

With Eyes Wide Open

Without the truly good news of the Gospel we cannot see the hard truth that we and all people are poor sinners who deserve nothing but punishment from almighty God. It takes the Gospel to open our eyes wide to the severity of God's Law, which our Savior took on Himself in our stead. In Jeremiah's day, and our own, false prophets proclaim an easy peace that requires little change in our daily living. Now, as when Paul was writing, some people in the Church think the freedom Christ won for us can mean a disregard for God's Law. And when Jesus was calling disciples, He had to warn them (and us) that some of their own family members would actively oppose their following the Lord. But the Gospel announces what is real and good: God has kept all His promises in our Savior Jesus Christ. His death shows the enormity of the punishment we deserve, and His resurrection assures us of eternal life. Because our Lord gave His life for us, with eyes wide open we can lose ourselves in service to Him and with the psalmist "sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever" (Psalm 89:1).

Greeting and Announcements

We Call Upon the Name of the Lord

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

C Amen.

Opening Hymn: Today Your Mercy Calls Us

LSB 915

1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

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Call for Confession

Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4

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 Because we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition and have sinned in thought, word, and deed, let us employ the faith the Holy Spirit has given us and go to our gracious heavenly Father, asking His forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

Lord Have Mercy

P O Lord,

C have mercy on us.

P O Christ,

C have mercy on us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy on us, and give us Your peace. Amen.

God Forgives Our Sins

- P** God has promised forgiveness to those who repent and turn to Him in contrition. In kindness and love, He promises pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. As a servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.
- C** Amen.

528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

LSB 528

- 1** Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Text: Public domain

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit,
- C** grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing;
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

+ God Speaks to us Through His Word +

God Speaks to us Through His Prophet

Jeremiah 28:5–9

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

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

Confession

- P** The Jewish people were in exile far from the Promised Land, a punishment for disobeying God, when Jeremiah confronted Hananiah.
- C** And we are in exile between Eden and paradise, disobedient children of Adam, one and all.
- P** People listened to the false promises of Hananiah.
- C** We, too, are guilty of listening to the false promises of the devil. The truth is hard, and we are sorry. Forgive us.

Psalm

Psalm 119:153–154

- P** Look on my affliction and deliver me,
- C** for I do not forget Your law.
- P** Plead my cause and redeem me;
- C** give me life according to Your promise!

Forgiveness

- P** Political peace came for Israel when God allowed Cyrus to let the people return, and eternal peace was made possible for us and all people when our Lord Jesus paid for all sin, offering Himself on the cross in our stead. For His sake you are forgiven. What is real by the grace of God is always good.
- C** **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

God Speaks to us Through His Apostle

Romans 7:1–13

- L** Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

- C** **What then shall we say? That the law is sin?**

- L** By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

- C** **Did that which is good, then, bring death to me?**

- L** By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Confession

- P** Paul here announces that our incorporation into the Body of Christ frees us from our captivity to the Law. That is why Paul points out that we cannot recognize sin without its being condemned in the Law.
- C** **Looking into the mirror of the Law, we recognize that we have become “sinful beyond measure.” The truth is hard, and we are sorry. Forgive us.**

Psalm

Psalm 119:155–156

- P** Salvation is far from the wicked,
C **for they do not seek Your statutes.**

- P** Great is your mercy, O Lord;
C **give me life according to Your just decrees.**

Forgiveness

- P** The severity of the Law, which ought to have been meted out against us, was poured out on our Lord on the cross. The freedom we have is to “bear fruit for God,” who raised Him from the dead. Because of Christ’s victory you are forgiven. What is real by the grace of God is always good.
- C** **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

God Speaks to us Through His Son

Matthew 10:34–42

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

Jesus said: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Confession

P Here our Lord makes clear the turmoil that following Him might entail. He calls us take up our crosses and even lose ourselves for His sake in order to find true life.

C **But we are sinful in every way, not always putting You first. The truth is hard, and we are sorry. Forgive us.**

Psalm

P Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,

C **but I do not swerve from Your testimonies.**

P I look at the faithless with disgust,

C **because they do not keep Your commands.**

P Consider how I love Your precepts!

C **Give me life according to Your steadfast love.**

P The sum of Your word is truth,

C **and every one of Your just and righteous decrees endures forever.**

Forgiveness

P Our Lord grants us life according to His steadfast love and even rewards those who receive His imperfect followers. By the overflowing mercy of God you are forgiven. What is real by the grace of God is always good.

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

The Law of God Is Good and Wise

LSB 579

1 **The Law of God is good and wise
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we transgress.**

6 **To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.**

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God Speaks to us Through Pastor Bailes "The Law of God is Still Good and Wise"

(Romans 7:1-13)

Creed

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

We Worship God with our Offerings

Offertory Hymn; I will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness,
With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness to all generations,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the Church around the world and for all people in their various circumstances.

In Jeremiah's day, most of the Israelites were in exile in Babylon. Let us pray for people who are displaced from their homes, communities, and countries.

Heavenly Father, use humanitarian efforts on every level to supply what they lack, until the eyes of world's power brokers are open to see their plight and put people's needs above their own political aspirations. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Prophets regularly "prophesied war, famine, and pestilence." Let us pray for refugees from warfare, those who lack the basic necessities of life, and all who are dealing with long-term ills or sudden emergencies.

Lord Jesus, use compassionate people and agencies to provide food, clothing, and shelter where they are needed; guide emergency and medical professionals as they tend those under their care; and open our eyes to see opportunities in which we may serve. We especially ask for your abundant mercy and wisdom during this time of pandemic. [*Specific petitions may be added.*] Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P Paul wrote that because we belong to one another in the Body of Christ and have died to the law, “we may bear fruit for God.” Let us pray for ourselves and the Church wherever it gathers in Christ’s name.

O Holy Spirit, strengthen us and our brothers and sisters around the world as we seek to give our lives in loving service to You, reaching out to the lost, strengthening the weak in faith, and rejoicing together as we receive the real good that comes to us through Word and Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P These petitions, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, for we dearly desire to sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, now and forever.

G Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

G 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.

G Amen.

Lord of All Hopefulness

LSB 738

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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Sending: Living Savior Lutheran Church Mission Statement

P As we continue this day, let us remember our mission is...

G Making an eternal impact today through the love of Jesus Christ.

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