

IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS
SELFISHNESS IS CRUSHED

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Lenten Gathering Rite: God of Creation
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CLOSING HYMN — 125

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,



On which the Prince of glo - ry died,
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
Sor - row and love flow min - gled down,
That were a trib - ute far too small;



My rich - est gain I count but loss
All the vain things that charm me most,
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,



And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
De - mands my soul, my life, my all.



✠ The Prayers ✠

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Prayers and petitions are offered on behalf of the Church

M: Hear us now, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty God, we come before you trusting that you hear our prayers. In your mercy, listen to our supplications on behalf of all for whom we pray and fulfill our desires and petitions according to your will, for we pray in Jesus' name, and as he taught.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SEASON OF LENT

The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring ("lengten," the time of the year when the days grow longer). For the last 1700 years, the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of special preparation. It is a time of repentance and renewal.



During Lent, our rejoicing is muted as we remember our Lord's suffering and death. But it is with a purpose: we know that the Lord who died took up his life again on Easter Sunday morning. So our 40 days of Lent are ones lived in the certain hope of the resurrection.

The color of the season is purple. Purple is the ancient color of royalty. We have this kind of king: he wore a crown of thorns, and carried a cross for us. Thanks be to God!

For the precise counters in the congregation, the Church speaks of only 40 days of Lent because we do not count the Sundays, which retained their significance as "little Easters." That is why they are called "Sundays *in* Lent" and not "Sundays *of* Lent."

So we walk through this Lenten season, solemn but hopeful. We walk *in the shadow of the cross*. Our worship follows this pattern.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS

The devil is defeated

The gift comes by faith

The blind can finally see

Selfishness is crushed

We are raised from death to life

King Jesus humbly walked

OUR THEME FOR TODAY

Selfishness is crushed. How many of the world's problems... how many of the problems in your life... can be traced back to this simple truth. We tend to think of ourselves more than others. We care about our wants and needs much more than the wants and needs of anyone else. Man is, by nature, utterly self-absorbed. Lent changes that. Through repentance we learn to subjugate ourselves to others... to become willing servants, modeling our lives after our Savior Jesus. And in pushing selfishness aside and engaging in willing service, we find a joy and freedom we did not know possible.



AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR LENT

By combining a unique confession of sins, a traditional Lenten confession of faith, and carefully chosen lessons, this order of service allows the believer to come to a full awareness of the seriousness of his or her sin, and also to joyfully remember the source of its cure.

✠ The Gathering ✠

GATHERING SONG

M: *(verse 1 — sung)*

God of creation,
Giver of life,
be the light in our darkness;
grant us peace in our strife.
Show us your mercy.
Give us new birth.
You have made us your children
to bear fruit on the earth.

(to Kyrie, verse 1)

M: *(verse 2 — sung)*

Lord, our Redeemer,
Healer of souls,
be the hope that restores us.
With your touch make us whole.
Here you speak to us
through holy Word.
Send your Spirit among us
that your voice may be heard.

(to Kyrie, verse 2)

M: *(verse 3 — sung)*

Spirit, most holy,
Comforter blest,
be the fire that consumes us
and our hearts' welcome guest.
Form us. Renew us.
Call us by name.
Raise us up from the ashes
and create us again.

(to Kyrie, verse 3)



e - vil With your own un - spar - ing hand.
bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
pit - y Turn from us a - noth - er day.
gra - ces, With your love our love re - new.

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**
Amen.

