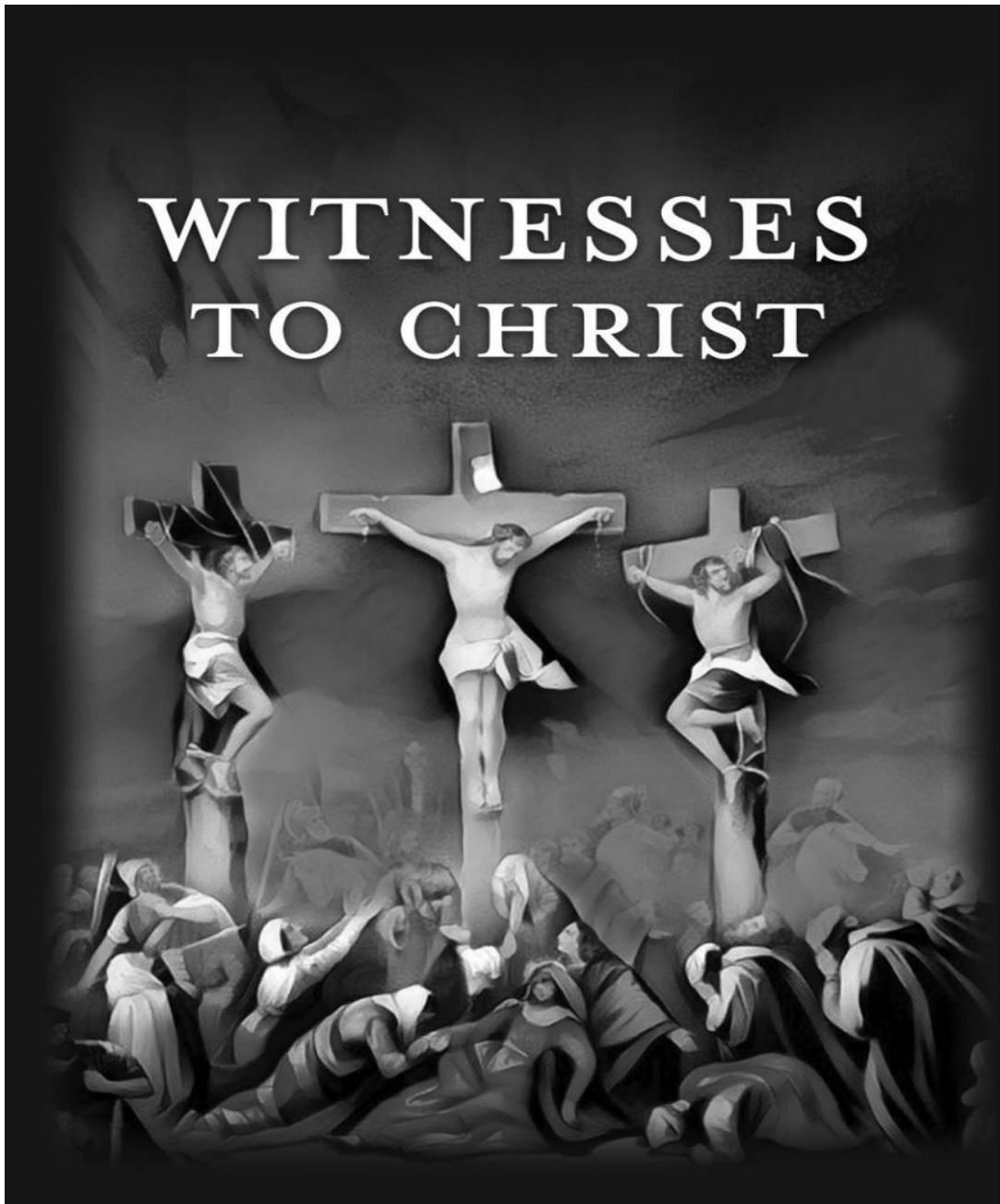


Witnesses to Christ: People from his passion



ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 2, 2022

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SERBIN, TX

JOHN THE BAPTIST

As we begin our Lenten journey, we focus our attention on various witnesses to Christ in John's Gospel. We begin with John the Baptist, a man on a mission. "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him" (John 1:6–7). John the Baptist's mission is "to bear witness about the light." In fact, fourteen times in John's Gospel, the word *witness* is connected with John the Baptist. "He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:8–9). John points us to Jesus, who takes away our sin, our guilt, and our shame at the cross.

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.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
- P** Be gracious to us.

C Help us, good Lord.

P 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:

C 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:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P 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:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P 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:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C 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,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C 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.

C Amen.

Sit

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me
And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free
And make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be
And taste Your promised rest.
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me
Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery,
O be my health and life!
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point out Your chosen way.
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me
That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
And share Your joy at last.

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Stand

INVOCATION

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

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.

G Amen.

