

# Service of Prayer and Preaching

## Hymn

### 794 The Lord, My God, Be Praised

- 1 The Lord, my God, be praised,  
My light, my life from heaven;  
My maker, who to me  
Has soul and body given;  
My Father, who will shield  
And keep me day by day  
And make each moment yield  
New blessings on my way.
- 2 The Lord, my God, be praised,  
My trust, my life from heaven,  
The Father's own dear Son,  
Whose life for me was given,  
Who for my sin atoned  
With His most precious blood  
And gives to me by faith  
The highest heav'nly good.
- 3 The Lord, my God, be praised,  
My hope, my life from heaven,  
The Spirit, whom the Son  
In love to me has given.  
His grace revives my heart  
And gives my spirit pow'r,  
Help, comfort, and support  
In sorrow's gloomy hour.
- △ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised,  
My God, the ever-living,  
To whom the heav'nly host  
Their laud and praise are giving.  
The Lord, my God, be praised,  
In whose great name I boast,  
God Father, God the Son,  
And God the Holy Ghost.

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## Opening Versicles

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**  
**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- L** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,  
**C** **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**  
**L** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,  
**C** **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**  
**L** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.  
**C** **He was bruised for our iniquities.**
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- 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.**

## Old Testament Canticle

- C** **The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

**With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.  
And you will say in that day:  
“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name,  
make known His deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that His name is exalted.”**

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

**Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.  
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

**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.**

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

## Readings From Holy Scripture

### Reading

*Isaiah 42:14–21*

**L** A reading from Isaiah, the forty-second chapter.

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace;  
I have kept still and restrained myself;  
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;  
I will gasp and pant.  
<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn the rivers into islands,  
and dry up the pools.  
<sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind  
in a way that they do not know,  
in paths that they have not known  
I will guide them.  
I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
the rough places into level ground.  
These are the things I do,  
and I do not forsake them.  
<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
“You are our gods.”  
<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!  
<sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant,  
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?  
Who is blind as my dedicated one,  
or blind as the servant of the LORD?  
<sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.  
<sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

### Reading

*Psalms 142*

<sup>1</sup>With my voice I cry out | to the LORD;\*  
with my voice I plead for mercy | to the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>I pour out my complaint be- | fore him,\*

I tell my trouble be- | fore him.  
<sup>3</sup>When my spirit faints within me,  
 you | know my way! \*  
 In the path where I walk  
 they have hidden a | trap for me.  
<sup>4</sup>Look to the right and see:  
 there is none who takes notice | of me; \*  
 no refuge remains to me;  
 no one cares | for my soul.  
<sup>5</sup>I cry to you, | O LORD; \*  
 I say, "You are my refuge,  
 my portion in the land of the | living."  
<sup>6</sup>Attend to my cry,  
 for I am brought | very low! \*  
 Deliver me from my persecutors,  
 for they are too | strong for me!  
<sup>7</sup>Bring me out of prison,  
 that I may give thanks | to your name! \*  
 The righteous will surround me,  
 for you will deal bountifully | with me.

## Reading

*Ephesians 5:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,  
 and arise from the dead,  
 and Christ will shine on you."

## Reading

*John 9*

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that

those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”<sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

## Responsory (Lent)

LSB 222

- L** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C** **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
- L** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.
- C** **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**
- L** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C** **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

## Apostles' Creed

- C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## 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.**

## Devotion

*from Lutheran Hour Ministries*

## "OCCUPIED TERRITORY"

March 22, 2020

*(Jesus said) "Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him." (Matthew 21:37-39)*

The story of the wicked tenants is a strange one. A man plants a vineyard, rents it out, and goes away to a far country. When the harvest comes, he sends servants to collect his share of the fruit. The tenants refuse. Instead, they

beat the servants, kill some, and throw them out of the vineyard. After several episodes like this, the landowner sends his son. Exactly the same thing happens—as anybody could predict.

This story bothers me. "Why are you bothering?" I want to ask of the vineyard owner. "It's just a vineyard. Human lives are worth more than a vineyard. Your *son* is worth more than a vineyard. Just give it up."

If this was just any ordinary vineyard, perhaps the owner *would* give it up. But it's not. This is God's vineyard, which He dug out, planted, fenced, and built a winepress for. This is Jesus' inheritance as the Son of God. In short, this is God's world, and we are the vines in it. He isn't going to give us up.

And yet we are occupied territory. So many of those who rule over us have no fear of God and no desire to give Him what belongs to Him. This includes everyone from bullying bosses and abusive parents to corrupt politicians and world leaders. And neither they nor the devil himself who influences them are willing to surrender what they hold.

Into this occupied territory comes Jesus, the Son of God. He comes to set us free—even if it costs Him His own life. He is not stupid. He knows what will happen to Him. And yet He goes through with it, knowing that His death will turn the world right-side-up, and His resurrection will set us all free.

Are you suffering under the power of someone who refuses to listen to God? Take courage, because God has not forgotten you. He has already sent His Son to rescue you. And He will finish the job—soon now, very soon!—when Jesus comes again, to take up His rule over all the universe. We are waiting for that day.

**THE PRAYER:** Lord, look on us when we suffer under the power of evil, and set us free. Amen. **Reflection Questions:**

\* Has anyone ever taken away from you something that was rightfully yours?

\* When were you under the power of someone who did not follow God?

\* Take a moment to pray for those who suffer under the power of evildoers. Lenten Devotions were written by Dr. Kari Vo.

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## Hymn

### 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain

ref In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father. Refrain

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

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## Offering

*please mail if you can*

## Prayer

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## Collect of the Day

- L** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Collect for the Word

- L** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Morning Prayer

- C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.**

## Blessing

- L** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Acknowledgments

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