

Our Family Daily Prayers Gesima/Lent/Holy Week 2021



This etching which is entitled “Augsburg Confession” is by Wenceslaus Hollar (1607-1677) and found in the Royal Collection Trust.

Dr. Martin Luther stands on the right of the etching. 2 Timothy 4:7-8, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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Our Family Daily Prayers 2021

Follow the order for Daily Devotions in Lutheran Worship, p.293.

Week leading to Septuagesima: January 25-31, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 18(LW, p. 316-318)

Hymn – LW #83 / TLH 132 "O God of God, O Light of Light"

Daily Readings –

25 Monday 10:30 AM	Zechariah 1:1-21	Romans 14:1-23
	Divine Service on The Conversion of St. Paul Jeremiah 1:4-10, Acts 9:1-22, Mt 19:27-30	
26 Tuesday 10:30 AM	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Romans 15:1-13
	Divine Service on St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor Acts 20:17-35, Ephesians 3:14-21, Matthew 24:42-47	
27 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Romans 15:14-33
	Catechesis on Matthew 20:1-16	
28 Thursday	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Romans 16:17-27
29 Friday	Zechariah 8:1-23	2 Timothy 1:1-18
30 Saturday	Zechariah 9:1-17	2 Timothy 2:1-26
31 Sunday 10:15 AM	Zechariah 10:1-11:3	2 Timothy 3:1-17
	Septuagesima Exodus 17:1-7, 1 Cor. 9:24-10:5, Mt. 20:1-16	

#14 God Will Bring Good Out of All General Tests and Trials

Our cause has not dropped to as low an ebb as did that of Christ in his own day, when even Peter denied him, when all the disciples fled from him, and when Judas betrayed and captured him. Even if matters were to become that bad, our cause will not perish and Christ will not turn to dust. But I know and am convinced that this and anything else that may still come, happens as a general test and trial in which the strong will be confirmed, the weak strengthened, the confirmed praised, the false believers revealed; the enemies and those not worthy of recognizing and regarding it as God's word are offended and hardened, as they indeed have deserved. (Luther's Works, v.43, p.66)

Catechism - Office of the Keys, Questions One & Two

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." [John 20:22–23]

Collect for Septuagesima

O Lord, we implore You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people that we, who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, for the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Art. VI *Das der Glaub sol gütte werck bringē, doch de wir nicht auff solche werck verfrwen.*

“That faith should bring good works, but we do not rely on such works.”

Jac. 2, v. 17 ; Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James)

Luc 17, v. 19 ; And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

Before Preparing a Sermon 3

O LORD and Savior Christ, Who camest not to strive nor cry, but to let Thy words fall as the drops that water the earth: Grant all who contend for the faith once delivered, never to injure it by clamor and impatience; but speaking Thy precious truth in love, so to present it that it may be loved, and that men may see in it Thy goodness and beauty; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen. (Oremus, 1925, p.31).

Week leading to Sexagesima: February 1-7, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 1 (LW, p. 313)

Hymn – LW #83 / TLH 132 "O God of God, O Light of Light"

Daily Readings –

1 Monday	Zechariah 11:4-17	2 Timothy 4:1-18
2 Tuesday 10:30 AM	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Titus 1:1-2:6
	Divine Service on The Presentation of Our Lord Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-32	
3 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Zechariah 14:1-21	Titus 2:7-3:15
	Catechesis on Luke 8:4-15	
4 Thursday	Job 1:1-22	John 1:1-18
5 Friday	Job 2:1-3:10	John 1:19-34
6 Saturday	Job 3:11-26	John 1:35-51
7 Sunday 10:15 AM	Job 4:1-21	John 2:1-12
	Sexagesima Is. 55:10-13, 2 Cor. 11:19-12:9, Luke 8:4-15	

#15 The German Nation's Sin of Rejecting the Gospel at Worms

For you know that the sin committed at Worms, where the divine truth was so childishly scorned, publicly, wantonly, and consciously condemned without a hearing, is indeed a sin incurred by the entire German nation, since its leaders were involved in this and no one opposed them. That encumbered the nation with such a vast guilt before God that he might well withdraw the precious word entirely or permit such an offense to arise that no one would regard it as God's word, and that they [the Germans] would, as they deserve, be impelled to blaspheme and persecute as the devil's doctrine what they had first willfully and basely denied and condemned. (Luther's Works, v.43, p.66)

Catechism - Office of the Keys, Question Three

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Collect for Sexagesima

O God, who sees that we put not our trust in anything that we do, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Art. VII *Das Allezeit eine Kirch sey welche ist eine versammlung d' gläubigē.*

"There is always a church where believers are gathered."

Matt. 16, v. 18 ; "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

Eph. 5, v. 27 ; "that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."

Meditation before the Preparation of a Sermon.

LET the preacher labor to be heard intelligently, willingly, obediently; and let him not doubt that he will accomplish this rather by the piety of his prayers than the eloquence of his speech. By praying for himself, and for those whom he is to address, let him be their beadsman before their Teacher; and approaching God with devotion, let him raise to Him a thirsting heart, before he speaks of Him with his tongue that he may speak what he hath been taught, and pour out what hath been poured in.

I cease not therefore to ask from our Lord and Master, that He may, either by the communication of His Scriptures, or the conversations of my brethren, or the internal and sweeter doctrine of His own Spirit, deign to teach me things so to be proposed and asserted, that I may ever hold me fast to the Truth: from this very Truth I desire to be taught the many things I know not, and I have received the few I know. I beseech this Truth that, loving-kindness preventing and following me, He would teach me the wholesome things that I know not; keep me in the true things I know; correct me wherein I am (which is human) in error, confirm me wherein I waver; preserve me from false and noxious things and make that to proceed from my mouth which, as it shall be chiefly pleasing to the Truth Himself, so it may be accepted by all the faithful; through the Same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen. (Oremus, 1925, p.31-32).

