

TODAY'S FOCUS

While Martin Luther clearly taught that we are saved by faith alone (and even that is a gift from God), Luther also said "it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire!" As we continue our series RE-Form Us, O Lord!" we look at this interplay of faith and our response to the God who gives it.

+ WORSHIP THE LORD OUR KING +

LSB 869 WITH THE LORD BEGIN YOUR TASK sts. 1–3

- 1 With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.
- 2 Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night; Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might, With His presence
cheer you.
- 3 With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you;
In His promises confide, And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose; In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows; How to stem disaster.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 92:1–4; 93:5

- P** It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

- C** to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

- P** For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;

- C** at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

- P** Your decrees are very trustworthy;

- C** holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on “Confession” in the Small Catechism informs and directs us with these words, which summarizes it well.

- C** Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

- P** Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed, I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins, and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US

LSB 915

sts. 1–2, 4

- 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.

- 4 O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You; When heart and eye run
o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+ GOD'S WORD FOR US +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Leviticus 19:32–37 NIV

³² “Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.

³³ “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them.³⁴ The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

³⁵ “Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. ³⁶ Use honest scales and honest weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt.

³⁷ “Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the Lord.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

James 2:14–23 NIV

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.

¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

LSB 851 LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us
 With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
 That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
 Blessings countless as the sand
To the_unthankful and the evil
 With Your own unsparing hand.

- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
 Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
 Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
 Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
 'Tis to give than to receive.

- 3 Wondrous honor You have given
 To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
 “You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master,
 That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
 “Give as I have giv'n to you”?

4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.

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MESSAGE "RE-FORM US, O LORD!" PART 3: OUR ACTING NICENE CREED

**© 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 † of the world to come. Amen.

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

OUR PRAYERS

+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION+

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

**☐ Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

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

+ COMMUNION HYMN +

LSB 537 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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.**

LSB 850 GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY sts. 1–2, 4

1 God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story; Bring its bud to glorious
flow'r.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage; For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us; Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us; Free our hearts to faith
and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage; For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

4 Save us from weak resignation; To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation; Be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Serving You whom we
adore,

Serving You whom we adore.

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