

# **LUTHERAN CHAPEL**



## **SIMPLE EVENING PRAYER**

**Wednesdays in Lent 2021**

**7:30 pm**

**March 10, 2021**

# 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

*“I Know of a Sleep in Jesus’ Name”*

**LBW #342**

1 I know of a sleep in Je - sus' name, a rest from all  
 2 I know of a bless - ed e - ven - tide, and when I am  
 3 I know of a morn - ing bright and fair when tid - ings of

toil and sor - row; earth folds in its arms my wea - ry  
 faint and wea - ry, at times with the jour - ney sore - ly  
 joy shall wake us, when songs from on high shall fill the

frame and shel - ters it till the mor - row; with God I am  
 tried through hours that are long and drea - ry, then of - ten I  
 air and God to his glo - ry take us, when Je - sus shall

safe un - til that day when sor - row is gone for - ev - er.  
 yearn to lay me down and sink in - to peace - ful slum - ber.  
 bid us rise from sleep; how joy - ous that hour of wak - ing!

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 14:1-13

*John of Pamos calls on all who trust in Christ to endure. What does it mean to endure? How do we endure day by day until the Last Day?*

<sup>1</sup>Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, <sup>3</sup>and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup>It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; these follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been redeemed from humankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, <sup>5</sup>and in their mouth no lie was found; they are blameless.

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup>He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

<sup>8</sup>Then another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

<sup>9</sup>Then another angel, a third, followed them, crying with a loud voice, "Those who worship the beast and its image, and receive a mark on their foreheads or on their hands, <sup>10</sup>they will also drink the wine of God's wrath, poured unmixed into the cup of his anger, and they will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image and for anyone who receives the mark of its name."

<sup>12</sup>Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus.

<sup>13</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."

## LESSON

*"The Endurance of the Saints"*

## DISCUSSION WITH Q&A

(See Expository Notes on Revelation 10-14 at end of bulletin)



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, the spot - less Lamb of God;  
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; all full - ness dwells in him;  
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, this wea - ry soul of mine;



he bears them all and frees us from the ac - curs - ed load.  
 he heals all my dis - eas - es; my soul he does re - deem.  
 his right hand me em - brac - es; I on his breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus to wash my crim - son stains  
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, my bur - dens and my cares;  
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



clean in his blood most pre - cious till not a spot re - mains.  
 he from them all re - leas - es; he all my sor - rows shares.  
 like fra - grance on the breez - es his name a - broad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889

Music: MUNICH, *Neu-vermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

## 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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## **Chapters 10-14 The End Event as the Struggle with Anti-Godly Powers**

The 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 thunders all point to the same end event revealing different aspects and intensifying as the Last Judgment approaches at the conclusion of the book. The pattern to the series of 7 is four cosmic disasters, an interlude of promise, then the end. The powers opposed to God are many and portrayed here in symbolic language.

**Revelation 10:4 - The Seven Thunders:** The seven thunders are sealed and will not be written down. This reminds the reader that we will not know all.

**Revelation 10:9-11 – The Bitter and Sweet Scroll:** Such a prophetic experience receiving God’s Word is also described with Jeremiah 33:9, Ezekiel 2:8, 3:1-3, and Psalm 119:103. The contrast between sweetness in the mouth and bitterness in the stomach shows the sweetness of receiving God’s revelation as opposed to the bitterness of its message of woe.

**Revelation 11:2 – 1,260 days:** This is a symbolic term for a time boundary which appears in varying forms in chapters 11-13. There is 1,260 days (11:3, 12:6), a time and times and a half a time (12:14). This symbol is likely based on the length of time Antiochus Epiphanes terrorized Jerusalem in 167-164 BC signifying a period of persecution and testing for God’s people. Such evil will not be allowed to endure ultimately.

**Revelation 11:3 – The Two Witnesses:** The Law of Moses required two witnesses so that each could corroborate the other’s testimony. The two witnesses call to mind aspects of Elijah and Moses of old. They are delivered not from martyrdom and death but ***through martyrdom and death*** to a glorious resurrection (11:7, 11:11-12). Then the second woe concludes with the great earthquake.

**Revelation 11:15 – The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet:** The end event is announced at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet. After 11:15, the visions of John shift again to reveal the same end event now through the perspective of the struggle with the anti-godly powers.

