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Blessed Jesus, at Your Word



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
 3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed Till your Spir - it breaks our night
 God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



Now to seek and love and fear you, By your teach - ings,
 With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
 Help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
 Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
 God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
 peo - ple rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
 low must wan - der, Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84, st. 1-3; *Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; unknown, st. 4, alt.

Tune: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE

INVOCATION

- M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The first line begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the lyrics 'Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are'. The second line continues with 'they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -'. The third line continues with 'ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -'. The fourth line continues with 'ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -'. The fifth line continues with 'ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.'. The sixth line concludes with 'Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.' and ends with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

The minister says the Prayer of the Day.

C: A - men.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of one line of music. The first line begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the lyrics 'A - men.' and ends with a double bar line.

PLEASE BE SEATED

The Word

THE FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me.

²What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, "Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons' teeth are set on edge"? ³As surely as I live, declares the LORD God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. ⁴Indeed, all souls are mine. The soul of the father is mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵But you say, "The LORD's way is not fair." Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? ²⁶If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

²⁷But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. ²⁸Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. ²⁹But the house of Israel says, "The LORD's way is not fair." Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

³⁰Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. ³¹Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the LORD God. So repent and live!

*Refrain*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;*
 in you I trust, O my God.
 Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,*
 for they are from of old.
 Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;*
 according to your love remember me,
 for you are good, O LORD.

Refrain

Turn to me and be gracious to me,*
 for I am lonely and afflicted.
 Look upon my affliction and my distress*
 and take away all my sins.
 Guard my life and rescue me,*
 for I take refuge in you.
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.

Refrain

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THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Indeed,^[a] let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. ⁶Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, ⁷but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VERSE OF THE DAY

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 21:28-32

M: The Gospel according to Matthew 21:28-32

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?”

They said to him, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen I tell you: The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



PLEASE BE SEATED

306 Before You, God the Judge of All

1 Be - fore you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I
 2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in
 3 O Je - sus, let your pre - cious blood Be to my soul a

hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,
 wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,
 cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,

My sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
 But let him draw to you my heart That tru - ly
 But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my

sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802-80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867-1937, alt.
 Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) attr. Martin Luther, 1483-1546.

SERMON

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

“Take Responsibility”

PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (SPOKEN RESPONSIVELY)

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: 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.

738 In Hopelessness and Near Despair



1 In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I
 2 I see my heart's con - di - tion now, My
 3 I trem - ble as I feel your hand, Ex -
 4 For - giv - en, free of guilt and shame, Grant



cry to you, my Sav - ior! My guilt is more than
 heart's di - verse af - fec - tions. Why do I love the
 pec - ting re - tri - bu - tion, Yet hear no curse or
 me some time to ren - der A gift to glo - ri -



I can bear. I have not earned your fav - or. You
 things you loathe; I'm torn in two di - rec - tions: Now
 re - pri - mand, But grace and ab - so - lu - tion: With
 fy your name, Love to re - flect your splen - dor: This



know me as I real - ly am: How
 prod - i - gal, now Phar - i - see. O
 you there is for - give - ness, Lord, You
 world must know what I have learned, That



much is truth, how much is sham; Why
 God, be mer - ci - ful to me; Who
 speak the sweet, con - sol - ing Word, And
 you be - stow what none has earned: The



should you heed my plead - ing?
 else but you can help me?
 I am sure you love me!
 joy of full for - give - ness!

PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



PLEASE BE SEATED

307 Wondrous Are Your Ways, O God



1 Won - drous are your ways, O God! No one can es -
 2 Search me, God, and know my heart, Lord of truth and



cape you! Far - thest space nor great - est depth Can - not
 mer - cy. From a - far, O Lord, you know All my



hide me from you! Long be - fore I came to birth,
 thoughts, my se - crets. And if an - y wick - ed way



Your eye saw and knew me. E - ven in life's
 Should be found with - in me, Cleanse, for - give me



dark - est hour In your hand you hold me.
 by your grace; By your Spir - it guide me.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–90, st. 1, alt.; Claus A. Wendell, 1866–1950, st. 2, alt.
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 Tune: JESU KREUZ, LEIDEN UND PEIN (76 76 D Trochaic) Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615, alt.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

LiturgyPastor Natsis
PreacherPastor Natsis
Organist Ann Hoeft
Deacons (Thursday) Dave Frey and Duane Mason
..... (Sunday - 8:30) Dave Boswell and Ed Wheeler
.....(Sunday – 11:00) Robert Niethammer and Brian Zahn
Altar Guild.....Sandy Kirkpatrick and Barb Neuburger
Videographer..... Deb Schneider

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