

# **Our Savior Lutheran Church**

**Lent 1 Midweek**

**“From Guilt to Innocence - Legal”**

**March 12, 2025**

**Order of Service - Vespers - p. 229**

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

sts. 1-7



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken  
 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?  
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?  
 With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;  
 It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;  
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -  
 They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -  
 Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -  
 The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?  
 cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.  
 her - it, This I do mer - it.  
 owe Him, Who would not know Him.

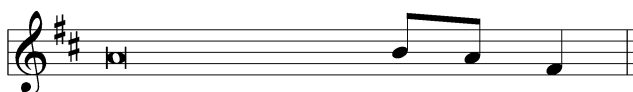
- 5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
 The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
 Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;  
 God is committed.
- 6 There was no spot in me by sin untainted;  
 Sick with sin's poison, all my heart had fainted;  
 My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me,  
 Such woe it wrought me.
- 7 O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,  
 That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!  
 All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying  
 While Thou wert dying.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662  
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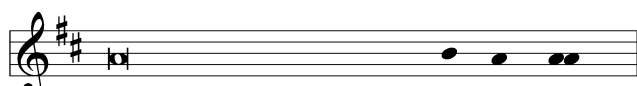
Stand



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



□ Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



■ make haste to help me, O Lord.



■ Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

## Psalmody

### Psalm

*Psalm 32*

<sup>1</sup>Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,\*  
whose sin is | covered.

<sup>2</sup>**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,\*  
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup>For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away\*  
through my groaning | all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;\*  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.**

<sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my in- | iquity;\*

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>**Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;\*  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not | reach him.**

<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from | trouble;\*  
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.

<sup>8</sup>**I will instruct you and teach you in the way | you should go;\*  
I will counsel you with my eye up- | on you.**

<sup>9</sup>Be not like a horse or a mule, without under- | standing,\*  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay | near you.

<sup>10</sup>Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,\*  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.

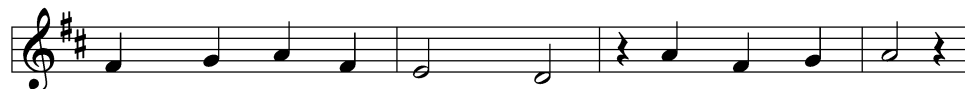
<sup>11</sup>Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O | righteous,\*  
and shout for joy, all you up- | right in heart!

Sit

### 557 Seek Where You May to Find a Way



1 Seek where you may To find a way That  
2 Seek whom you may To be your stay, None  
3 Seek Him a - lone Who did a - tone, Who  
4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright, O



leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is stilled,  
can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers failed;  
did your souls de - liv - er. O seek Him first,  
Christ, my joy for - ev - er. Not wealth nor pride



On Christ I build, He is the one foun - da - tion.  
This man pre - vailed, The God - man and none oth - er,  
All you who thirst For grace that fails you nev - er.  
Nor for - tune's tide Our bonds of love shall sev - er.



His Word is sure, His works en - dure; He o - ver - throws  
Our Ser - vant - King Of whom we sing. We're jus - ti - fied  
In ev - 'ry need Seek Him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart  
You are my Lord; Your pre - cious Word Shall guide my way



All e - vil foes; Through Him I more than con - quer.  
Be - cause He died, The guilt - y be - ing guilt - less.  
He will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.  
And help me stay For - ev - er in Your pres - ence.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt.