Week leading to Quinquagesima: February 8-14, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 77(LW, p. 334)

Hymn – LW #83 / TLH 132 "O God of God, O Light of Light"

Daily Readings –

8 Monday	Job 5:1-27	John 2:13-25
9 Tuesday	Job 6:1-30	John 3:1-21
10 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Job 7:1-21 Catechesis on Luke 18:31-43	John 3:22-4:6
11 Thursday	Job 35:1-16	John 4:7-26
12 Friday	Job 38:1-40	John 4:27-45
13 Saturday	Job 39:1-30	John 4:46-54
14 Sunday 10:15 AM	Job 40:1-24 Quinquagesima 1 Sam. 16:1-13, 1 Cor. 13:1-13, Lk. 18:31-43	John 5:1-18

#16 The German Nation Deserves Wrath

Unfortunately, my dear Hartmut, this is what the German nation has deserved for serving the pope at that fatal diet. They who today rant and are hardened are to blame for this, because at the time they were spinning the wheel and held the dice in their hand and imagined that Christ did not see them playing. O terrible and stern Judge, how mysterious, how dreadful are your judgments! How secure and safe Pharaoh always feels before he is drowned in the Red Sea! He does not see that his own sense of security is evidence of the real and earnest wrath of God over him. O how unbearable it is for God to see his precious word reviled! [It is so unbearable] that he expended the blood of his dearest Child [for his word's sake]. Meanwhile men will sit and jest and smile as they condemn and persecute it. (Luther's Works, v.43, p.66-67)

Collect for Quinquagesima

O Lord, we implore You, mercifully hear our prayers, and, having set us free from the bonds of sin, defend us from all evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Catechism - Lord's Supper, Question One

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.



Art. VIII *Das in d' sichtbarlichen kirchen frome und heuchler gefundē werden.*

“That it is well known in the visible church are found pious and hypocritical men.”

Matt. 7, v. 21 ; “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

2nd Tim. 2, v. 20 ; “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.”

For Illumination.

LET Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon me and the brightness of Thy Spirit illumine my inward soul; that He may kindle my cold heart, and light up my dark mind, Who abideth evermore with Thee in Glory; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen. (Oremus, 1925, p.32).

Days leading to Invocavit: February 15-21, 2021

Psalm - Feb 11-13 Psalm 6 (LW, p. 314-315)

Feb 14-17 Psalm 91 (LW, p. 336-337)

Hymn – LW #508/ TLH 132 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Daily Readings –

15 Monday	Job 41:1-34	John 5:19-29
16 Tuesday	Job 42:1-17	John 5:30-47
17 Wednesday	Genesis 1:1-19	Mark 1:1-13
6:30 PM	Learn-by-Heart (but, no Catechesis Service)	
7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Divine Service Joel 2:12-19, 2 Pet 1:2-11, Matt 6:1-6, 16-21	
18 Thursday	Genesis 1:20-2:3	Mark 1:14-28
19 Friday	Genesis 2:4-25	Mark 1:29-45
20 Saturday	Genesis 3:1-24	Mark 2:1-17
21 Sunday	Genesis 4:1-26	Mark 2:18-28
10:15 AM	Invocavit Gen. 3:1-12, 2 Cor. 6:1-10, Matthew 4:1-11	

Ash Wednesday

#17 The Hardening of the Heart by the Jewish Nation

Thus we see that the Jews, who willfully condemned God's Son, were consigned to such hardness of heart that they blaspheme him with the greatest complacency and impudence. They cannot cease, and thus they fulfil the Scripture, Psalm 109 [:17], "He did not like blessing; therefore it shall be far from him." The same thing has happened to our papists. At Worms they also made bold to hate and to revile Christ. And now it is their fate that they cannot stop hating and reviling. Neither plea nor admonition avails with them, they only grow worse. Righteous are your judgments, heavenly Father! It seems to me that this is what it means to be afflicted with the real St. Vitus' dance {*Note: a possible reference to epilepsy*}. (Luther's Works, v.43, p.67)

Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hates nothing that You have made and who forgives the sins of all those who are penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Invocabit

#18 Allow Anything but The Hardening of Heart

God is my witness that my heart is filled with concern and anxiety that unless Judgment Day intervenes God will withdraw his word and visit the German nation with such blindness and hardening of the heart that the thought of it makes me shudder.

Lord, heavenly Father, if we must fall into sin, let us fall into any other sin, but deliver us from a hardening of the heart, and keep us in and with him whom you appointed Lord over sin and innocence. If we do not deny him or lose sight of him, all sin, death, and hell will not harm us. Yes, what is there that might harm us? (Luther's Works, v.43, p.67)



Art. IX *Das auch die kinder Tauff nötig sey durch welche sie Gott uberantwortet und gefällig werden.*

"That child baptism is necessary, through which they are handed over to God and supported."

Job. 3, v. 5 ; May darkness and the shadow of death claim it; May a cloud settle on it; May the blackness of the day terrify it.

Tit. 3, v. 5 ; "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,."

For Illumination 2

LIGHTEN our eyes, O Lord, that our faith may fix her sight upon Thee, and our soul may take counsel in the sweetness of Thy love, and Thy fear implant true penitence in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen. (Oremus, 1925, p.32).

Collect for Invocabit

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayer and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to defend us from those who rise up against us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Catechism - Lord's Supper, Question Two

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: 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."



Art. X *Das mit Brot und wein im H. Abendmahl der ware leib und Blut empfangē werde.*

With bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, the body and blood are received.

Matt. 26, v. 26 ; "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'"

1st Cor. 11, v. 23 ; "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

For Illumination 3

ALMIGHTY Everlasting God, lighten our eyes with the light of Thy Spirit, that we sleep not in evil deeds, but. with the help of Thy grace, may ever watch in Thy commandments, and, when Christ cometh, may pass, to the reward of our high calling on Him, through the Same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen. (Oremus, 1925, p.33).