THANK OFFERING



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en To our
 4 Yes, the sor - row and the suf - f' rings Which on
 5 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
 hum - blest char - i - ty In your own mys - te - rious
 ev - 'ry hand we view Chan - nels are for gifts and
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice,
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it un - to me."
 of - f' rings Due by sol - emn right to you,
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That you
 Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we
 Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To th' un - thank - ful and the
 you, at length be - lieve That more hap - py and more
 need what we can do, Say - ing by your poor and
 may not choose but pay Lest that face of love and
 stay our souls on you; But, oh, best of all your

KYRIE¹



ALL:

1. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son,
 2. Chri - ste e - le - i - son,
 3. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son,



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son,
 Chri - ste e - le - i - son,
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son,



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri -
 Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri -
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri -



e e - le - i - son.
 ste e - le - i - son.
 e e - le - i - son.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ,
 And the love of God,
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

¹ The *Kyrie* is one of the oldest prayers in the Christian church. *Kyrie eleison* means "Lord, have mercy." It is pronounced *keer-ree-ay eh-lay-i-zon*. *Christe eleison* means "Christ, have mercy." It is pronounced *chrees-stay eh-lay-i-zon*.

PENITENTIAL RITE

M: Coming together as one people,
we remember the times
when we have failed to live the Gospel call.
We ask for the mercy of God,
who is full of gentleness and love.

M: (sung) Lord Jesus Christ, the source of forgiveness,
show your people mercy.

ALL:

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri -
e e - le - i - son.

The musical notation consists of two staves in 3/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a half note C5. A slur covers the next three notes: a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The second staff continues with a half note F4, followed by a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a half note C4.

M: (sung) Lord Jesus Christ, you came in our likeness.
Send to us the Spirit.

ALL:

Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri -
ste e - le - i - son.

The musical notation consists of two staves in 3/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a half note C5. A slur covers the next three notes: a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The second staff continues with a half note F4, followed by a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a half note C4.

M: (sung) Lord Jesus Christ, you became our ransom.
Let us be your servants.

ALL:

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri -
e e - le - i - son.

The musical notation consists of two staves in 3/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a half note C5. A slur covers the next three notes: a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The second staff continues with a half note F4, followed by a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a half note C4.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:17-28

¹⁷Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, ¹⁸"We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹"What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²²"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-10

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 3:16

M: *Refrain*

C: *Refrain*



M: God so loved the world that he gave his one and his only Son.

C: *Refrain (sung twice)* - During this refrain, the children may come forward.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

M: God Almighty has had mercy on us, forgiven us our sins for the sake of Jesus † Christ, and opened to us life everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

M: *(sung)*

Up from the ashes
we now arise,
and return to our Maker
who has answered our cries.
Knowing God's mercy
we now stand healed,
for in Jesus our Savior
perfect love is revealed.

ALL:

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son,
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son,
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri -
e e - le - i - son.²

² One might ask, "If the minister just proclaimed that my sins were forgiven, why would I sing 'Lord, have mercy' again?" It is meant to remind us that we not only need God's mercy for forgiveness, but we also need it on an ongoing basis, that God might supply all our daily needs.

✠ **The Word** ✠

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God,
we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds.
But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin
and to comfort us with your salvation;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Hosea 5:15-6:3

¹⁵“Then I will go back to my place
until they admit their guilt.
And they will seek my face;
in their misery they will earnestly seek me.”
¹“Come, let us return to the LORD.
He has torn us to pieces
but he will heal us;
he has injured us
but he will bind up our wounds.
²After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will restore us,
that we may live in his presence.
³Let us acknowledge the LORD;
let us press on to acknowledge him.
As surely as the sun rises,
he will appear;
he will come to us like the winter rains,
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 42 — 43

M: As the deer pants for streams of water,

C: so my soul pants for you, my God.

M: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

C: When can I go and meet with God?

M: These things I remember as I pour out my soul:

C: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One

M: with shouts of joy and praise

C: among the festive throng.

M: Why, my soul, are you downcast?

C: Why so disturbed within me?

M: Put your hope in God,

C: for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

M: By day the Lord directs his love,

C: at night his song is with me — a prayer to the God of my life.

M: Send me your light and your faithful care,

C: let them lead me.

M: Let them bring me to your holy mountain,

C: to the place where you dwell.

M: Then I will go to the altar of God,

C: to God, my joy and my delight.

