

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



SIMPLE EVENING PRAYER

Wednesdays in Lent 2021

7:30 pm

March 17, 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

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

LBW #383

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG. William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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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 20:1-15, 21:1-8

The vision of the end is both terrible and beautiful. Jesus, who was, who is, and who is to come, will put all things right. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³and threw him into the pit, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while.

⁴Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. Over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him a thousand years.

⁷When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will come out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, in order to gather them for battle; they are as numerous as the sands of the sea. ⁹They marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from heaven and consumed them. ¹⁰And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; ¹⁵and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am

the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

LESSON

"Last Judgement and the New Heaven and New Earth"

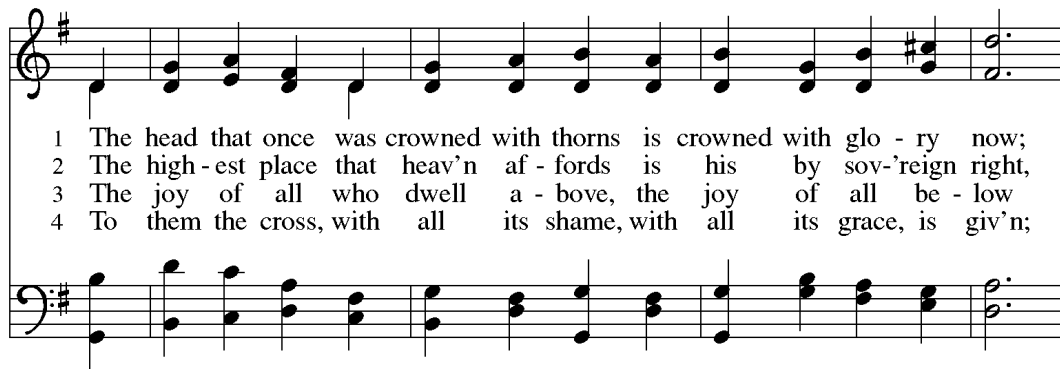
DISCUSSION WITH Q&A

(See Expository Notes on Revelation 15-20 at end of bulletin)

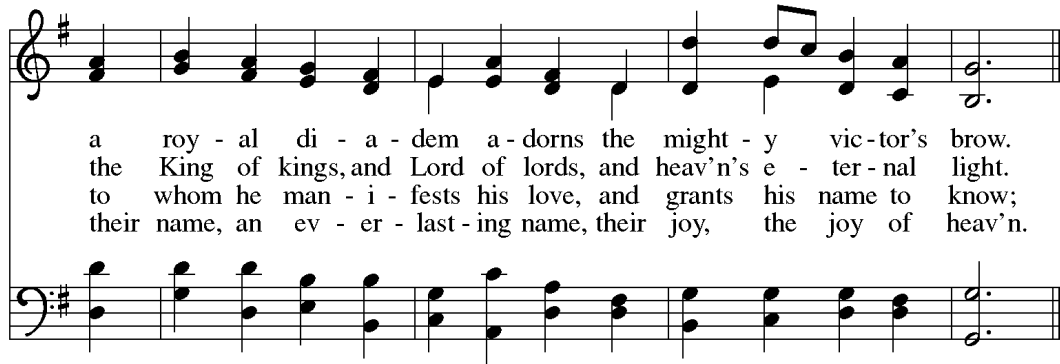
HYMN

"The Head That Once Was Crowned"

LBW #173



1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is his by sov-'reign right,
3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n;



a roy - al di - a - dem a - dons the might - y vic - tor's brow.
the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's e - ter - nal light.
to whom he man - i - fests his love, and grants his name to know;
their name, an ev - er - last - ing name, their joy, the joy of heav'n.

5 They suffer with their Lord below;
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the myst'ry of his love.

6 The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme!

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855
Music: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke, 1669-1707

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
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† † † † † † † †

Chapter 15-20 The Consummation of All Things Part One

Revelation 15:3-4 – Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb: From the songs in Exodus 15 and Deuteronomy 32 to the end times songs, the ultimate deliverance of God’s people then, now and in the future results in praise.

Revelation 15:7 – Seven Bowls of the wrath of God: Christ is Lord to close history. Like the earlier series of seven, these visions intensify and build up to the end event. Vengeance is Mine says the Lord (Romans 12:19) and here the wrath of God destroys evil.

Revelation 16:15 – Blessed is the one who stays awake and is clothed, not going about naked and exposed to shame: This beatitude recalls Jesus’ call to be alert (re: Matthew 24:42-44). The clothing may refer to putting on Christ which is done by receiving Holy Baptism (Galatians 3:27).