Collect for Lent

Merciful and everlasting God, who has not spared Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins upon the cross, grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Week leading to Reminiscere: February 22-28, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 25 (LW, p. 321-322)

Hymn – LW #508/ TLH 132 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Daily Readings –

22 Monday	Genesis 6:1-7:5	Mark 3:1-19
23 Tuesday	Genesis 7:11-8:12	Mark 3:20-35
24 Wednesday	Genesis 8:13-9:17	Mark 4:1-20
	<i>Option Genesis 9:18-11:26</i>	
	7:00 AM Matins on Ember Wednesday in Lent Ex. 24:12-18, 1 Kings 19:3-8, Matt 12:38-50	
10:30 AM	Divine Service on St. Matthias, Apostle Isaiah 66:1-2, Acts 1:15-26, Luke 6:12-16	
6:30 PM	Catechesis on Matt 15:21-28	
25 Thursday	Genesis 11:27-12:20	Mark 4:21-41
26 Friday	Genesis 13:1-18	Mark 5:1-20
	<i>Option Genesis 14:1-24</i>	
7:00 AM	Matins on Ember Friday in Lent Ezekiel 18:20-28, John 5:1-15	
27 Saturday	Genesis 15:1-21	Mark 5:21-43
	7:00 PM Vespers on Ember Saturday in Lent 1 Thessalonians 5:14-28, Matthew 17:1-9	
28 Sunday	Gen. 16:1-9, 15-17:22	Mark 6:1-13
	10:15 AM Reminiscere Gen. 32:22-32, 1 Thess 4:1-7, Matt 15:21-28	

#19 We Thank God For Not Withdrawing His Word About Christ

Still we must thank God with all our heart that he still permits us to see him, as though he did not yet contemplate the withdrawal of his word, so that he has given you and others a spirit not offended by his word and a love for it. This is attested by the fact that you do not believe because of men but because of the word itself. There are many who believe because of me. However, only those are true Christians who would adhere to the word even if they heard that I myself (God forbid) had denied and forsaken it. These are the ones who are not affected by whatever base, horrible, and shameful things they hear about me or about our associates, for they believe not in

Luther but in Christ himself. The word has them, and they have the word. They pay no heed to Luther, whether he be a knave or a saint. God can speak through Balaam as well as Isaiah, through Caiaphas as well as through Peter, yes, even through an ass. I subscribe to their opinion. I myself do not know Luther either, nor do I want to know him, nor do I preach anything about him, but about Christ. The devil may take him [Luther] if he is able to, but if he keeps his hands off Christ, all is well with us. (Luther's Works, v.43, p.67-68)



Art. XI *Das die Beicht nötig : die Zehlung aber aller Sünden unmöglich sey.*

“That confession is necessary: that it is impossible to tell all sins.”

Psal. 51, v. 7 ; Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Ps. 19, v. 15 ; “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.” (v. 14)

Catechism - Lord's Supper, Question Three

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Collect for Reminiscere

O God, who sees that of ourselves we have no strength, keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended 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 the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For Illumination 4
GRANT, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we, may be illuminated by Thee the Light, directed by Thee the Way, corrected by Thee the Truth, quickened by Thee the Life; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen. (Oremus, 1925, p.33).

Days leading to Oculi: March 1-7, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 9 (Not in LW)

Hymn – LW #508/ TLH 132 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Daily Readings –

1 Monday	Genesis 18:1-15 <i>Option Gen 18:16-20:18</i>	Mark 6:14-34
2 Tuesday	Genesis 21:1-21	Mark 6:35-56
3 Wednesday	Genesis 22:1-19	Mark 7:1-23
	Catechesis on St. Luke 11:14-28	
4 Thursday	Genesis 24:1-31	Mark 7:24-37
5 Friday	Genesis 24:32-52, 61-67 <i>Option Genesis 25:1-26:35</i>	Mark 8:1-21
6 Saturday	Genesis 27:1-29	Mark 8:22-38
7 Sunday	Gen. 27:30-45, 28:10-22	Mark 9:1-13
	10:15 AM	Oculi Exodus 8:16-24, Ephesians 5:1-9, Luke 11:14-28

#20 We Are Thankful For God's Working Through Our Witness During Persecution

Therefore our concern now must be to be grateful to the Father of all mercy and consolation and to see to it that our faith henceforth does not consist in words but in power. For St. Paul says in I Corinthians 3 [4:20], "The kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power." Our ability to speak or write eloquently about it is not sufficient; rather must our lives and our deeds testify to the truth, as we demonstrate our love and bestow our works of kindness on friend and foe. (Luther's Works, v.43, p.68)

Catechism - Lord's Supper, Question Four

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

Collect for Oculi

We implore You, almighty God, to look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your mercy to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Art. XII *Das wahre Büß bestehe in reu und leyd über die sünde und Glauben an Christum.*

“To preserve penance is contrition and sorrow for sin and faith in Christ.”

Mar. 1, v. 13 ; “And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.”

Luc. 24, v. 47 ; “and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

For Faith.

ALMIGHTY Lord God, Give us righteous, true, faith, and increase the same in us daily: give us also love and hope, in, order that we may serve Thee, and our neighbor according to Thy will; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen. (Oremus, 1925, p.33).

