

PEACE FROM THE CROSS

AS WE GATHER

“For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross” (Colossians 1:19–20). On the cross, Jesus died for the sins of the world. On the cross, Jesus comforted one of the criminals crucified with Him. On the cross, Jesus interceded even for those who crucified Him. On the cross, Jesus makes peace by His blood.

OPENING HYMN “ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS”

#821



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the  
left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is  
earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the  
nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of  
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.  
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.  
Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.  
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der  
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the  
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -  
As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in  
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der



like a might - y flood: “Je - sus out of  
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -  
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of  
flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both  
like a might - y flood: “Je - sus out of



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."  
get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.  
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87  
Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Though darkness surrounds us,  
**C** Christ shines His light upon us.
- P** Though our world is full of war and violence,  
**C** Christ is our peace.
- P** Though our relationships are strained and broken,  
**C** Christ brings reconciliation and redemption.
- P** Though we fail to remember Jesus,  
**C** He always remembers us.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** In our lives, we often ask ourselves, “Who am I?” We seek to define ourselves by our jobs, relationships, finances, skills, and most devastatingly of all, our failures. Yet ultimately, who we are resides in none of these things. Our identity is in Jesus and what He has done for us. As we come before our heavenly Father, we confess everything we have elevated above Jesus, and we ask for forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

- P** Heavenly Father,  
**C** we have sinned against You in thoughts, words, and deeds. Forgive us, renew us, and point us back to Jesus. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. By His cross, Jesus makes peace and delivers you from all your sins to live as His new creation. For Jesus’ sake, God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. 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. In Jesus we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## INTROIT

*Psalm 134; antiphon: Psalm 33:8*

Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!  
Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,  
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!  
Lift up your hands to the holy place  
and bless the LORD!  
May the LORD bless you from Zion,  
he who made heaven and earth!  
**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.**  
Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

## KYRIE

*LSB 204*

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

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*LSB 204*



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Malachi 3:13–18*

<sup>13</sup>“Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ <sup>14</sup>You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? <sup>15</sup>And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

<sup>16</sup>Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. <sup>17</sup>“They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup>Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

*Colossians 1:13–20*

<sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**VERSE**

Luke 23:43

Alleluia. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 23:27-43

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup>But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ <sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ <sup>31</sup>For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

<sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup>And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup>And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “LORD, ENTHRONED IN HEAVENLY SPLENDOR” #534**

1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, First - be - got - ten  
 2 Though the low - liest form now veil You As of old in  
 3 Pas - chal Lamb, Your of - f'ring, fin - ished Once for all when  
 4 Life - im - part - ing heav'n - ly man - na, Strick - en rock with



from the dead, You a - lone, our strong de - fend - er,  
 Beth - le - hem, Here as there Your an - gels hail You,  
 You were slain, In its full - ness un - di - min - ished  
 stream - ing side, Heav'n and earth with loud ho - san - na

Lift - ing up Your peo - ple's head. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Shall for - ev - er - more re - main, Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Wor - ship You, the Lamb who died, Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Cleans - ing souls from  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ris'n, as - cend - ed,

liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!  
 join with them; We in wor - ship join with them.  
 ev - 'ry stain; Cleans - ing souls from ev - 'ry stain.  
 glo - ri - fied! Ris'n, as - cend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

Text: George H. Bourne, 1840–1925, alt.  
 Tune: William Owen, 1813–93  
 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.**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, You defeat all the powers of evil and darkness. Strengthen us to resist the temptations of Satan. Surround us with Your truth and light. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor,

**C** be our strong defender.

**P** Lord, we live in a world torn apart by war and violence. All human-made peace is only temporary, but You have made eternal peace by the blood of Your cross. Encourage us by Your peace, which passes all understanding. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor,

**C** be our strong defender.

**P** Lord, we bring before You all who are struggling with infertility. Remind them that their identity is only in You and Your goodness and fruitfulness. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor,

**C** be our strong defender.

**P** Lord, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor,

**C** be our strong defender.

**P** Lord, strengthen all those who struggle with addictions. Break their bondage and lead them to get the help they need. Give them the courage to ask for help. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor,

**C** be our strong defender.

**P** Lord, aid all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they bring Your Word to Your people so that more and more people may see Your light. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor,

**C** be our strong defender.

**P** Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, *especially Hedy, Jean, Ray, Rose, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Kris, Jen, John, Jonathan, Leah, and Rod*. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor,

**C** be our strong defender.

**P** Lord Jesus, we commend all these people and situations to Your infinite wisdom and power, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,

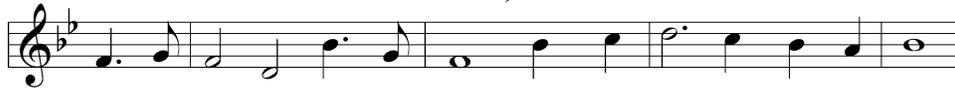
**Thy will be done on earth  
 as it is in heaven;  
 give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom  
 and the power and the glory  
 forever 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.

## CLOSING HYMN “ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME”

#761



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;  
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de - mands;  
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.  
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,  
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
 Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;  
 When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
 All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.  
 Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78

Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Text and tune: Public domain

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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