**Revelation 12:1-17, 13:1-10, and 13:11 – the satanic or unholy trinity:** This is comprised of the dragon (symbol for the ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the world 12:9), the beast from the sea (symbol for the worldly kingdoms opposed to God’s rule), and the beast from the earth (symbol for the false religion and teaching).

**Revelation 12:7 – Archangel Michael:** In art, Michael is depicted in battle with the dragon/serpent holding the sword of the Cross and stabbing down on the ancient foe. This war with Michael and the good angels is usually interpreted to picture an event before the creation of the world (Isaiah 14:12-15). Here, as in Daniel 12:1-4, this heavenly battle is set before the end of the world.

**Revelation 12:11 – conquered him by The blood of the Lamb:** Jesus won the victory through His death and resurrection. **It is finished (John 19:30)**. The victory over sin, death, and devil is certain even as we undergo mess and hurt in this broken world leading up to the Last Day.



**Revelation 12:17 – war on the rest of her children:** This is us. These are God’s children in His Church who keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus. Even though evil is defeated, there is a recognition that anti-godly powers will continue to attack until the end.

**Revelation 13:8 - worship:** There is no middle ground, no neutral position in this scene. Either humans worship the beast/satanic trinity or humans worship the Lamb who was slain. Humankind is like a donkey that will be rode either by God or by the devil (Augustine).

**13:17-18 – mark/number of the beast 666:** This symbolic mark/number may refer to the Emperor Nero secretly to avoid persecution. This is derived used gematria. Gematria is a method of computing the numerical value of words based on adding up letters.

**Revelation 14:4 – the Virgins:** This symbol probably refers to all those chaste and pure in their faith to the Lord. When Paul describes the Church as Christ’s bride “holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:25-27) he is referring to her staying faithful to Christ alone hence a virgin.

**Revelation 14:12 – endurance of the saints:** The saints are not perfect people but those holy and set apart to belong to God. We are saints because of Jesus working with and in us. The call to endurance is one of the major themes of this book. **Let us keep on keeping on always!**

**Revelation 14:13 – Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord:** This is the second of the seven beatitudes in Revelation. The dead who die in the Lord – belonging to Him by our baptism, by our trust in Him, will be blessed and with Him forever. This is the hope of all who die before the Last Day – to commend ourselves in Jesus’ Name at the hour of our death.



**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.

## Questions and Answers about Revelation

- *Why are the tribes of Dan and Ephraim missing from the list of the tribes of Israel in Revelation 7:5-8?* Dan is excluded from this list possibly due to their sins described in Judges 18. Ephraim may be missing due to their sins described in 2 Kings 17. However, before we think these tribes are permanently lost, the very next part of this vision depicts “a great multitude that no one could number” (Revelation 7:9). God alone is judge and knows all who belong to Him.
  
- *Who are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth in Revelation 5:6?* The same vision is seen at Revelation 1:4. This may be an unusual way of referring to the Holy Spirit. In Isaiah 11:2 the one Spirit of the LORD goes on to be described as the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear/awe – hence seven spirits of God. “Let it not trouble you that either here it is said, “rivers” or elsewhere, “seven spirits” for by the sanctification of these seven gifts of the Spirit, as Isaiah said, is signified the fullness of all virtue” (Ambrose). This seven-fold gift is also used in the Confirmation liturgy where disciples confirm their faith in Jesus and pray to receive these seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit.
  
- *Are the seven seals (Revelation 6-7), seven trumpets (Revelation 8-11), seven thunders (Revelation 10:1-4), seven plagues/bowls (Revelation 15-16) a sequence of historical events?* Yes and no. Yes, these are visions of the end event growing in intensity and leading up to “the wrath of God...finished” (Revelation 15:1). No, they are probably better understood as a kaleidoscope of images revealing different aspects of the same end event that culminates with the final judgement described in Revelation 19-20. It would be wrong to try and set up a sequential, historical roadmap using these visions – the plain sense of the text stops such an effort when the reader realizes the seven thunders that John sees are not revealed. We simply are not permitted to know all. However, we do know enough to recognize an end event is coming and that Jesus Christ is in ultimate control.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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.