

Confession and Absolution

802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

- 1 Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
In light inaccessible
hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting,
Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains
high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life Thou givest—
to both great and small—
In all life Thou livest,
the true Life of all;
We blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish—
but naught changes Thee.
- 4 Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee,
all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render:
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor
of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, 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 2:6–7; 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18

- P** But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!
C As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.
P I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”
C Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
P For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the 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.
P But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

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.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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

Isaiah 51:1–6

¹"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.
³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴"Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,

and for my arm they wait.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
 and look at the earth beneath;
 for the heavens vanish like smoke,
 the earth will wear out like a garment,
 and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
 but my salvation will be forever,
 and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 11:33—12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,

or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him

that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

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.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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 16:13–20

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

730 What Is the World to Me

1 What is the world to me
With all its vaunted pleasure

- When You, and You alone,
 Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
 You only, dearest Lord,
 My soul's delight shall be;
 You are my peace, my rest.
 What is the world to me!
- 2 The world seeks to be praised
 And honored by the mighty
 Yet never once reflects
 That they are frail and flighty.
 But what I truly prize
 Above all things is He,
 My Jesus, He alone.
 What is the world to me!
- 3 The world seeks after wealth
 And all that mammon offers
 Yet never is content
 Though gold should fill its coffers.
 I have a higher good,
 Content with it I'll be:
 My Jesus is my wealth.
 What is the world to me!
- 4 What is the world to me!
 My Jesus is my treasure,
 My life, my health, my wealth,
 My friend, my love, my pleasure,
 My joy, my crown, my all,
 My bliss eternally.
 Once more, then, I declare:
 What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Sermon

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

Leslie and I have many interesting conversations. From time to time, ok, more than either of us really enjoy, I have trouble hearing her. And sometimes, I replay for her what I just heard, getting a “for real?”. Often, what I hear not only wasn't what she said, but was so far from what she said that it is hilarious, leading me to say “I can't make this up”.

You may recognize the beginning of the Epistle as an oft used Gradual, a liturgical transition between the Old Testament Reading and the New Testament reading. Because of a different translation, the more familiar unsearchable has been replaced with inscrutable, an obscure word meaning impossible to understand or interpret.

We've all said “When I get to heaven, I'm going to ask ...” be that from the mundane “why mosquitos?” to the profound “why did so and so die?”

Most of you know my story. And in many ways, it is inscrutable, impossible to understand. I couldn't have made this up. And certainly “I'd like to ask God ...”. I've wanted to be a minister since being a teenager. Lacking the gifts to be a Catholic priest, I left the seminary to be a parent. I became Lutheran and faced many struggles with the congregations that I belonged to. I still felt the call of God on my life, but there were other things that had to be worked out. God led Linda over many years through various jobs to realize that I would be

a good pastor, finally leading to a conversation with my Pastor “If God wants me to be a Pastor, my job won’t be in the way.” Before long, I was laid off from my job. So off to the seminary I went. God worked here to prepare you to care for me, while I prepared to care for you. And before my ordination, you cared for me through the death of Linda, whose birthday is today. God wasn’t done yet. God brought Leslie to my ordination. Leslie had lost her husband a year earlier. Leslie’s heart was moved as she watched my ordination, what should have been a happy day was overshadowed by grief and mourning. Leslie and I started dating after our paths crossed at an installation last summer. And to some extent, Trinity, Harvel rescheduling last year’s New Year’s Eve service to 4pm pushed our relationship forward more quickly.

Is my story unusual? Yes and no. Some of the details, absolutely. But the big picture, no, not really. As we look back at events, things fall into place. God is at work in our lives.

In the Old Testament, God disperses the people at the Tower of Babel for wanting to make a name for themselves. Instead, God chooses to make a name for a 75-year-old Abram whose name becomes Abraham. 25 years later, the son of the promise is born of two people well past the age of childbearing. God chooses the younger Jacob over the older Esau. Favoritism is so bad in Jacob’s family that Joseph, the favored son, is sold into slavery, but in a “who could make this up” twist, becomes the second in command in Egypt and saves Egypt and his family from famine. 430 years later, God sets Israel free using Moses, an Israelite raised by Pharaoh’s daughter. After witnessing the plagues and the defeat of Pharaoh’s army, Israel doubts that God can deliver the Promised Land and so they wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Joshua succeeds Moses and leads the conquest of the Promised Land. Against “common sense”, Israel enters the Promised Land and, in enemy territory, circumcises every adult male into God’s Covenant, leaving Israel completely vulnerable. When Israel follows God’s Commands, enemies fall right and left. But Achan keeps things that should be destroyed, and Israel is defeated at Ai. Israel goes into a cycle of sinning, praying for mercy, being forgiven and redeemed, until both kingdoms are exiled and ultimately, the Temple is destroyed, and a mosque is built on the site.