Week leading to Laetare: March 8-14, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 122 (Not in LW)

Hymn – LW #508/ TLH 132 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Daily Readings –

8 Monday	Genesis 29:1-30 <i>Optional Gen. 29:31-34:31</i>	Mark 9:14-32
9 Tuesday	Genesis 35:1-29	Mark 9:33-50
10 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Genesis 37:1-36 No Learn-by-Heart/Catechesis	Mark 10:1-12
11 Thursday	Genesis 39:1-23	Mark 10:13-31
12 Friday	Genesis 40:1-23	Mark 10:32-52
13 Saturday	Genesis 41:1-27	Mark 11:1-9
14 Sunday 10:15 AM	Genesis 41:28-57 Laetare Exodus 16:2-21, Galatians 4:21-31, John 6:1-15	Mark 11:20-33

#21 Help Us Bear the Common Guilt and Confess Christ Faithfully Amid Persecution

Thus we must pray first of all that God may impart more and more strength to us and our friends and let his dear child Jesus grow in our hearts from day to day that we may praise, glorify, and confess him with a zealous and happy heart before the hardened and blind shepherds of this coarse and stilt-necked sect of papists. And then we must help to bear the common guilt of the German nation, asking God not to regard the vices of the base multitude; nor to make the poor souls suffer for their wickedness; not to withdraw the saving word, so long suppressed, again; nor to permit the reinstatement of the Antichrist;¹⁹ but, in accord with the prayer of King Hezekiah, that there be peace and truth in our time. Indeed, such a prayer and such concern are necessary. (Luther’s Works, v.43, p.68)

Catechism - Lord’s Supper, Question Five

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

Collect for Laetare

Grant, we implore You, almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Your grace may be mercifully relieved; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Art. XIII *Das die Sacramēta zeugnus seyē durch welche der Glaub in unß erwecket und gestarckt wirt.*

That the Sacraments are testimony through which faith is awakened and strengthened.

Marc 16, v. 16 ; “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

1st Cor. 11, v. 28 ; “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

For Faith 2

ALMIGHTY Merciful God, we humbly beseech Thee to increase faith in us that we may walk in Thy obedience and obtain the end of faith, even the salvation of our souls; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen. (Oremus, 1925, p.33).

Week leading to Judica: March 15- 21, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 43 (Not in LW)
or Psalm 143 (LW, p.363)

Hymn – LW #508/ TLH 132 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Daily Readings –

15 Monday	Genesis 42:1-34, 38	Mark 12:1-12
16 Tuesday	Genesis 43:1-28	Mark 12:13-27
17 Wednesday	Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34	Mark 12:28-44
6:30 PM	Catechesis on John 8:42-59	
18 Thursday	Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28	Mark 13:1-23
19 Friday	Genesis 47:1-31 <i>Opt. Genesis 48:1-49:28</i>	Mark 13:24-37
20 Saturday	Gen. 49:29-50:7, 14-26	Mark 14:1-11
21 Sunday	Exodus 1:1-22	Mark 14:12-31
10:15 AM	Judica Gen 22:1-14, Heb 9:11-15, John 8:(42-45) 46-59	

#22 Luther Prays For His German People’s Unrepentance

For I fear that the German nation is going too far, so that it will finally meet the fate described in the last chapter of the Fourth Book of Kings. Those people killed the prophets so long that God forsook them and they found themselves beyond help. Thus I am afraid that the German nation will also receive its just deserts in the end. It condemned the gospel first in Constance, where it shed the innocent blood of Huss and Jerome; then in Worms and in Heidelberg, that of Dramsdorf and several others; also in Mainz and Cologne. The entire

Rhine is bloody and will not be cleansed of the blood, but unceasingly fetes the murderers of Christians, the inquisitors, until God intervenes, and then the time of help will be past. The nation is tempting God too often. At present it again stands condemned at Worms in me. Even if they did not shed my blood, they did not lack the will and determination to. In their hearts they are continually murdering me. You unhappy nation! Why must you more than others be the Antichrist's jailer and his hangman of God's saints and prophets? (Luther's Works, v.43, p.69)

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 1-9

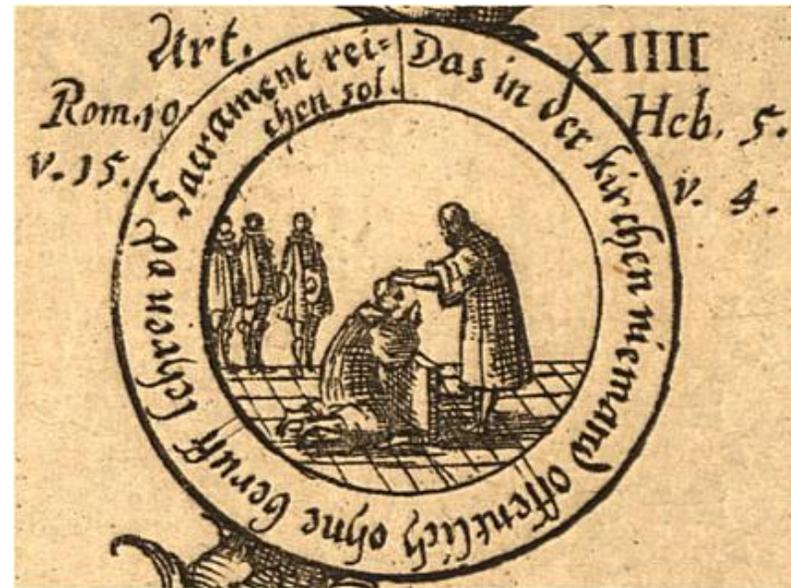
1. *Do you believe that you are a sinner?* Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
2. *How do you know this?* From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
3. *Are you sorry for your sins?* Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
4. *What have you deserved from God because of your sins?* His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Rom. 6:21, 23.
5. *Do you hope to be saved?* Yes, that is my hope.
6. *In whom then do you trust?* In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
7. *Who is Christ?* The Son of God, true God and man.
8. *How many Gods are there?* Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
9. *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?* He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Collect for Judica/Passion Sunday

We implore You, almighty God, mercifully to look upon Your people that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For Faith 3

WE beseech Thee, O Lord, in Thy compassion to increase Thy faith in us, because Thou wilt not deny the aid of Thy loving kindness to those on whom Thou bestowest a steadfast faith in Thee; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen (Oremus, 1925, p.33).



Art. XIII *Das in der kirchen niemand öffentlich ohne beruff lehren od Sacrament reichen sol.*

“That no one in the church should provide the sacraments or teach publicly without a calling.”