INTROIT

PSALM 51:1-3, 10-12

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will | not despise. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

G Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JOEL 2:12-19

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.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of 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.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ♪"ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE"

LSB 422

**1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!**

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Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 1:29-34

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

"This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.' I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON HYMN: ♪ "WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS CURSED"

LSB 346

- 1 **When all the world was cursed
By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.**

- 2 **Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:**

- 3 **Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.**

4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him
In His eternal day.

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SERMON: "JOHN THE BAPTIST"

JOHN 1:29-34

By Pastor John Schmidt

Stand

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Holy God, mighty Lord, we, Your unworthy people, do come to You this day acknowledging the great debt we owe for Your merciful kindness in giving to us Your own Son to be our Savior and Redeemer. In love, He suffered for our sins and died the death that was ours to die so that He might forgive us of our sins and raise us from death to everlasting life. Receive our thanks and praise for His one, all-sufficient sacrifice upon the cross and keep us in this faith and fear all the days of our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

P Preserve Your Word, O Lord, against error, and preserve among us the preaching of Your Word that we may be nurtured in faith, discern truth from falsehood, and remain steadfast in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word that through daily repentance we be kept in the promise of our Baptism and in the new life born of water and the Spirit. Give to Your Church pastors who will serve us faithfully in Your name with the Means of Grace. Raise up many church workers to fulfill the various callings and offices Your Church has appointed. Bless those preparing for Baptism and

the catechumens being instructed in Your Word. Help us to shine with the brightness of Christ's light before the world and be ever ready to give answer to the hope within us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bestow upon all the nations of the world the blessing of peace. End the threat of terrorism and quiet the hearts of those who foster hate and violence. Give to us good and faithful leaders, and especially do we pray for [name], our president, [name], our governor, the Congress of these United States, our state legislature, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Lend Your aid to the cause of life and its protection from conception until its natural end. Bless the service men and women who defend us at home and abroad. Give us the will and desire to be good and faithful citizens and to daily pray for those in authority over us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Provide for those who suffer man-made or natural disaster, and bless relief workers who come to their aid. Bless the fruits of the earth and our stewardship of all its resources for the good and benefit of all people. Bless all honest labor and industry, the arts and music, and all good works for Your glory. Be with the sick and those who suffer trouble, want, anguish, peril, or death, [especially. . .]. Give them courage under trial, patience to endure their afflictions without losing heart, and healing according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant to us Your Holy Spirit that we who come to our Lord's Table today may receive the body and blood of Christ in sincere repentance and with confident faith, recognizing Christ's presence in this Sacrament and rejoicing in the forgiveness of our sins and the nourishment of our faith. Help us so that what we have received upon our lips we keep in holy lives and live under Christ in His kingdom here until we live in His presence in everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Receive our bodies and souls and all our talents and skills, with the tithes and offerings we bring, in thanksgiving for all Your benefits in Christ. These and all things good and beneficial, we ask You to grant us in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

PREFACE

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.**

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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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

☩ 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

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

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☩ Amen.

AGNUS DEI

☩ 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

DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

J "A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH"

LSB 438

1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
"All this I gladly suffer."

- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,
 The Lamb of God, our Savior,
 Whom God the Father chose to send
 To gain for us His favor.
 "Go forth, My Son," the Father said,
 "And free My children from their dread
 Of guilt and condemnation.
 The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
 But by Your passion they will share
 The fruit of Your salvation."
- 3 "Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
 I'll bear what You command Me.
 My will conforms to Your decree,
 I'll do what You have asked Me."
 O wondrous Love, what have You done!
 The Father offers up His Son,
 Desiring our salvation.
 O Love, how strong You are to save!
 You lay the One into the grave
 Who built the earth's foundation.
- 4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see
 And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,
 Your blood my royal robe shall be,
 My joy beyond all measure!
 When I appear before Your throne,
 Your righteousness shall be my crown;
 With these I need not hide me.
 And there, in garments richly wrought,
 As Your own bride shall we be brought
 To stand in joy beside You.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪"LAMB OF GOD"

LSB 550

- 1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
 But You have sent Him from Your side
 To walk upon this guilty sod,
 And to become the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

Refrain:

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
 I love the holy Lamb of God!
 O wash me in His precious blood,
 My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

**2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain**

**3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain**

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪"O CHRIST, YOU WALKED THE ROAD"

LSB 424

**1 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r
And fought our ancient foe.**

**2 No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.**

**3 No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.**

**4 When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.**

**5 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour
To fight our ancient foe.**

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Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

🎵 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

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

G **and His mercy endureth forever.**

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.

G **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

P The Lord be with you.

G **And with thy spirit.**

P Bless we the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

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.

G **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ♪"I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS"

LSB 606

- 1 I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursèd load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

- 2 I lay my wants on Jesus;
All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases;
My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases;
He all my sorrows shares.

**3 I rest my soul on Jesus,
This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces;
I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured.**

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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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