And in the New Testament, God sends His only begotten Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Think about what we confessed in the Nicene Creed. Jesus was rejected by God’s People, the ones who most of all should have recognized Him. Jesus, the perfect man, was crucified by the Romans, suffering a scandalous, humiliating, painful death reserved for the worst criminals. It sure seems like an unusual way to bring about the salvation of the world, leading one to “want to ask God ...”. And who does Jesus choose to be His spokesmen? The best and brightest from the local rabbi school? No. A rag-tag bunch to say the least. A few fishermen, a Zealot who hated Roman rule, a tax collector who worked for the Romans and could gouge the Jews as he saw fit and Judas his betrayer. Paul goes from persecuting the church to being its biggest evangelist. Ultimately, the church grows through the blood of the martyrs, those forced to lay down their lives for Jesus.

Isaiah 55:8-9 describes the inscrutable: ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God knew that Adam and Eve, and every human after them, would sin and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). God knew that Jesus would have to die for your sins, my sins, and the sins of the whole world. God knew that we would fail to love God and to have God as our only God. We would take His name in vain. We wouldn’t cherish His Word and nourish our faith. We would resist and disrespect those in authority. We wouldn’t cherish human life and the physical, emotional, and mental welfare of others as we should. We would fail to use our sexuality properly and in the context of one man and one woman marriage where the two become one flesh for procreation and the mutual encouragement of both partners. We wouldn’t respect the property of others. We would damage another’s reputation. We wouldn’t be content but instead covet worldly things beyond what God gives us.

But, solely because of His love, grace and mercy, God chose you to be His own dear child. God is at work in your life. God has orchestrated your life to bring you to this point in your life, both good times and challenging times. The challenging times lead you deeper into your relationship with Him. God has a plan for you, just as for Israel. Jeremiah (29:11) writes “¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for

welfare^[b] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Reflect on your life and see how God has worked and look forward to God working in your life.

God wants you to spend eternity with Him in the new heavens and new earth. God will make the perishable imperishable. God will make the mortal immortal. Jesus died for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Jesus’s death does the impossible. Jesus’s death and resurrection makes it possible for you and I to be in a relationship with God. God called you to be His own dear child in Baptism. God made it possible for you to have faith. God is at work in your life. God calls you to repent, forgives your sins, and draws you into a loving relationship in which God provides your salvation and you respond in joy and love. Amen. And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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

For the Church throughout the world, that built on the confession of the Gospel and assured that the gates of hell will not overcome it, we may have the faith and courage to confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, that we may proclaim thanksgiving to God and tell of all His wondrous deeds, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Office of the Keys may be honored among us, that we may confess our sin and be absolved in Christ’s name, and that we may forgive others as He has forgiven us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all families, children, single adults and youth; and for those who teach and those who learn, that they may advance in wisdom and grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For victims of violence and oppression, and for those who live with injustice and fear, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all nations and their leaders, that they may act for peace and promote godliness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For victims of disaster and those stricken by illness or infirmity; for the aged and infirm; and for those who grieve, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

*[For _____, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**]*

For repentance and faith as we approach the Lord’s table, that we may not think more highly of ourselves than is right, but that we would set our hearts and minds on the things of God, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

From You and through You and to You are all things! To You, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, be glory 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

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:

Left Column

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.

644 The Church's One Foundation

sts. 1–5

1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:

One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"

- And soon the night of weeping
 Shall be the morn of song.
 4 Through toil and tribulation
 And tumult of her war
 She waits the consummation
 Of peace forevermore
 Till with the vision glorious
 Her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great Church victorious
 Shall be the Church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.

Text: Public domain

783 Take My Life and Let It Be

- 1 Take my life and let it be
 Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
 Take my moments and my days,
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
 2 Take my hands and let them move
 At the impulse of Thy love;
 Take my feet and let them be
 Swift and beautiful for Thee.
 3 Take my voice and let me sing
 Always, only for my King;
 Take my lips and let them be
 Filled with messages from Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79

Text: Public domain

Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

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.

- 5 Yet she on earth has union
 With God, the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won.
 O blessed heav'nly chorus!
 Lord, save us by Your grace
 That we, like saints before us,
 May see You face to face.

- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
 Not a mite would I withhold;
 Take my intellect and use
 Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
 5 Take my will and make it Thine,
 It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.
 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
 At Thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

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.

917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

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

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–93

Text: Public domain

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