Tune: Johann Stobäus, 1580–1646

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## Readings

### Reading

**L** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 45.

Isaiah 45:18–25

<sup>18</sup>For thus says the LORD,  
who created the heavens  
(he is God!),

who formed the earth and made it  
 (he established it;  
 he did not create it empty,  
 he formed it to be inhabited!):  
 “I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
<sup>19</sup>I did not speak in secret,  
 in a land of darkness;  
 I did not say to the offspring of Jacob,  
 ‘Seek me in vain.’  
 I the LORD speak the truth;  
 I declare what is right.  
<sup>20</sup>“Assemble yourselves and come;  
 draw near together,  
 you survivors of the nations!  
 They have no knowledge  
 who carry about their wooden idols,  
 and keep on praying to a god  
 that cannot save.  
<sup>21</sup>Declare and present your case;  
 let them take counsel together!  
 Who told this long ago?  
 Who declared it of old?  
 Was it not I, the LORD?  
 And there is no other god besides me,  
 a righteous God and a Savior;  
 there is none besides me.  
<sup>22</sup>“Turn to me and be saved,  
 all the ends of the earth!  
 For I am God, and there is no other.  
<sup>23</sup>By myself I have sworn;  
 from my mouth has gone out in righteousness  
 a word that shall not return:  
 ‘To me every knee shall bow,  
 every tongue shall swear allegiance.’  
<sup>24</sup>“Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,  
 are righteousness and strength;  
 to him shall come and be ashamed  
 all who were incensed against him.  
<sup>25</sup>In the LORD all the offspring of Israel  
 shall be justified and shall glory.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Reading

**L** A reading from Romans, chapter 3.

*Romans 3:1-31*

<sup>1</sup>Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? <sup>2</sup>Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. <sup>3</sup>What if some were unfaithful?

Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? <sup>4</sup>By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words,  
and prevail when you are judged.”

<sup>5</sup>But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) <sup>6</sup>By no means! For then how could God judge the world? <sup>7</sup>But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? <sup>8</sup>And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

<sup>9</sup>What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, <sup>10</sup>as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;  
<sup>11</sup>no one understands;  
no one seeks for God.

<sup>12</sup>All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;  
no one does good,  
not even one.”

<sup>13</sup>“Their throat is an open grave;  
they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

<sup>14</sup>“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

<sup>15</sup>“Their feet are swift to shed blood;  
<sup>16</sup>in their paths are ruin and misery,

<sup>17</sup>and the way of peace they have not known.”,

<sup>18</sup>“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. <sup>29</sup>Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup>since God is one. He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. <sup>31</sup>Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

**L** A reading from John, chapter 8.

*John 8:1–11*



**I** for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.  
**II** For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.  
**I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;  
**II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.  
**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the  
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the  
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.  
**I** He has filled the hun - gry with good things,  
and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.  
**II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy  
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev - er.  
**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;  
as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.



## Offering

# Prayer

*Kneel/Stand*

## Kyrie

*LSB 233*



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

## 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.

## Collects

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.  
**C** And let my cry come to You.

## Collect of the Day

- P** O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Collect for Peace

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

*Stand*

Benedicamus



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction



**P** The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C** A - men.

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken



8 O might - y King, no time can dim Thy glo - ry!  
9 For vain - ly doth our hu - man wis - dom pon - der—  
10 Yet un - re - quit - ed, Lord, I would not leave Thee;  
11 But since my strength will nev - er - more suf - fice me



How shall I spread a - broad Thy won - drous sto - ry?  
Thy woes, Thy mer - cy, still tran - scend our won - der.  
I will re - nounce what - e'er doth vex or grieve Thee  
To cru - ci - fy de - sires that still en - tice me,



How shall I find some wor - thy gifts to  
Oh, how should I do aught that could de -  
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most  
To all good deeds O let Thy Spir - it



prof - fer? What dare I of - fer?  
light Thee! Can I re - quite Thee?  
low - ly All fires un - ho - ly.  
win me And reign with - in me!

12 I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,  
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;  
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor  
Henceforth forever.

13   Whate'er of earthly good this life may grant me,  
      I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.  
      I shall not fear what foes can do to harm me  
      Nor death alarm me.

14   But worthless is my sacrifice, I own it;  
      Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not disown it;  
      Thou wilt accept my gift in Thy great meekness  
      Nor shame my weakness.

15   And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven  
      To me the crown of joy at last is given,  
      Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,  
      I, too, shall praise Thee.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
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#### **Acknowledgments**

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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