Rom. 10, v. 15 ; And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

Heb. 5, v. 4 ; And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

Week leading to Palmarum: March 22-28, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 73 (LW, p.332-334)

Hymn – LW #508/ TLH 132 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Daily Readings –

22 Monday	Exodus 2:1-22	Mark 14:32-52
	Passion Monday John 7:32-39	
23 Tuesday	Exodus 2:23-3:22	Mark 14:53-72
	Passion Tuesday John 7:1-13	
24 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Exodus 4:1-18	Mark 15:1-15
	Passion Wednesday John 10:23-38	
	Catechesis on Matthew 26:1-27:66	
25 Thursday 10:30 AM	Exodus 4:19-31	Mark 15:16-32
	Passion Thursday Luke 7:36-50	
	Annunciation of Our Lord Isaiah 7:10-14, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:25-38	
26 Friday	Exodus 5:1-6:1	Mark 15:33-47
	Passion Friday John 11:47-54	
27 Saturday	Exodus 7:1-25	Mark 16:1-20
	Passion Saturday John 12:10-36	
28 Sunday 10:15 AM	Exodus 8:1-32 <i>optional Psalm 118</i>	Hebrews 1:1-14
	Palmarum Zech 9:9-12, Phil. 2:5-11, Matthew 26:1-27:66	

#23 Bold Confession By the Persecuted Gives Joy to the Christian

Oh, how I have been carried away and how I overflowed with words! It is due to my faith in Christ which thus gave vent to my joy over your faith and bold confession. John also had to leap in his mother's womb when Christ came to him. Thus you see him coming to me through your letter. I hope to God that he will also come to you through this missive of mine and fill not only your John but also Elizabeth and the entire house with joy and spirit, and remain with you not just for three months but forever. May God the Father of all mercy grant that. Amen. (Luther's Works, v.43, p.69)

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 10-16

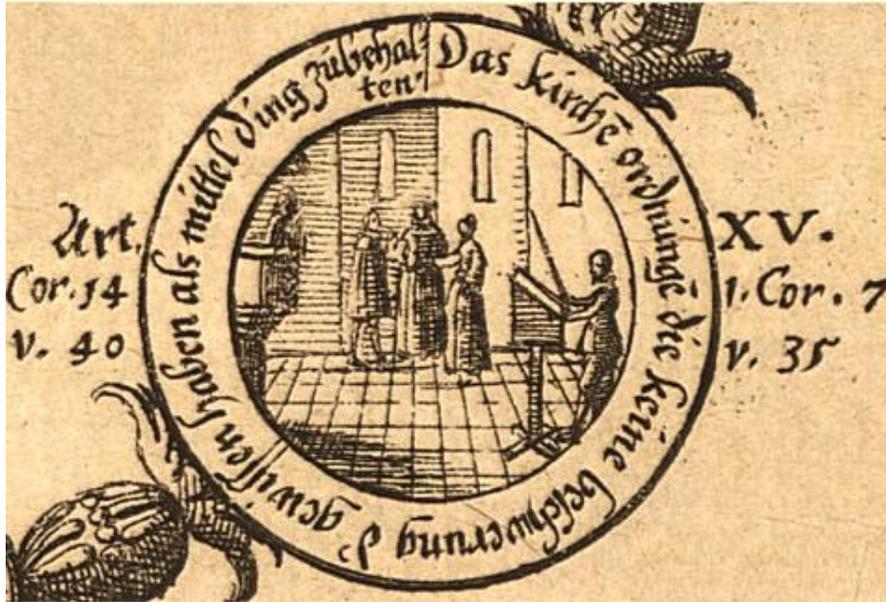
10. *Did the Father also die for you?* He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
11. *How do you know this?* From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
12. *What are the words of institution?* 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."
13. *Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?* Yes, I believe it.
14. *What convinces you to believe this?* The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.
15. *What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?* We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.
16. *Why should we remember and proclaim His death?* First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

For Hope.

MAY the hope which Thou hast given us, O Lord, be our consolation in our low estate, as it will fill us with glory in the day of our rejoicing; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen (Oremus, 1925, p.34).

Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon Him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross that all mankind should follow the example of His great humility, mercifully grant that we may both be guided by His patience in this life and also be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Art. XV *Das kirche ordnungē die keine beschwerung d' gewissen haben als mittel ding zubehalten.*
 “Church ordinances are not to weigh down the conscience by retaining or keeping middle things.”

1st Cor. 14, v. 40 ; Let all things be done decently and in order.
1st Cor. 7, v. 35 ; And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.

Holy Week: March 29-31, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 38 (LW, p.326-327) and Psalm 51 (LW, p. 329-330)

Hymn – LW #508/ TLH 132 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Daily Readings –

29 Monday 10:30 AM	Exodus 9:1-28 <i>Optional Lamentations 1:1-22</i>	Heb. 2:1-18
	Holy Monday Is. 50:5-10, 1 Pet 2:21-24, John 12:1-36 (37-43)	
30 Tuesday 10:30 AM	Exodus 9:29-10:20 <i>Optional Lamentations 2:1-22</i>	Heb. 3:1-19
	Holy Tuesday Jer 11:18-20, 1 Tim 6:12-14, Mark 14:1-15:46	
31 Wednesday 10:30 AM 3:00 PM 6:30 PM	Exodus 10:21-11:10 <i>Optional Lamentations 3:1-66</i>	Heb. 4:1-16
	Holy Wednesday Isa 62:11-63:7, Rev 1:5b-7, Luke 22:1-23:56	
	Tenebrae Service	
	Learn-by-Heart/Catechesis on Mark 16:1-8	

Holy Monday

#24 Ungodliness in the First and Second Table of the Law

Here Moses expressly adds the clause, “The earth was corrupt in God’s sight,” (Genesis 6:11) in order to indicate that in the sight of his age Noah was treated and regarded as a stupid and worthless person. In contrast, the world appeared to itself most holy and most righteous; it assumed that it had adequate reasons for persecuting Noah, especially so far as the First Table and the worship of God were concerned. To be sure, the Second Table likewise gives rise to pretense and hypocrisy; but there is no comparison with the First. An adulterer, a thief, and a murderer can remain hidden for a time, but not forever. But the sins against the First Table usually remain hidden under the guise of saintliness until God reveals them. Ungodliness never wants to be considered and actually to be ungodliness; it strives to be praised for piety and godliness. It embellishes its forms of worship to such a degree that in comparison with them the true forms of worship and true godliness are filthy. (Luther’s Works, v.2 p.158)

Collect for Holy Monday

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we implore You that we, who amid so many adversities do fail through our own infirmities, may be restored through the Passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For Hope 2.

