

GOD WOULD; WE WOULD NOT

AS WE GATHER

The theme of Lent is repentance. Today, we are given a prophet's story of warning against a people who refused His mercy. But it is not the only story. The Lord still invites us to find a refuge in the wings of His mercy and, to all who will receive Him and believe on His name, there is no limit to His grace. The Lord is determined to go to the cross for us and to bestow upon us all the treasures of His grace, but the path that leads to Christ is the way of repentance and faith. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work in our hearts so that we may not refuse the Lord's invitation and may rejoice in the wings of His mercy forevermore.

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN "THE DAY IS SURELY DRAWING NEAR"

#508



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

- 5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

6 May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 74:1

P O God, why do You cast us off forever?
C Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

P May the Lord direct us to the ruins of our righteousness
C that we may learn repentance.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

P O Lord,
C we poor sinners cry to You and beg Your mercy. We confess that we have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered most of all. Our Lord's name we have not honored as we should; our worship and prayers have faltered. We have not loved God above all things, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done the good Your Word desires and have done the evil Your Word forbids. May God be merciful to us, forgive us all our sins, and strengthen our faith for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. To the impenitent and unbelieving I declare that so long as you continue in your impenitence, God will not forgive your sins

and will visit your iniquity upon you until you turn from your sinful ways, come to repentance, and trust in the merits of Jesus Christ alone.

C Amen.

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 74:1–3; antiphon: Psalm 69:9

For zeal for your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

O God, why do you cast us off forever?

Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!

Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.

Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;
the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!

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.

For zeal for your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

KYRIE

LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY

P On this Second Sunday in Lent, we are reminded that the Lord is rich in mercy and willing to forgive our sins and save us by His grace, but we are not always ready to approach Him in the humility of faith and with a heart of repentance. From the prophet Jeremiah comes the story of how the Word of the Lord was met with rejection, anger, and rebellion. In Philippians, a sorrowful Paul recounts the story of those who once believed but now walk as enemies of the Lord. In the Gospel, we hear the lament of the Lord who wanted to gather His people under the arms of His mercy, but they would not.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 26:8–15

⁸When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard.

¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 3:17–4:1

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Luke 13:35

Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:31–35

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “LORD, THEE I LOVE WITH ALL MY HEART”

#708



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from
 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun-ty gave My bod - y, soul, and
 3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om



me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth
 all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,
 bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And



has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were
 grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy
 in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in



void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my
 lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false
 peace-ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from



heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.
 doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
 death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,

Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my
O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior
blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -
Lord, my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust Thy Word.
Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy com - fort still af - ford.
tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Zwey Bücher . . . Tabulatur, 1577, Strassburg
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

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.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Bidden by Your mercy, O Lord, we come in prayer to petition Your aid for the Church, the nation, the sick, and all people who have requested our prayers.

O Lord, as once You warned Your people to mend their ways and their deeds and heed the voice of Your Word, so grant us grace that we mend our sinful ways, repent of all the things we have done wrong, and heed the voice of Your Word. Bring us to the obedience of faith that we may enjoy Your mercy and tender compassion. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant grace to Your Church and those who preach and teach Your Word, that they be faithful to Your Word and truth and that Your Church may prosper and many be brought to faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Guide and prosper our nation in paths of goodness and virtue. Bless our president, governor, and all elected and appointed government officials, that we may be free to worship You in spirit and truth and live as godly citizens while on earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Deliver us from stubbornness of heart and willful desire that we may learn in all humility and patience and share with others the Gospel of the cross. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Show Your compassion to all who cry to You for mercy and who bear any afflictions of body and soul, *especially Hedy, Jean, Kathleen, Ray, Sallyann, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Jean, Jen, John, Leah and Rod*. Grant them healing in accordance with Your will and patience until Your deliverance comes. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give us generous hearts, that what we have received we share with those in need and that we support the work of Your kingdom with all our abilities and with the tithes and offerings we bring. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Humble our hearts that we may approach Your altar in good conscience, forgiven of our sins and trusting in Jesus' Word. Grant that we come united in doctrine, receive here His body and blood with thanksgiving, and depart His Table to serve our neighbor in love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Hear Your people, O Lord, who come to You at Your own invitation, with the concerns of our hearts and praise of our lips, trusting that You will grant us all things needful and protect us from all things harmful to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

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.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

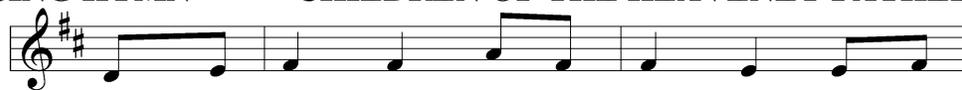
P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

“CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER”

#725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, 1873, Sweden

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