

# ***Holy Cross Day***



***September 14, 2025***

***Zion Lutheran Church  
Crosstown, Missouri***

*Church Office: 573-824-5728*

*E-Mail: [salemlutheran@hotmail.com](mailto:salemlutheran@hotmail.com)*

***Rev. John Hellwege, Pastor***

*Cell: 314-808-5499*

*E-Mail: [pastorhellwege@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhellwege@gmail.com)*

*Website: [salemlutheran8.wixsite.com/SalemandZion](http://salemlutheran8.wixsite.com/SalemandZion)*

# Confession and Absolution

## 744 Amazing Grace (*Hymn of the Week*)

*sts. 1–5*

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.  
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond  
Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

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

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

**C Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Psalm

*Psalm 40:1–11; antiphon: v. 13*



<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently | for the LORD;\*  
he inclined to me and | heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup>He drew me up from the pit of destruction,  
out of the | miry bog,\*  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my | steps secure.

<sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise | to our God.\*  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust | in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>Blessèd is the man who makes  
the | LORD his trust,\*  
who does not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray af- | ter a lie!

<sup>5</sup>You have multiplied, O LORD my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
none can com- | pare with you! \*  
I will proclaim and tell of them,  
yet they are more than | can be told.

<sup>6</sup>Sacrifice and offering you have not desired,  
but you have given me an | open ear. \*  
Burnt offering and sin offering  
you have | not required.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, “Behold, | I have come; \*  
in the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

<sup>8</sup>I desire to do your will, | O my God; \*  
your law is with- | in my heart.”

<sup>9</sup>I have told the glad news of deliverance  
in the great congre- | gation; \*  
behold, I have not restrained my lips,  
as you know, | O LORD.

<sup>10</sup>I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your sal- | vation; \*  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
from the great congre- | gation.

<sup>11</sup>As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain  
your mer- | cy from me; \*  
your steadfast love and your faithfulness will  
ever pre- | serve me!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning, \*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

## Kyrie

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## 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.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament

*Numbers 21:4–9*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Gradual: The Fifth Commandment and Meaning

*LSB 321*

You shall not murder.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

## Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 1:18–25*

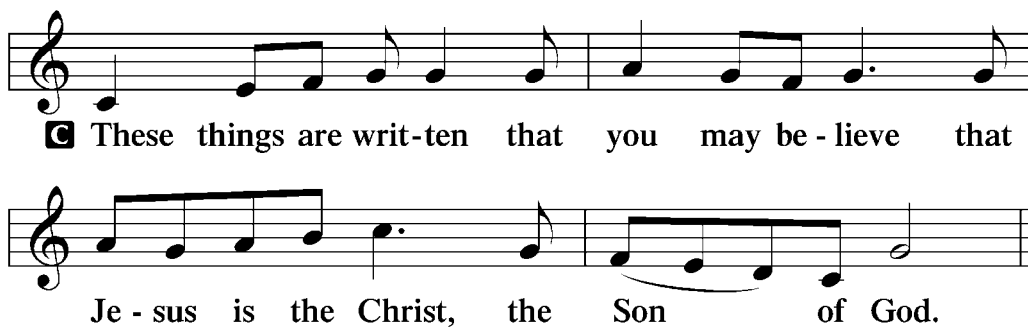
<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



## Holy Gospel

*John 12:20–33*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

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

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. <sup>27</sup>“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

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

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

## 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.



## 938 In Peace and Joy I Now Depart



1 In peace and joy I now de-part Since God so wills it.  
2 Christ Je - sus brought this gift to me, My faith - ful Sav - ior,  
3 You sent the peo - ple of the earth Their great sal - va - tion;  
4 Christ is the hope and sav-ing light Of those in blind - ness;



Se - rene and con - fi - dent my heart; Still - ness fills it.  
Whom You have made my eyes to see By Your fa - vor.  
Your in - vi - ta - tion sum - mons forth Ev - 'ry na - tion  
He guides and com-forts those in night By His kind - ness.



For the Lord has prom-ised me That death is but a slum - ber.  
Now I know He is my life, My friend when I am dy - ing.  
By Your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, In ev - 'ry place re - sound-ing.  
For Your peo - ple Is - ra - el In Him find joy and glo - ry.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 1): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.; (sts. 2–4): tr. Christian Worship, 1993, alt.  
Tune: Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
Text (st. 1): © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003338  
Text (sts. 2–4) and tune: Public domain

## Offering

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

## Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

*LSB 208*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**Amen.**

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

### 763 When Peace, like a River



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My  
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

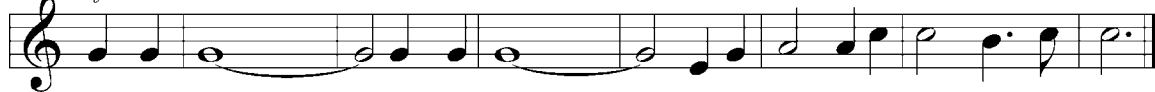


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt.  
Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–76  
Text and tune: Public domain

## 624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -  
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con  
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own  
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple  
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought  
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels  
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the

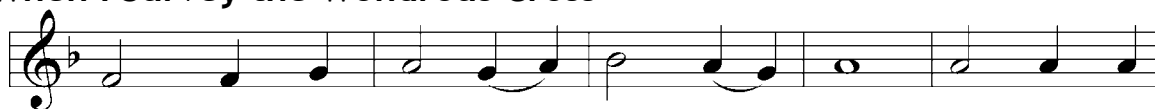


forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.  
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.  
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.  
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
 As at the rail on bended knee  
 Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
 The bread of immortality.
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
 A priestly food and priestly meat;  
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
 His quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim  
 Our voices join the endless hymn,  
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing  
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970  
 Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807  
 Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003338  
 Tune: Public domain

## 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the  
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made  
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in  
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the  
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
 That is the firmest ground of faith.

