

OPENING HYMN – I TRUST, O CHRIST, IN YOU ALONE

- 1 I trust, O Christ, in You alone; No earthly hope avails me.
You will not see me overthrown When Satan's host assails me.
No human strength, no earthly pow'r
Can see me through the evil hour,
For You alone my strength renew.
I cry to You!
I trust, O Lord, Your promise true.
- 2 My sin and guilt are plaguing me; O grant me true contrition
And by Your death upon the tree Your pardon and remission.
Before the Father's throne above
Recall Your matchless deed of love
That He may lift my dreadful load,
O Son of God!
I plead the grace Your death bestowed.
- 3 Confirm in us Your Gospel, Lord, Your promise of salvation.
And make us long to hear Your Word And follow our vocation:
To spend our lives in love for You
And show Your love in all we do.
And then, at last, when death shall loom,
O Savior, come
And bear Your loved ones safely home.

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OPENING SENTENCES

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

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; **hear me and answer me.**

Evening, morning, and noon **I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.**

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; **He will never let the righteous fall.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

(TAKEN FROM VERSES FROM: Ps. 80:1, 4, 17, 19; antiphon: 2 Sam. 24:15–17, alt., 1 Chron. 21:14–17, alt.)

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that we turn from our wickedness and live. Graciously behold Your people who plead to You and spare us. Withdraw the scourge of Your wrath and be moved in mercy to turn away this pestilence from us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

About the Bible readings: The Lord once sent a pestilence on Israel, but David, the Lord's anointed, bore the guilt of sin and offered the sacrifice that "[stayed] the hand" of the Lord's avenging angel (2 Samuel 24). So much more has Christ, our Savior, borne the wrath of God against our sin and offered Himself as the atoning sacrifice that spares us. "With his wounds we are healed" (Is. 53:5), so we boldly beseech the Lord's mercy upon us for Christ's sake. "Death [reigns]" over all of Adam's children in this world because of sin, yet "through our Lord Jesus Christ" comes the "gift of righteousness" that brings "eternal life" (Romans 5). Let the church implore God's mercy in repentance and faith for the sake of Christ, whose hand alone can heal every disease (Luke 4), and in whom is salvation, life and resurrection from the dead.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 2 Samuel 24:15–25

15 So the Lord sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. 16 When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the Lord was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

17 When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the Lord, "I have sinned; I, the shepherd, have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall on me and my family."

18 On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." 19 So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad. 20 When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

21 Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?"

"To buy your threshing floor," David answered, "so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped."

22 Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. 23 Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the Lord your God accept you."

24 But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. 25 David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

EPISTLE READING – Romans 5:15–21

15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! 16 Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE GOSPEL READING – Luke 4:38–41a

38 Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. 39 So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

40 At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. 41 Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!”

PRAYERS

O Lord, **have mercy upon us.**
O Christ, **have mercy upon us.**
O Lord, **have mercy upon us.**

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.

Prayers for others and ourselves

O God, by the patient endurance of Your only-begotten Son You beat down the pride of the old enemy. Help us to treasure rightly in our hearts what our Lord has borne for our sakes that, after His example, we may bear with patience those things that are adverse to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding prayer:

Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. Grant that all people of the earth may look to You and see their salvation; for Your mercy’s sake we pray. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER

- 1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul. *Refrain*
Refrain It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.
- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*
- 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*
- 4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*