Confession and Absolution

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness

With a liberating light;

Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,

Turning blindness into sight.

Praise the One who preached the Gospel,

Healing ev'ry dread disease,

Calming storms, and feeding thousands

With the very Bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children

With a strong, yet gentle, word;

Praise the One who drove out demons

With the piercing, two-edged sword.

Praise the One who brings cool water

To the desert's burning sand;

From this Well comes living water,

Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,

Christ, who suffered in our place.

Jesus died and rose victorious

That we may know God by grace.

Let us sing for joy and gladness,

Seeing what our God has done;

Let us praise the true Redeemer,

Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

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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 184

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P 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.

Absolution LSB 185

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 84:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

- P Blessèd are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- C How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
- P My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
- 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.
- P Blessèd are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!
- Blessèd are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Gloria Patri LSB 186

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁴And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Romans 5:1–8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

Stand

Holy Gospel John 4:5–26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁵[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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 \pm of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

1 May God bestow on us His grace,

With blessings rich provide us;

And may the brightness of His face

To life eternal guide us,

That we His saving health may know,

His gracious will and pleasure,

And also to the nations show

Christ's riches without measure

And unto God convert them.

2 Thine over all shall be the praise

And thanks of ev'ry nation;

And all the world with joy shall raise

The voice of exultation.

For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,

Nor suffer sin to flourish;

Thy people's pasture is Thy Word

Their souls to feed and nourish,

In righteous paths to keep them.

 $\triangle 3$ O let the people praise Thy worth,

In all good works increasing;

The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,

Thy Word is rich in blessing.

May God the Father, God the Son,

And God the Spirit bless us!

Let all the world praise Him alone, Let solemn awe possess us. Now let our hearts say, "Amen!" Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800-87, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

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

Like many people, I have trouble asking for help, be that directions prior to the days of GPS or now when the app doesn't get me where I need to go, or tasks that need a third hand or just need to be done either for me personally or for the church. Asking people for help here at church is really the right thing to do because it gives folks opportunities to serve God and each other. And it is not that I want to feel important or think for a moment that only I can do things right. But, it is easy to underestimate the amount of time to do things and therefore rationalize and justify that it will take longer to ask and remind someone than just doing it. Does anyone else find themself struggling with the desire to want to do it yourself?

Honestly, that is a part of our sinful nature, re-enforced by the sinful world around us. Think about movies you have seen, especially Westerns. The hero is a self-reliant, independent sort who puts it all on the line and comes out victorious. The hero has usually been around the block, suffered hardship to produce endurance and confidence and character. Character provides the strength to overcome the situation.

In this morning's Epistle, we continue in Romans where Paul has built the case that all humans are sinners in need of a savior and that Jesus is that Savior, saving all people, Jews and Gentiles alike. Last week was about Abram/Abraham, and his discovered reward for trusting God. We, like Abraham, have been called into a relationship with God. We through baptism; Abraham through Circumcision.

Because of Adam and Eve's sin that we talked about two weeks ago, you were conceived and born sinful and unclean. You were an enemy of God who could never choose God. You could never ask God for help. You were destined to hell and eternal damnation, the consequences of sin which corrupted, broke, God's perfect creation. Left on your own, you cannot help yourself.

But God didn't create you to be His condemned enemy. God created you and all people to be His Own. God chose you, just as He did Abraham, to be his Own. God sent the Holy Spirit to work faith in your heart through the hearing of the Word of God. God called you to be His own dear child in the waters of Baptism. Jesus promised to be with you to the end of age. Jesus is your savior who took your sins and the sins of the whole world to the Cross where Jesus paid the full atonement price. Your sins cost Jesus His Life. By the Grace of God, Jesus's sacrifice was accepted and Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus was faithful where you are not. Jesus was faithful even to death, death on the cross, to pay for the sins of all mankind.

On Wednesdays we are studying Ecclesiastes, written by Solomon, the wisest man ever. Solomon uses his wisdom to try to understand everything that happens in life. He concluded that wisdom without God is futile. By fearing and trusting God, one understands God's wisdom and learns to accept one's lot. There are no promises or guarantees for those who live without God. Life is a series of evils, most of which are hard to anticipate or address. Only in the context of one's relationship with God do the trials and tribulations of this world make sense. With faith in God, one sees and appreciates God's abundant blessings and celebrates the simple pleasures of life. With faith in God, one finds joy and contentment in the gifts God freely and richly showers upon His own dear children. With faith in God, life has meaning. With faith in God, suffering has meaning. With faith in God, life is not a selfish pursuit, focused on increasing pleasure and reducing pain and suffering.

