

Confession and Absolution

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

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| <p>1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.</p> <p>2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.</p> | <p>3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessèd angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.</p> <p>4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.</p> |
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Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.
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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.

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C 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.

Service of the Word

Introit*Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5*

- P** How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!
C **It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**
P to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,
C **to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.**
P For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
C **How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!**

Gloria Patri*LSB 186*

- C** **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.

Gloria in Excelsis*LSB 187*

- P** Glory be to God on high:
C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**
P Let us pray.
 O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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***Ezekiel 33:7–9*

⁷“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. ⁸If 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. ⁹But 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.”

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

Epistle*Romans 13:1–10*

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia*LSB 190*

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel*Matthew 18:1–20*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

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 ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

1 My soul, now praise your Maker!
Let all within me bless His name
Who makes you full partaker
Of mercies more than you dare claim.
Forget Him not whose meekness
Still bears with all your sin,
Who heals your ev'ry weakness,
Renews your life within;
Whose grace and care are endless
And saved you through the past;
Who leaves no suff'rer friendless
But rights the wronged at last.

2 He offers all His treasure
Of justice, truth, and righteousness,
His love beyond all measure,
His yearning pity o'er distress;
Nor treats us as we merit

But sets His anger by.
The poor and contrite spirit
Finds His compassion nigh;
And high as heav'n above us,
As dawn from close of day,
So far, since He has loved us,
He puts our sins away.

3 For as a tender father
Has pity on his children here,
God in His arms will gather
All who are His in childlike fear.
He knows how frail our powers,
Who but from dust are made.
We flourish like the flowers,
And even so we fade;
The wind but through them passes,
And all their bloom is o'er.

We wither like the grasses;
 Our place knows us no more.
 4 His grace remains forever,
 And children's children yet shall prove
 That God forsakes them never
 Who in true fear shall seek His love.
 In heav'n is fixed His dwelling,

Text: Johann Gramann, 1487–1541; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Text: Public domain

His rule is over all;
 O hosts with might excelling,
 With praise before Him fall.
 Praise Him forever reigning,
 All you who hear His Word—
 Our life and all sustaining.
 My soul, O praise the Lord!

Sermon

2023-09-10 Series A, Proper 18, Ezekiel 33: Support Your Local Pastor! By Jaron Melin

Grace and peace from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! Amen.

Back in 1969, there was a movie called “Support Your Local Sheriff!” It was about a town in the wild, wild west with no sheriff. Without a sheriff, gunslingers and robbers were rampant, and the town-folk were too scared to step up as sheriff much less support one. In comes our hero played by James Garner. Just passing through town, he wants to make some money before going to Australia, so he decides to become their sheriff. With skill, ingenuity, and just sheer dumb luck, he puts the town back into shape. A sheriff speaks and enforces words that people don't wanna hear. In our OT-text for today, Ezekiel is a prophet, and he speaks God's Word to people who don't wanna hear it.

Ezekiel was a prophet and a priest among the exiles of Judah, but Jerusalem was still standing. But God had given Ezekiel the news that even Jerusalem would fall. It would fall because they were lawless, even more so than the wild, wild West. And just like that town in the wild West, Israel and Judah had done what was right in their own eyes but forgot the Word of the Lord.

So then, God called Ezekiel to be His watchman. The metaphor of the watchman was already given in verses 1–6. The job of a watchman was to stand at the edge of the city and to watch for invaders. If invaders were coming, he would warn the people to save their lives. The watchman was responsible for the lives of the people.

Ezekiel was a different kind of watchman. As God's watchman for Israel, Ezekiel's job was to hear God's Word and to warn the people of God's judgment. He was responsible to say what God wanted him to say even if people didn't like it. That's the job of a prophet.

Why did God make Ezekiel His watchman? In verse 11, God says this: 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? 1

Ezekiel's job wasn't to speak the truth for its own sake. God has a loving heart for His people, and He wants them to turn from their evil ways and live. Sin leads to death, and God doesn't want His people to die eternally. The job of a watchman was a matter of life and death. The job of a prophet was a matter of life and death.

Who is your watchman today? Pastor is your watchman. Just like a prophet of old, he hears God's Word then applies it to your lives. Now, he doesn't have visions and dreams, but he reads the written Word of the Scriptures, and he handles them with great care. Much like that sheriff in the wild west, pastor will say words which you don't wanna hear. He points out the sins in your life that you want to hide. The world keeps telling you that they're not sins, but with the Word of God, your pastor shows you that they truly are sins, sins against God and against your neighbor.

Your pastor might take a passage like Romans 13 and say, “Vote like a Christian.” Don't vote Republican or Democrat just because you're a Republican or Democrat. Vote like a Christian. That's who you really are. You're a Christian, and your identity in Christ goes beyond political parties, and the Christian faith is bigger than any political platform.

The pastor might say to a couple living together before marriage, “You shouldn't do that because of the Sixth Commandment (You shall not commit adultery).” They might say, “But pastor, it's cheaper this way. But pastor, it's more

convenient this way. But pastor, we're not sure if we want to get married yet. But pastor!" And the pastor might say, "God is God, and you are not. The Sixth Commandment is God's Word, and we need to listen."

Some of you might be having conflict with someone else in the church. Pastor could quote Matthew 18.15, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone," and then say, "Don't gossip about it. Don't tell Grandma Schmidt about your problems with Henry or whoever. Talk to him yourself." You might say, "But pastor, I don't like him. He's unreasonable! But pastor!" And pastor would say, "He's your brother in Christ. Don't bad mouth him in front of others. Reconcile with him."

Your pastor wouldn't say these things just to be a kill-joy. He's not saying these things just to be uptight about the rules. He's giving you God's Word because you need it. Our sinful ways are destructive. They lead to brokenness and death.