ALBEIT, O Lord, there be many that say that there is no help for us in our God; yet Thou art our Defender and the Lifter-up of our head: Vouchsafe therefore, to give us the increase of hope, and to surround us with Thy perpetual mercy; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen (Oremus, 1925, p.34).

Holy Tuesday

#25 Those Without the Word think that Christians are Corrupt in Word and Action

The verb ἠϋψῆ {corrupt} is very common in Holy Scripture, and it is striking. Moses also employs it in Deut. 31:29: “I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly; and turn aside from the way”; and David, in Ps. 14:3: “All are corrupt and have become detestable.” Furthermore, both passages are really speaking of sins against the First Table; that is, they charge those who are saintliest in appearance with false worship of God and with false doctrine. It is impossible for an ungodly life not to follow in the wake of false doctrine.

When Moses states that the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, he clearly points out the contrast, namely, that the hypocrites and tyrants were of the opinion that what Noah taught and did was wrong, but that they taught and did everything in the saintliest manner. But, says Moses, the opposite was true. The earth, that is, the entire world, or all human beings, was corrupt, namely, so far as the First Table is concerned, they did not have the true Word or the

true worship. This distinction in regard to the First and Second Table is very much to my liking and has undoubtedly been pointed out by the Holy Spirit. (Luther’s Works, v.2 p.158)

Collect for Holy Tuesday

Almighty and everlasting God, grant us by Your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's Passion that we may be sustained by the remission of our sins; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For Hope. 3

O LORD, make us ever hold fast by Thee, and fix in Thee all the might of our hope, that we may tell of Thy praises in the everlasting gates; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen (Oremus, 1925, p.34).

Holy Wednesday

#26 Violence Follows After the Word has been Lost

Moreover, by his addition—“And the earth was filled with violence”—he indicates that this is the unvarying sequence of events: after the Word has been lost, and faith has ceased to exist, and tradition and $\epsilon\theta\epsilon\lambda\omicron\theta\rho\chi\epsilon\iota\alpha$, as Paul calls them (Col. 2:23), flourish in place of the true forms of worship, acts of violence and a shameful life follow.

The word βίβλη properly denotes violence, force, and harm, with disregard of all law and equity, when anyone may do what he pleases, and whatever things are done are done not by law but by force. If this was their kind of life, someone may say, how could they maintain an outward reputation for saintliness and righteousness? As though indeed one did not have similar examples before one’s eyes today! What has the world ever seen that is crueller than the Turks? Nevertheless, they adorn all their brutality with the name of God and godliness. (Luther’s Works, v.2 p.158)

Collect for Holy Wednesday

Grant, we implore You, almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds are continually afflicted, may mercifully be relieved by the Passion of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20

17. *What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?* His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2 and Ephesians 5.

18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?* That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?* First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

20. *But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?* To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

For Hope. 4

IT is good for us, O Lord, to hold fast by Thee; but do Thou so heap up the desire of good in us, that the hope which joins us unto Thee may not waver through any stumbling of faith, but abide in the firmness of love; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen (Oremus, 1925, p.34).

Maundy Thursday: April 1, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 116(LW, p. 345-346)

Hymn – LW #135 / TLH 202 "Welcome Happy Morning"

Daily Readings –

		Thursday’s Tenebrae Service on Wednesday at 3 PM	
1 Thursday		Exodus 12:1-28	Hebrews 5:1-14
		<i>Optional Lamentations 4:1-22 and Psalm 31</i>	
	3:00 PM	Tenebrae Service	
	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Ex 12:1-14, 1 Co 11:23-32, John 13:1-15(34-35)	

Collect for Maundy Thursday

O Lord, who has left to us in a wonderful Sacrament a memorial of Your Passion, grant we implore You that we may so use this Sacrament of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption continually may be manifest in us; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#27 Greatest Wrongs Are Associated with Church and Religion

... In the midst of these very blasphemies and infamous deeds they claim the right to the name and designation “the saintliest”; they boast that they are the vicars of Christ, the successors of Peter, etc.

Accordingly, the greatest wrongs are associated with the designation of holiness, church, true religions, etc. If anyone should express disapproval, he is immediately clubbed with the curse of excommunication and is condemned as a heretic and an enemy of God and the church. Next to the Roman popes and their confederates there is no people that prides itself more on its godliness and righteousness than the Turks, who despise Christians as idolaters but regard themselves as the saintliest and wisest of men. And yet what else is their life and godliness than endless murder, robbery, depredation, and other awful crimes?

The examples of the present time, therefore, show how those two incompatibles can exist side by side: the utmost godliness is paired with the greatest abominations, the utmost violence with the appearance of righteousness. This is also the reason why men become so hardened and smug, and do not look for the punishment they have deserved because of their sins. (Luther’s Works, v.2 p.158)

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20
(Back one page)

For Love.

CONFIRM, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the hearts of Thy children, and strengthen them with the power of Thy grace, that they may both be devout in prayer to Thee and sincere in love for each other; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen (Oremus, 1925, p.35).

