is easy to get discouraged. Jesus is taking a long time to come to judge the living and dead. Evil seems to prosper and good gets stamped out. Times get tougher and tougher. Sin is everywhere. Our sins and our sinful nature are discouraging. David prays in Psalm 51 after being confronted by Nathan regarding Bathsheba "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ 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." It is hard not to be discouraged when sin persists in your life. Especially the one sin that, if it ever got out, you'd be mortified and unwilling to show your face again. That one sin that Satan wags his finger at and tries to convince you that you've committed one time too many for God to forgive you.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. Does God want you to be sinless as he is sinless? Yes. Absolutely. But God also knows that you are corrupted by sin. David continues in Psalm 51:5 "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." God knew you would sin before He created the world. God created knowing that you would need Jesus. That Jesus would have to die to pay for your sins. Jesus became a man, born of the virgin Mary, making Himself like us in all things but sin. Hebrews 2:7, "You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor" and verse 9 "But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone." Jesus died for your sins. You are forgiven.

These are encouraging words. Jesus has conquered sin, death, and the devil. Jesus promises to be with you. When things are discouraging. When things seem to seem to favor those outside the Church and the faith. When following Jesus seems much harder than walking away. Yet, Jesus is with you. In Baptism, God made you His own dear child and promised eternal life in the new heavens and the new earth. Cling to God's promises. Be encouraged that you are His and he is with you "Until the end of the age" when you will join Jesus in His everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For help and deliverance, that we may be granted all things needful and guarded against all things harmful, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For right worship, that we would not imagine God is pleased with us on account of human works or ceremonies, but proclaim in every act of worship and prayer that salvation is found in Christ's works alone, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For parents and those who teach children the Word of God, that generations to come may love God's promises, walk in His truth and dwell in His house, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For rulers and all in authority, that our God of righteousness would embolden them to enact and defend measures that preserve peace and provide justice for all, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who cry to the Lord, [*including _____,*] that God would answer them with strength and healing, comfort and hope, and keep them in the confidence of the resurrection of the dead, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For forgiveness, life and salvation, that the Lord would descend from heaven with a cry of command, raise up those who have fallen asleep and, until that day, prepare us by the blessed Sacrament for His coming in glory, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all the faithful, [*especially the families of _____,*] that none may grieve as those who have no hope but rejoice and encourage one another in the promise of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would stir their hearts to return to worship and receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy**

God of our salvation, we know neither the day nor the hour of Christ's return, but we know that He has died and is risen again to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Until that day, preserve us in faith and guard us from temptation. Do not let us be caught unprepared for His coming. Let us live our days in loving service and joyful expectation of the life of the world to come; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy,

You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world away;
 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world away;
 Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
 What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
 He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
 He lives, my ever-living head.
 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
 He lives eternally to save;

- He lives all-glorious in the sky;
 He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 He lives to bless me with His love;
 He lives to plead for me above;
 He lives my hungry soul to feed;
 He lives to help in time of need.
- 4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
 He lives to guide me with His eye;
 He lives to comfort me when faint;
 He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99, abr.
 Text: Public domain

Stand

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

- C** 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
 Depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory
 Of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles
 Unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people,
 Your chosen Israel.
- 2 All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever Three in One;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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 ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?
- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation,
I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!
- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.
- 5 There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!

Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957

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