In the Fourth Commandment, Luther shows that pastors are spiritual fathers. Your fathers at home tell you things that you don't wanna hear, but they want a good life for you. Your pastor is your spiritual father, and he cares for you. As your shepherd, he wants to know how the flock is doing. Your pastor cares about what is going on in your lives. He wants you to live good and faithful lives, and he does what he can to help you do just that.

Now, I'm sure that your pastor here is a great guy, but he's not perfect. And even if he were actually terrible, whether you like him or not, I would still say this to you: "Support your local pastor!" Why? Why care about a pastor who's terrible? Why care about a pastor you don't like? Because he is your pastor. He is a called minister of Christ who handles God's Word. It's not the man who makes the office. It's the Word, God's Word. God's Word makes the pastoral office precious. In the Third Commandment, Luther says that we should "not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it." There may be days when your pastor does a great job, and there may be days when the sermon is just plain boring. Either way, listen! Listen carefully! Not for pastor's sake but for God's Word. That is the precious treasure. In fact, if we thought too highly of our pastor, we might be distracted from God's Word and only think about how good his sermon was rather than see how Jesus reaches our lives through the Word.

Jesus is the true treasure. When pastor preaches, look for Jesus. Jesus is the true Watchman of God. Not only does Jesus hear God's Word and speak it, He is God's Word, the Word made flesh. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God" (John 1.1). Jesus shows us perfectly who God is. In John 3.16, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Like a watchman, Jesus warns us about perishing. If we remain in our sins, then there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth" on the Last Day. But if we turn away from our sins and turn to Jesus, we will have eternal life. God wants no one to perish but rather have eternal life in His Son.

And Jesus is more than just a watchman. He is the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He warns us of the danger, AND He defends us from the danger and takes it on Himself. He warns us about perishing in our sins, AND He saves us from our sins! He offered up His own life on the cross and paid for the sins of the whole world. Where our sins lead to brokenness and death, Jesus leads to salvation and life. Even when we like sheep have gone astray, Jesus seeks the lost sheep and brings us back home.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and your pastor is an under-shepherd. Yes, he speaks words you don't wanna hear, but he also shares a word of comfort. When you're in despair, he shares a word of hope. He shares the gospel of Christ with you. Pastor humbles himself so that you may see Jesus all the more.

Your pastor certainly has the job of sharing God's Word of Law and Gospel with you, but you also have a job. Trinity Lutheran Church is a watchman for Harvel, IL. The LCMS is a watchman for America. The Christian church is a watchman for the world. We have the task of sharing God's Word with others.

Just like a pastor, we may have words which people don't wanna hear. People don't wanna hear that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. But here's our temptation: We might only look at verses 7-9 of Ezekiel 33 and think, "As long as I tell people the truth, I'm good to go." I'm warning you that it is possible to share the truth and still be unloving. It's possible to be hard-nosed about keeping the rules and to forget to love our neighbors.

We warn the world so that they may turn and live. In the church, we speak to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. We speak to the world knowing that Christ has redeemed it with His blood. We can speak the truth in love because of Jesus. The Holy Spirit transforms our hearts and gives us the ability to share God's Word with love just as Christ did.

Dear friends in Christ, that sheriff wielded a gun and brought order to a lawless town. Your pastor wields the Word of God and brings Law and Gospel to you. He warns us of our sins, and he forgives us all our sins. Support your local pastor. When he preaches, say, "Thank you, Pastor! Thank you for sharing God's Word." When you hear God's Word, share it with others. Share it with the love of Jesus. In Jesus' name, 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

- C** 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.

Prayer of the Church

Knowing that our Lord has promised to be in our midst wherever two or three are gathered in His name, let us bring our prayers and supplications before Him.

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

For pastors, that as God's watchmen, they may be faithful in calling sinners to repentance and joyfully announcing the Lord's forgiveness to those who heed their warning, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful, that each of us may serve as our brother's keeper both in our earthly families and among our brothers and sisters in Christ; and that we may owe no one anything except to love each other, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our leaders, that they would bear the sword righteously; and for all who protect us, especially our armed forces, police and firefighters, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the ill, grieving and lonely, especially Charlie _____, that he/they may remember that the Good Shepherd who loves them seeks and saves the one lost sheep, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For childlike faith as we receive Christ's body and blood, that it may strengthen us in faith toward God and in fervent love toward one another, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all God's little ones, that they would not perish but be called back to Him when tempted to stray, delivered from temptation and kept in the faith, 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.
C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

P 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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, 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.

C **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord*LSB 197*

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*LSB 197*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei*LSB 198*

C **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****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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578 Thy Strong Word

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
 At Thy speaking it was done.
 For created light we thank Thee,
 While Thine ordered seasons run.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!
- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
 Dark as night and deep as death,
 Broke the light of Thy salvation,
 Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!
- 3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
 Bright with Thine own holiness,
 Glorious now, we press toward glory,
 And our lives our hopes confess.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!
- 4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining
 Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
 From the cross forever beameth
 All Thy bright redeeming light.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!
- 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias,
 Alleluias without end!



- 6 God the Father, light-creator,
 To Thee laud and honor be.
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
 Praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 Glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 Praise the holy Trinity!

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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

**☩ 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

- ☩** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
☩ and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

- ☩** 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.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

965 God Bless Our Native Land

1 God bless our native land;
 Firm may she ever stand
 Through storm and night.
 When the wild tempests rave,
 Ruler of wind and wave,
 Do Thou our country save
 By Thy great might.

2 So shall our prayers arise
 To God above the skies;
 On Him we wait.
 Thou who art ever nigh,
 Guarding with watchful eye,
 To Thee aloud we cry:
 God save the state!

Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–83, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–93, alt.
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