Good Friday: April 2, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 22 (LW, p. 319-320)

Hymn – LW #135 / TLH 202 "Welcome Happy Morning”

Daily Readings –

		Friday’s Tenebrae Service on Thursday at 3 PM	
2 Friday	3:00 PM	Exodus 12:29-32; 13:1-16 <i>Optional Lamentations</i> <i>5:1-22 and Psalm 22</i>	Hebrews 6:1-20
	7:00 PM	Tenebrae Service Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12, 2 Cor 5:14-21, John 18:1-19:42	

Collect for Good Friday

Almighty God, we implore You graciously to be hold this Your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men and to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For Love. 2

O GOD, Who hast enkindled in the holy bosoms of all Thy saints so great an ardor of faith, that they despised all bodily pains while hastening with all earnestness to Thee, the Author of life: Hear our prayers, and grant that the hateful sweetness of sin may wax faint in us, and that we may glow with the infused warmth of love for Thee through Thy mercy, O our God, Who are blessed, and dost live and govern all things, world without end. (Oremus, 1925, p.35).

#28 The Word of God Gives Comfort, “Do Not Grieve as Those Without Hope

My dear friends, since this misfortune has happened to our beloved sovereign prince, and the habit and custom of holding masses for the dead and funeral processions when they are buried has ceased, we nevertheless do not wish to allow this service of worship to be omitted, in order **that we may preach God’s Word to the praise of God and the betterment of the people.** For we must deal with the subject and also do what is right on this occasion, since the Lord our God has again taken unto himself and graciously summoned our beloved head. Therefore we shall take as our text what St. Paul says to the Thessalonians in the fourth chapter:

“But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep” [I Thess. 4:13–14].

So much we shall take up for now, in order that I may not overburden myself and you. You know that **the greatest divine service is the preaching [of the Word of God]**, and not only the greatest divine service, but also the best we can have in every situation; but especially on these solemn occasions of sorrow [there is nothing better we can do than to preach]. (“**Sermon at the Funeral of the Elector, Duke John of Saxony**” Luther’s Works, v.51 p.231)

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20

(Forward one page)

Holy Saturday: April 3, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 16 (LW, p. 315-316)

Hymn – LW #135 / TLH 202 "Welcome Happy Morning"

Daily Readings –

		Saturday’s Tenebrae Service on Friday at 3 PM	
3 Saturday 10:00 AM		Exodus 13:17-14:9	Hebrews 7:1-22
		<i>Holy Saturday - Matins</i> Daniel 6:1-24, 1 Peter 3:17-22, Matthew 27:57-66	
7:00 PM		Easter begins with The Great Easter Vigil 12 Old Testament readings, Col. 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10	

#29 Our Death is But a Sleep

“But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope” [I Thess. 4:13].

Here St. Paul puts in some good sugar, mixing the bitterness which is here with sweetness, and saying: You are sorrowful and grieving over those who have died. It is true that it hurts to lose a good friend. I do not reproach you for this; I praise it, for it is a sign that these are good hearts which are thus concerned about the deceased. But you must discriminate between your death and the death of the heathen, between your sorrow and that of the heathen. They have no hope after this life, but you know that you do not die but only fall asleep. For “since we believe,” he goes on, “that Jesus died and rose again” [I Thess. 4:14], it is also certain that God will bring with him those who have died in Christ and will not let them simply remain where we think they remain, but will bring them to himself.

Note particularly that he does not say: Since you believe that Christ fell asleep. He rather speaks more sternly of Christ’s death than ours and says: Since we believe that Christ died. **But of us he says that we do not die, but only fall asleep. He calls our death not a death, but a sleep, and Christ’s death he calls a real death.** Thus he attributes to the death of Christ such exceeding power that by comparison we should consider our death a sleep. For this is the right way to give comfort, to take the death which we suffer as far as possible from our eyes, at least according to the spirit, and look straight at the death of Christ. (Luther’s Works, v.51 p.231, 233-234)

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20

- 17. *What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?* His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2 and Ephesians 5.
- 18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?* That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.
- 19. *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?* First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.
- 20. *But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?* To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

Collect for Holy Saturday

O Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks that through death You have destroyed the power of death and delivered us, who through fear of death are in our lifetime subject to bondage, comfort us with Your precious merit and assist us in our last hour by Your grace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For Heavenly Mindedness.
 GRANT me, Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now while I am placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen (Oremus, 1925, p.35).

Easter Sunday: April 4, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 118 (LW, p. 346-347)

Hymn – LW #135 / TLH 202 "Welcome Happy Morning"

Daily Readings –

3 Saturday	Easter Vigil from 7 to 10:30 PM Saturday 12 Old Testament readings, Col. 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10	
4 Sunday	7:00 AM	Exodus 14:10-31 Heb 7:23-8:13
	10:15 AM	Easter Dawn - Matins Isaiah 25:6-9, 1 Cor 15:1-11, John 20:1-1
		Easter Day Job 19:23-27, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Mark 16:1-8

#30 Our Death is But a Sleep

For this reason we shall reckon our beloved sovereign among those who sleep in Jesus Christ, but especially because he did not depart from the confession of the death and resurrection of Christ, but suffered all manner of injury and affront for it. We therefore are not going to make him a living saint. If some sin crept in, let it go, we shall let him remain a human being, but will so cloak it over that the devil will not see such small sins and emphasize the great works which the angels in heaven will extol. For what can the devil bring up against his personal righteousness, since Christ is standing there alongside him and for him with His death and resurrection, which is more than the sin of the whole world?

It is my hope that we too shall die this way and carry with us to heaven a poor sinner, if only we hold on to this cloak and wrap ourselves in the death of the Son of God and cover and veil ourselves with his resurrection. If we stand firmly upon this and never depart from it, then our righteousness will be so great that all our sins, no matter what they are, will be as a tiny spark and our righteousness as a great ocean, and our death will be far less than a sleep and a dream. Moreover, the shame of our being buried so nastily is covered with a dignity which is called the resurrection of Jesus Christ, by which it is so adorned that the sun is put to shame when it looks upon it and the beloved angels cannot gaze upon it sufficiently. We are graced and adorned with such beauty that all the other uncleanness of our poor body, such as death and the like, are as nothing. (Luther’s Works, v.51 p.239)

Catechism - Christian Questions with their Answers, 17-20
(Repeat from Holy Saturday)

Easter Day

We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Easter Evening

O God, who in the Paschal Feast bestowed restoration upon the world, continue to Your people Your heavenly gift that they may both walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Art. XVI *Das weltliche Obrigkeit von Gott geordnet sey, denen rum zu gehorsame schuldig ist.*

“The secular authorities are ordered by God, to whom obedience is owed.”