Revelation 16:16 – Armageddon: Historically, decisive battles in Israel’s history were fought near Megiddo. In the final conflict at Armageddon, evil spirits lead apostate humankind against God. The battle is more fully depicted in 20:7-10 and foreshadowed in Ezekiel 39 and Joel 4. The past, present, and future victory of God over demonic power is assured.

Revelation 17:5 – Babylon the great: Actually, not so great! This is a spiritual reality, a “mystery” transcending concrete manifestations. Babylon from the tower of Babel to the exile into Babylon to the Rome of John’s day, to the worldly powers that are and those yet to come all prostitute themselves to evil and oppose the true LORD and His people.

Revelation 17:14 – the Lamb will conquer: Like the vision in Revelation 5, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who is opposed by Babylon and the combined forces of many kingdoms is victorious through His death and resurrection.

Revelation 18:4 – come out of her My people: This is a spiritual and moral call. We must be on our guard against those who are thus given to wicked disposition, lest we share in their sin and perish together with them (Luther).

Revelation 19:8 – Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb: On the side of Babylon is prostitution, fornication, and desecration. Yet the beatitude points to the purity, commitment, and life-bearing union of marriage. The Church is now betrothed to Christ by faith. Yet the Church awaits the coming of the Bridegroom for this ultimate union of Christ and His Church and the great feast at the consummation of all things.

Revelation 19:20 – the lake of fire: In a climactic battle two of the unholy trinity fall. The anti-godly powers of the first beast (false god) and the second beast (false prophet) are judged and thrown into the lake of fire. Hell, in the Greek Gehenna, is pictured as the noxious, smoldering garbage dump just outside in the Valley of Hinnom. In the past, pagan rituals, including child sacrifice had occurred in this valley. It came to be associated with the place of the wicked dead where eternal torment was to happen (Matthew 18:9, 25:41, 2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Revelation 20:6 – Blessed and holy are those who share in the **first resurrection**. Over these the **second death** has no power...but they will reign with Him **a thousand years**:

- The **first resurrection** is the heavenly life of souls who have died in Christ before His second coming. These righteous spirits (Hebrews 12:23) await only the reuniting of soul and body after the final judgment in the new creation (John 5:24, Revelation 21:1).
- The **second death** is defined in v.14 as punishment in the lake of fire. The second death occurs after the bodily resurrection. Here there will be eternal torment. Those who have chosen to separate themselves from God will be separate thus damning themselves.
- The **millennium** is literally a thousand years. There are several interpretations:

Postmillennialists believe that Christ will come **after** the millennium has taken place. The kingdom of God is now being extended in the world through the proclamation of the gospel and the saving work of the Holy Spirit. Christ is already reigning through His obedient Church and will bring to the world a thousand years of peace and righteousness prior to His return at the conclusion of history.

Premillennialists maintain that Christ will come **before** the millennium begins. Despite all attempts to save society, things will become worse and worse, and in the last days Antichrist will gain control of human affairs. Only the catastrophic return of Christ can begin the golden age of one thousand years of peace on earth.

Amillennialists regard the thousand years as a **numerical symbol** that means the very long time period between the first coming of Christ and His second coming. During this entire period Satan's power is limited by the proclamation of the gospel. The last days began with Jesus and with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and they will end with the Last Day.

The Lutheran Confessions - Augsburg Confession, Article #17: It is also taught that our Lord Jesus Christ will return on the Last Day to judge, to raise all the dead, to give eternal life and eternal joy to those who believe and are elect, but to condemn the ungodly and the devils to hell and eternal punishment.

Revelation 20:8 – Gog and Magog: These are nations hostile to God gathered for one final assault against God's people (re: Ezekiel 38-39).

Revelation 20:10 – devil...thrown into the lake of fire: This is the end of Satan with eternal torment in hell along with the rest of the satanic trinity and those who choose to be with them.

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 does God permit these bad things to happen?

There are three biblical trajectories that may help. First is the concept of Providence. God is shaping reality according to an ultimate plan. Sometimes we can look back and see and understand (re: Jeremiah 29:10-14 and Ephesians 1:3-10).

Second is that bad things happening may lead to people turning back to Him. Some may receive the gift of repentance and change when bad things happen, some may share in Christ's suffering knowing that bad things are ultimately going away (re: Deuteronomy 8:5-6 and 1 Peter 4:12-19).

Third is that the bad things happening seem to make no sense at all. The prayers of lament are given to us as God's faithful people pray their pain and sorrow to our Father in Heaven crying out "How long?" (re: Lamentations and Revelation 6:9-11).

*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.