

# Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 14, 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, TX

## MUTUAL CONSIDERATION

How close is your relationship with Jesus? According to Paul, "all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death," and "if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Romans 6:3, 5). Your Baptism has brought you so close to Jesus that you share death, life, and all things with Him. Therefore, when David said of Jesus in Psalm 41:1, "Blessed is the one who considers the poor," he was also speaking of you. Your blessed Lord Jesus considers you—a poor, miserable sinner—and He will surely deliver you in the day of trouble so that you, too, will be "called blessed in the land" (Psalm 41:2).

#### **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

#### RINGING OF THE BELLS

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS**

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

# Silence for reflection

## Stand

# Litany

- P O Lord.
- **C** have mercy.
- P O Christ,
- **C** have mercy.
- P O Lord,
- **C** have mercy.
- P O Christ,
- C hear us.
- **P** God the Father in heaven,
- **C** have mercy.
- **P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
- **C** have mercy.

- P God the Holy Spirit,
- **C** have mercy.
- **P** Be gracious to us.
- **©** Spare us, good Lord.
- **P** Be gracious to us.
- **G** Help us, good Lord.
- By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
- Help us, good Lord.
- **P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- Help us, good Lord.
- **P** We poor sinners implore You
- **C** to hear us, O Lord.
- To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:
- **W**e implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:
- **@** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:
- **W**e implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- **P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
- we implore You to hear us.
- P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- **C** have mercy.
- P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- **C** have mercy.
- P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- **G** grant us Your peace.
- P O Christ,
- hear us.
- P O Lord,
- **C** have mercy.
- P O Christ,
- **C** have mercy.
- P O Lord,
- **C** have mercy. Amen.
- P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Amen.

# HYMN: 『"SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO THEE"

Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the\_adoring knee; When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes; O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below, Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!

- 2 By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears, By Thy days of deep distress In the savage wilderness, By the dread, mysterious hour Of the\_insulting tempter's pow'r, Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!
- 3 By Thine hour of dire despair,
  By Thine agony of prayer,
  By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
  Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
  By the gloom that veiled the skies
  O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
  Listen to our humble sigh;
  Hear our penitential cry!
- 4 By Thy deep expiring groan,
  By the sad sepulchral stone,
  By the vault whose dark abode
  Held in vain the rising God,
  O, from earth to heav'n restored,
  Mighty, reascended Lord,
  Bending from Thy throne on high,
  Hear our penitential cry!

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#### Stand

# **INVOCATION**

- $\blacksquare$  In the name of the Father and of the  $\bot$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.
- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

4

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- 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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

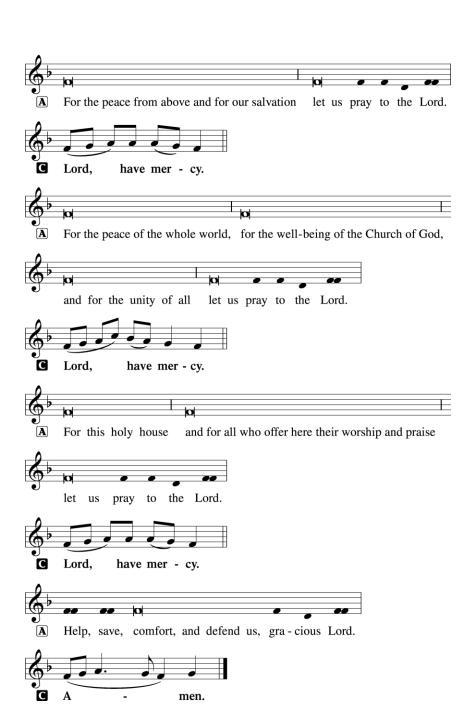
PSALM PSALM 41

- P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
- In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;
- P the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;
- You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.
- **P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.
- As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"
- P My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"
- And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.
- P All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
- They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."
- P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
- But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!
- P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
- But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.

  Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

  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.





#### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

O Lord, You call Your straying people to return to You in repentance and contrition, and You graciously have promised forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Grant that, forgiven and free, we may live each day in joyful hope as Your well-loved children; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Joel, the second chapter.

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster. Who knows whether He will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and make not Your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. The LORD answered and said to His people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

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

EPISTLE 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

P The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

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

Stand

#### **VERSE FOR LENT**

Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–21

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, 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

SERMON HYMN: "J"JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW"

LSB 440

Jesus, I will ponder now
 On Your holy passion;
 With Your Spirit me endow
 For such meditation.
 Grant that I in love and faith
 May the image cherish
 Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
 That I may not perish.