God uses pain and suffering to purify His people. When you suffer for doing good, you participate in Jesus's suffering. And as you suffer, the Holy Spirit comforts and strengthen you, building faith and endurance, the ability to suffer in anticipation of the great blessings that await you in heaven. As you suffer and endure the suffering, character grows. By the working of the Holy Spirit, you more and more realize that this life is fleeting, and heaven is eternal. Suffering focuses you on things beyond this world, on God's great love for you.

Our Sunday Morning Bible Study is focusing on 1 John which the apostle John wrote to encourage his spiritual children as they faced persecution, trials, and tribulation. John dwells on the Father's great love for you. 1 John 3 begins "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." The God who spoke those things that did not exist into existence, speaks your existence as a child of God into existence, just as He spoke the creation into existence. You are loved by God. Paul makes that clear in verse 8 "8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Yes us. Yes you and me. No matter how worthy or unworthy you are. No matter whether you are convinced that you are the chief of sinners as Paul was (1 Timothy 1:12-15). No matter how hard you work not to be a sinner.

While your sinful nature wants you to not want help, to be independent and self-sufficient, dependent on no one, you are dependent on God for all good things and in times of trouble. No matter how much you don't want help, you want to do it yourself, you cannot. You can do nothing to earn or merit God's Grace. God's Grace is a freely given gift that is received by faith. There is nothing you can do to merit God's Grace. Nothing you can do to earn the Righteousness earned for you by Jesus's death. You are passive in your relationship with God; God alone is active. Because God is active, your relationship with Him is both perfect and reliable. This is one of the great blessings of infant Baptism. A baby cannot add or detract from her baptism. God alone acts on her behalf. If your baptism depends on you, can you be sure that your Baptism is done perfectly and is effective?

Of course, you can tell God that you don't want His help. You can reject Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You can refuse the freely given gift of salvation bought for you on the cross. You can tell God that you don't was His perfect Baptism, but instead want to it yourself, to do something on your own to earn your salvation. You can leave Jesus's Righteousness behind and seek your own righteousness. But you will never obtain the righteousness of the perfect Son of Man whom God sent to give you and all people righteousness. Under the cross of Jesus, you are made righteous before God. God sees Jesus's life, death and resurrection when He looks at you. Not your best efforts. But instead, the help you need to righteous before Him, the innocent bitter sufferings and death of Jesus on the cross for your sins.

God wants you to turn to Him in every need, pray, praise, and give thanks. God loves you and wants you to live in the hope of the resurrection earned for you by Jesus's death and resurrection. God sent Jesus to die for your sins so that you might live forever in His kingdom. In joyful response, turn to God and ask for His help to overcome sin, death, and the devil. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Votum

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand

Offertory LSB 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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

For the blessing of the Lord, that He would receive our praise, hear our prayers and satisfy us with His living water, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For faithful pastors to lead us to the living water flowing from the stricken side of our Rock, Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For joy in the midst of the things we suffer, that God, who has made peace with us by the cross, would prepare us to behold His glory in heaven, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all Christian fathers, that they would stand in God's grace and urge their families always toward eternal life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the nations of the world, that both citizens and authorities would seek justice, peace and the common good of all, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For safe haven at the altar of God, that we who bear the weight of this world and its sorrows would receive the blessings of those who sing His praise, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For strong hearts that boldly confess our sins, that we who daily sin much may joyfully receive God's word of absolution, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 194

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer LSB 196

P 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

LSB 197

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 LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

Amen.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

LSB 199

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal LSB 199

- 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.

543 What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down

Beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb,

Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free,

I'll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt. Text: Public domain

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

My song is love unknown,

My Savior's love to me,

Love to the loveless shown

That they might lovely be.

Oh, who am I

That for my sake

My Lord should take

Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne

Salvation to bestow;

But men made strange, and none

The longed-for Christ would know.

But, oh, my friend,

My friend indeed,

Who at my need

His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way

And His sweet praises sing;

Resounding all the day

Hosannas to their King.

Then "Crucify!"

Is all their breath,

And for His death

They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?

What makes this rage and spite?

He made the lame to run,

He gave the blind their sight.

Sweet injuries!

Yet they at these

Themselves displease

And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have

My dear Lord made away;

A murderer they save,

The Prince of Life they slay.

Yet cheerful He

To suff'ring goes

That He His foes

From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home

My Lord on earth might have;

In death no friendly tomb

But what a stranger gave.

What may I say?

Heav'n was His home

But mine the tomb

Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,

No story so divine!

Never was love, dear King,

Never was grief like Thine.

This is my friend,

In whose sweet praise

I all my days

Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683

Text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,

for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

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.

Salutation LSB 201

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

C Amen, amen, amen.

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

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