△6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
 To You, O blessèd Trinity,  
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93  
 Text and tune: Public domain



**Sermon**      **“Nunc Dimittis”**  
**Luke 2:29-32**

For obvious reasons, death has taken the forefront of our cultural dialog. Since Aug 22 we have witnessed the shooting at Annunciation Catholic School, the stabbing of Iryna Zarutskya on a tram in Charlotte, NC and now the assassination of Charlie Kirk. At the same time, we have witnessed the Federal Government taking over law enforcement in Washington, DC, because of violent crime. This has led to questions about things like violence, political violence and transgenderism.

But there is also the question of death. How are we to face death? One good thing that I have heard following the shooting of Charlie Kirk is that some have pointed to his faith in Christ and the promise of eternal life that Charlie held to.

All of this talk about death should also make us ask ourselves: “Am I ready to die?” What will it take for you to be ready to die? Now, obviously, no-one wants to die. But what is it that will really make you ready to die?

Many put it in terms of having a bucket list, a list of things we want to do before we die. The problem is that we tend to be selfish, thinking about what we want to do or accomplish. As human beings we tend to want to do our own things and go our own ways. As a result, the most important aspect to the question “are you ready to die?” is not what we want to do first; rather it is, “are you ready for what comes after your death?”

In Heb. 9:27 we are told “it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.” As much as people tend to fear death, the real issue is what comes after death. If you face death, at any age or stage of life, with guilt before God, you are in trouble! To go to the judgment with guilt before God will lead to eternal damnation!

It doesn't matter how “big” or “small” our guilt is. God expects, God demands perfection. The reason is that any sin is a rebellion against Him. Anything you do wrong is, in essence, saying to God: “I don't want to follow your ways.” It's really a declaration that we think we know better than God what's right. This means that any and all guilt condemns us.

Therefore, if we are going to be ready to face death, and the judgment, we need grace.

To truly be ready to die, we need the assurance that God loves and forgives us. We need to know that we are not going to face God's eternal wrath, but can have the promise of His mercy.

In Luke 2, we meet a man named Simeon. We are told he was "Righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel." In other words, he was waiting for God to bring the promised salvation. Simeon was even given a unique promise from God, for "it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ."

So, Simeon waited for the One who would bring salvation. We don't know how long, but he waited. Then, when Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus to the Temple, God's promise to Simeon was fulfilled.

When he finally saw and held Jesus, Simeon, filled with joy praised God saying: "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Simeon was declaring that He could die in peace, for by depart he meant to leave this life. He could die in peace, because he saw the savior. Simeon could die in peace, for he had held in his hands the One who would die to redeem all people.

We also know that the infant, Jesus, would grow up to suffer and die on the cross and rise again on the third day. He would do this to take away the wall that divides sinful human beings from God. Jesus took our guilt away from us, so we can now live in God's presence forever.

Jesus even takes away the barriers between people. As Simeon notes that Jesus is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Therefore, the promise of Jesus' forgiveness is for all people of all colors, cultures and nations. All who receive Christ receive His love and grace. Here and here alone do we find the path forward to unity in our terribly fractured world!

What a wonderful experience for Simeon! Imagine, seeing Jesus with your own eyes! What joy to hold Him close.

Dear friends, this is what we also get to do in the Lord's Supper. When Jesus comes to us here, He comes in His very body and blood. He comes in the bread and the wine. While they still look like, taste like, and in fact are bread and wine, they are more than that. There we also receive the very body and blood of Jesus.

When you look at that wafer of bread, Jesus is really there!

When you look at that chalice of wine, Jesus is really there!

So, you too get a chance to see Jesus in His body and blood! You too get to hold Him close, even closer than Simeon, as He comes into you! And because of this, you receive the salvation Jesus came to bring.

Therefore, you, along with Simeon can in fact die in peace! This is the reason we sing Simeon's song, known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, after the Lord's Supper. As you might guess, *Nunc Dimittis* are just the first words of it in Latin, meaning "Let us now depart."

When we sing this, we need to remember Simeon's situation. He wasn't talking about departing the Temple to go home, he was talking about departing from this life. He could die in peace.

We leave church quite ready to die in peace. We are ready to die in peace with God, because we too have beheld Jesus.

Think of the words of the *Nunc Dimittis*: "O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heavenly peace, for I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace: a light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill, the glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel."

We can depart from here and be ready to die in peace, because of the promises of God's Word. We have seen His salvation!

We then follow Simeon's song with a doxology, a praise of the Triune God. Some people bow during part of this, honoring the name of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Bowing is optional. But as we sing, we honor and praise God for His grace that He gives to us, even in the Sacrament. We close this by praising God, Father Son and Holy Spirit for His grace and mercy.

But, if the Sacrament is about our receiving Jesus, and Simeon first sang this when he held the infant Jesus, why do we sing a doxology to the three persons of the Trinity? The reason is that our salvation, like all things, is done by the whole of God. In 1 Peter 1:2, Peter describes our salvation in this way: it is "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood." This is why we immediately go from one person of the Trinity to the whole of the Godhead; because all three Persons are working for our salvation.

So, are you ready to die? If you have held and seen Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine, then you are.

Now that you have received Christ, you can depart in peace. You can leave this building to go back to life, knowing that you have peace with God. But even more than that, you can leave this life, knowing that because of God's salvation in Christ, you are forgiven and have God's love now and for all eternity. There is no reason for us to fear death. We have beheld and received God's long-promised salvation.

Depart in peace.

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in lead the the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 202

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## 937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,  
Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and  
va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025

Tune: American

Text (sts. 1–2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003338

Tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission.

All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.