- 2 Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction, Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion; Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You, How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
- Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
   Make me see Your passion,

   But its cause to me make known
   And its termination.

   Ah! I also and my sin
   Wrought Your deep affliction;

   This indeed the cause has been
   Of Your crucifixion.
- 4 Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving. Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living. How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?
- If my sins give me alarm
   And my conscience grieve me,
   Let Your cross my fear disarm;
   Peace of conscience give me.
   Help me see forgiveness won
   By Your holy passion.

   If for me He slays His Son,
   God must have compassion!
- 6 Graciously my faith renew;
  Help me bear my crosses,
  Learning humbleness from You,
  Peace mid pain and losses.
  May I give You love for love!
  Hear me, O my Savior,
  That I may in heav'n above
  Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Public domain

By Pastor John Schmidt

#### Stand

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

C Amen.



Sit

#### **OFFERING**

As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.

# OFFERING HYMN: ♪ "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN"

LSB 781 V. 1-2

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823-97 Text: Public domain

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend His pilgrim people from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

# C Lord, have mercy.

For our national church body and for this local congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the fostering of unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

# **C** Lord, have mercy.

For those who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life and have a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the Lord:

# C Lord, have mercy.

For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father and for all who are involved in ministries of outreach and care, let us pray to the Lord:

# **C** Lord, have mercy.

For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably; and for the people being governed, that they may contribute to the well-being of society, let us pray to the Lord:

# C Lord, have mercy.

For all who serve in all worthy occupations, professions, arts, and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and grant them a sense of value and satisfaction through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord:

# C Lord, have mercy.

For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve, comfort, and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

## **C** Lord, have mercy.

For all the faithful in this household of faith and beyond, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

## **C** Lord, have mercy.

For those who are sick, that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, and for all in service vocations of healing and providing safety and care in our communities, let us pray to the Lord:

# **C** Lord, have mercy.

For those who mourn, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but will rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:

## **C** Lord, have mercy.

For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

# **C** Lord, have mercy.

These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

#### C Amen.

# **PREFACE**

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

# PROPER PREFACE

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:

LSB 161



## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

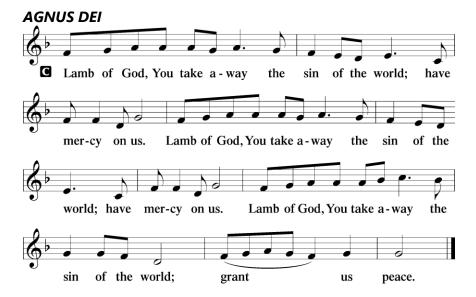
- **P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those

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

## **PAX DOMINI**

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **G** Amen.



Sit

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: Ŋ"I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE"

LSB 618

LSB 163

I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
 For weak and weary is my soul;
 Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
 To satisfy and make me whole: Refrain

Refrain:

Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

- 2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. Refrain
- 3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain

- Weary am I and heavy laden;
   With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
   Receive me graciously and gladden
   My heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain
- What higher gift can we inherit?
   It is faith's bond and solid base;
   It is the strength of heart and spirit,
   The covenant of hope and grace. Refrain

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## **₯"TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US"**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

#### **』"YOUR TABLE I APPROACH"**

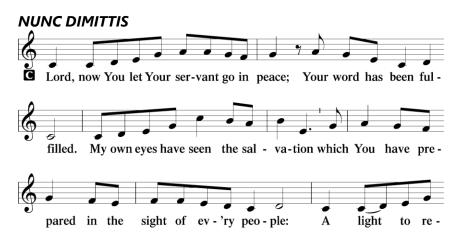
LSB 628

- Your table I approach;
   Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
   Let not an unrepentant heart
   Prove hurtful to me there.
- Lord, I confess my sins
   And mourn their wretched bands;
   A contrite heart is sure to find
   Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me, Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.
- Search not how this takes place,
   This wondrous mystery;
   God can accomplish vastly more
   Than what we think could be.
- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.
- Oh, may I never fail
   To thank You day and night

   For Your true body and true blood,
   O God, my peace and light.

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## Stand





#### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**P** 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.

#### **BENEDICTION**

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 ⅓ give you peace.

**G**☐

☐

☐

Amen, Amen, Amen.

# CLOSING HYMN: ♪ "GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE"

- Go to dark Gethsemane,
  All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
  Your Redeemer's conflict see,
  Watch with Him one bitter hour;
  Turn not from His griefs away;
  Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- 2 Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned; Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained! Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
- 3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet, Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

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## SILENT PRAYER

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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