Romans 13, v. 1 “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”

1st Peter 2, v. 13 “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme.”

Week leading to Quasimodo Geniti: April 5-11, 2021

Psalm - Psalm 81 (Not in LW)

Hymn – LW #135 / TLH 202 “Welcome Happy Morning”

Daily Readings –

5 Monday No service	Exodus 15:1-18	Hebrews 9:1-28
	Easter Monday Exodus 15:1-18, Acts 10:34-43, Luke 24:13-35	
6 Tuesday 10:30 AM	Exodus 15:19-16:12	Hebrews 10:1-18
	Easter Tuesday Daniel 3:8-28, Acts 13:26-33, Luke 24:36-48	
7 Wednesday 6:30 PM	Exodus 16:13-35	Hebrews 10:19-39
	Easter Wednesday Acts 3:12-19, John 21:1-14	
	Catechesis on John 20:19-31	
8 Thursday	Exodus 17:1-16	Hebrews 11:1-39
	Easter Thursday Acts 8:26-40, John 20:10-18	
9 Friday	Exodus 18:5-27	Hebrews 12:1-24
	Easter Friday 1 Peter 3:18-22, Matthew 28:16-20	
10 Saturday	Exodus 19:1-25	Hebrews 13:1-21
	Easter Saturday 1 Peter 2:1-10, John 20:1-9	
11 Sunday 10:15 AM	Exodus 20:1-24	Luke 4:1-15
	Quasimodo Geniti Ezekiel 37:1-14, 1 John 5:4-10, John 20:19-31	

For Devout Mindedness.

O LORD, with Whom is the fulness of salvation and the perfection of blessedness: Grant that we may pass our time both by day and by night in the meditation of Thy law, so that, like a fruitful tree planted by the rivers of Thy grace, we may bring forth fruit here and may be crowned with glory hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen (Oremus, 1925, p.35-36).

Easter Monday/Tuesday

#31 Look at Death Differently

Hence, one must look upon a Christian death with different eyes, not the way a cow stares at a new gate, and smells it in a different way, not as a cow sniffs grass, by learning to speak and think of it as the Scriptures do and not considering deceased Christians to be dead and buried people. To the five senses that is the way it appears. As far as they can lead us, it brings only woe. Therefore go beyond them and listen to what St. Paul says here, that **they are sleeping in Christ and God will bring them with Christ** [as he brought with him the Savior, the devourer of death, the destroyer of the devil]. Learn to comfort yourselves with these words and instil in your hearts the fact that **it is far more certain that Duke John of Saxony will come out of the grave and be far more splendid than the sun is now** [cf. Dan. 12:3; Isa. 60:19] than that he is lying here before our eyes. This is not so certain as the fact that he will live again and go forth with Christ because God cannot lie. But take it to heart! For he who does not have this comfort can neither comfort himself nor be happy, but the more the Word escapes him the more the consolation also escapes him.

Therefore, let us comfort ourselves now in this sorrow with the fact that we know with certainty that he will rise again with Christ. For here the words of Christ stood sure: “Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father” [Matt. 10:32]. Otherwise, if that Man had not ascended into heaven, we could have little hope indeed. (Luther’s Works, v.51 p.239-240)

Collect for Quasimodo Geniti

Grant, we implore You, almighty God, that we who have celebrated the solemnities of the Lord's resurrection may, by the help of Your grace, bring forth the fruits thereof in our life and conversation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For Grace to Praise God.

O GOD, the Hope of all the ends of the earth, hearken to the humble prayer of Thy family, that while it praises Thee with tuneful harmony and the chanted hymn, it may, adorned by the inward flow of the Comforter, be enriched with abundant fruit; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen (Oremus, 1925, p.36).

Quasimodogeniti

#32 Don’t Look at Personal Righteousness

But when some keep coming with the law and arguing: Now my dear, who knows whether God will consider you to be good? **This is the dismal devil himself, who is always pointing us to personal righteousness, how good I am and how bad I am;** for his whole skill consists in using this image of our goodness to snatch from our eyes the image of the Man who died and rose again. ... But by all means take care not to let anybody persuade you of this on your deathbed; for then the devil is not far away; he can throw in your face a little sin which reduces all such fine virtues to nothing, so that finally you come to such a pass that you say: Devil, rage as much as you please, I do not boast of my good works and virtues before our Lord God at all, nor shall I despair on account of my sins, but I comfort myself with the fact that Jesus Christ died and rose again, as the text here says.

Lo, when I believe this with my whole heart, then I have the greatest treasure, namely, the death of Christ and the power which it has wrought, and I am more concerned with that than with what I have done. Therefore, devil, begone with both my righteousness and my sin.

If I have committed some sin, go eat the dung; it's yours. I'm not worrying about it, for Jesus Christ died. St. Paul bids me comfort myself with this, that I may learn to defend myself from the devil and say: Even though I have sinned, it doesn't matter; I will not argue with you about what evil or good I have done. ... This is not the time for arguing, but for comforting myself with the words that Jesus Christ died and rose for me. Thus I am sure that God will bring me, along with other Christians, with Christ to his right hand and carry me through death and hell. (Luther's Works, v.51 p.241-242)

Catechism - Table of Duties: *To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers*

The overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 1 Tim. 3:2-4
He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 1 Tim. 3:6
He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1:9



Art. XVII *Das Christus ā Jüngstē tag Kome werde ein Richter der lebedige und das toten.*

“The Christ will come soon on Judgement day to judge the living and dead.”

Es. (Isaiah) 66, v. 15 ; “For behold, the Lord will come with fire And with His chariots, like a whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire.

Acts. 17, v. 31 ; “because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”