

# LUTHERAN CHAPEL



## SIMPLE EVENING PRAYER

Wednesdays in Lent 2021

7:30 pm

February 24, 2021

**Any offerings received during the Lenten Evening Prayer Services** will be sent to The Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center - A Domestic Violence Shelter. The Home serves as a temporary shelter for clients to work on goals to establish new housing, jobs, daycare, etc. while providing a safe, emergency residence where victims can live in times of crisis. Other services provided include counseling, court advocacy, support group meetings for women and children's programs. When the families leave, the staff wants them to be strong, hopeful for the future and know that there is always someone only a phone call away if help is needed.

# Simple Evening Prayer

## Lenten Season 2021

*The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

*“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*

**LBW #42**



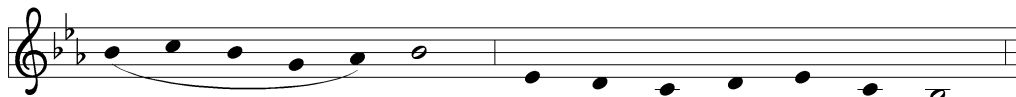
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have deem - been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**O Lord, have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, have mercy upon us.

**O Christ, have mercy upon us.**

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**O Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Mark 10:47*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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 APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

## REVELATION 1:1-8, 3:14-22

*The Risen Jesus Christ addresses His churches in their sin and brokenness.*

<sup>1</sup>The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup>who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

<sup>14</sup>And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation:

<sup>15</sup>I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing." You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup>Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. <sup>19</sup>I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. <sup>20</sup>Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. <sup>21</sup>To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup>Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

## LESSON

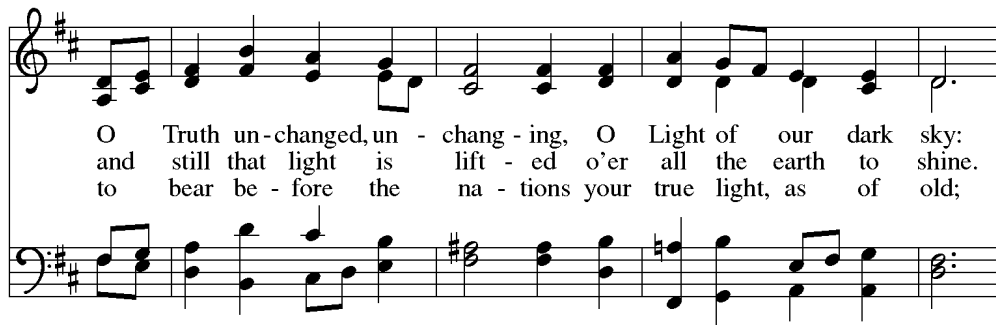
*"Broken Churches"*

## DISCUSSION WITH Q&A

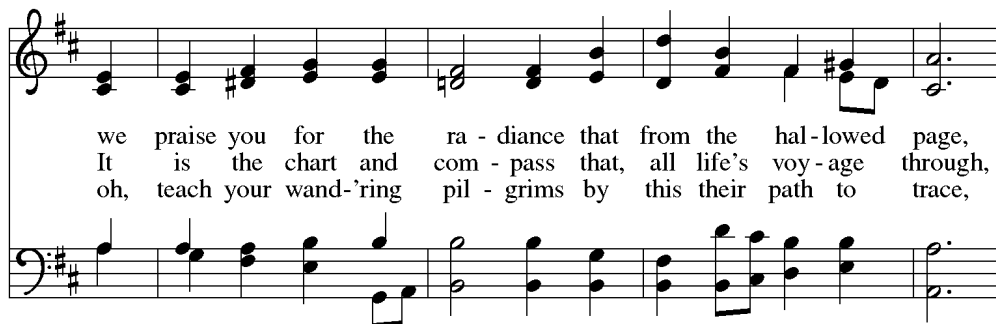
(See Expository Notes on Revelation 1-3 at end of bulletin)



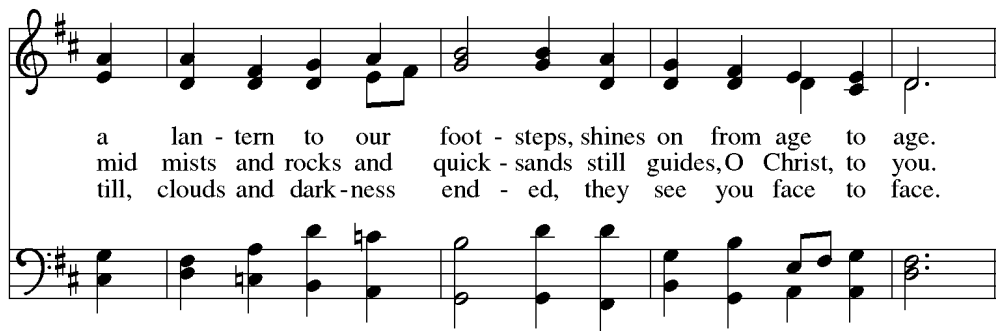
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
 oh, teach your wand - 'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

## THE EVENING LITANY AND PRAYERS

Answer me when I call,

*Psalm 4:1-5*

**O God of my righteousness.**

You have given my relief when I was in distress.

**Be gracious to me hear my prayer!**

O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?

**How long will you love vanity?**

But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;

**the LORD hears when I call to Him.**

Be angry, and do not sin;

**ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.**

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,

**and put your trust in the LORD.**

Grant O Lord this night

**to keep us without sin.**

*Te Deum of St. Ambrose*

Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**let my cry come before You.**

*Psalm 102:1*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by *prayer* (talk to God always!) and *supplication* with *thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6).

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*Psalm 103:1*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

*2 Corinthians 13:13*

1. Splen - dor and hon - or, maj - es - ty and pow - er  
2. Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our re - demp - tion,  
3. To the Al - might - y, throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor,

5  
Are Yours O Lord God, fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing,  
By Whose self - of - fring we are made God's peo - ple;  
And to the Sav - ior, Christ our Lamb and Shep - herd,

9  
For by Your bid - ding was the whole cre - a - tion  
A priest - ly king - dom, from all tongues and na - tions,  
Be ad - o - ra - tion, praise, and glo - ry giv - en,

13  
Called in - to be - ing.  
Called to God's ser - vice.  
Now and for - ey - er.

Tune: ©1987 K. Lee Scott, admin. Mominstar Music Publications  
Text: ©1990 Hope Publishing Co.

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## Revelation 1-3 The Vision of Jesus and Message to the Seven Churches

**Who?** Traditionally the Apostle John is considered the author of this book along with the Gospel of John, 1, 2, and 3 John in the New Testament. Some biblical scholars think it is another follower of Jesus also named John.

**What?** The book describes both the persecution of the Christian churches in the late 1<sup>st</sup> century and points to the Last Day with visions and prophecy.

**When?** There is a large consensus that Revelation was written between 95-110 AD during persecutions under the Roman Emperor Domitian.

**Where?** The island of Patmos in the Mediterranean Sea. It was distributed to churches in Asia Minor.

**Why?** The book is meant to reveal a message of hope to suffering Christians and ultimate return of Jesus Christ to put all things right.

### Terms

**Apocalypse:** This is the Greek name for Revelation. The word apocalypse is from the Greek word meaning to reveal or disclose. Apocalyptic language or literature uses a kind of code language that is meant to be understood by the persecuted minority to whom it is addressed. Word pictures and symbols are used to communicate both the distress of the time and ultimate hope in God. In addition to Revelation, other examples of apocalyptic literature include the Prophet Daniel, Isaiah 24-27, Ezekiel 38-39, Mark 13, Matthew 24-25, and Luke 21.

**Epistle:** This is a formal letter that is normally read out loud to a church. A significant portion of the New Testament is comprised of epistles.

**Numerology:** This is the symbolic use of numbers to convey meaning or esoteric knowledge. Examples include 7 = perfection (i.e., 7 days of creation), 12 = complete (i.e., 12 tribes of Israel, 12 apostles of Jesus), 40 = a long time, or even at time of trial (i.e., 40 days of the Great Flood, 40 days Jesus was in the wilderness).

### Notes on Verses

**Revelation 1:3 – The Seven Blessings:** A blessing is a declaration of favor or grace. It is performative language creating the reality by its being spoken (i.e., in confession the declaration “you are forgiven”, in marriage “I do”). There are seven blessings or beatitudes throughout the book at 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, and 22:14.

**Revelation 1:4 – The Seven Churches:** The seven churches are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea all along a major roadway in Asia Minor. Since the number seven also symbolizes completeness then the whole Christian Church may also be seen as being addressed.

**Revelation 1:10 – The Lord’s Day:** Sunday is known as the Lord’s Day honoring the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Already in the first century this became the primary day when followers of Jesus gathered together to receive “the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship...the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). While Christians may pray without ceasing, morning and evening, day by day, Sunday is always a festival day remembering our future hope of “the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting” (Apostles’ Creed).

**Revelation 1:20 – The Seven Golden Lampstands, Seven Stars:** Several of the symbolical terms in Revelation are defined later in the text. Hence, the seven golden lampstands are the seven churches and the seven stars are the angels assigned to protect each church. The idea of a guardian angel is found in Psalm 91:10-11 and Matthew 18:10 where each “little one” – each child of God - receives divine help.

**Revelation 2:6 – The Nicolaitans:** A group that ate food sacrificed to idols and practiced sexual immorality (Revelation 2:14-15). They may have been followers of Nicolaus, who according to the church fathers Irenaeus and Clement, was one of the original seven deacons mentioned in Acts 6:5 who later became a false teacher.

**Revelation 2:13 – Throne of Satan:** This is the adversary, the evil one who opposes God’s will. He is represented as the snake that tempted our first parents (Genesis 2 and 3), the prosecutor of just Job, and the tempter of Jesus (Matthew 4). The fallen angels seek to permanently separate human beings from God. Satan’s throne probably refers to the numerous pagan shrines in Pergamum and probably specifically the cult of Caesar. The false gods were often seen as demons deceiving human beings (Deuteronomy 32:17, 1 Corinthians 10:20).

**Revelation 2:14 – Balaam:** He is the biblical prototype of all corrupt teachers and religious compromisers. He encouraged immorality, idolatry, and infidelity against the Lord (Numbers 22-24, 25:1-3, 31:16, 2 Peter 2:15, and Jude 11).

**Revelation 2:20 – Jezebel:** She was the queen of the northern Kingdom of Israel, champion of the false god Baal, who persecuted the Prophet Elijah and all who followed the LORD. Here this symbolic name is used to indicate a false prophetess deceiving the church at Thyatira.



Sources: Oxford Annotated Study Bible, 1989, Revelation (Continental Commentary) by Jurgen Roloff, 1993, Revelation Study (Our Daily Bread) – ChristianUniversity.org/NT228, 2021, The Lutheran Study Bible, 2009, The Orthodox Study Bible, 2008

*We are so happy you joined us for worship this evening.  
Please fill out the information below and leave this page in the pew  
following the service. Thank you!*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Member    \_\_\_\_ Visitor    \_\_\_\_ Desire a call from the Pastor

**Prayer Request:** \_\_\_\_\_

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