

Some voices in our world today claim that good needs evil in order to help what is right truly express itself. The Bible takes a different view, giving us God’s perspective on good and evil. That which is truly virtuous doesn’t depend on evil. No, quite the opposite, that which is good—God and His love in Jesus Christ—actively dispels evil at the cross. By His resurrection from death’s grave, Jesus crushes evil and guarantees that it has no power over those who trust in Him. Remaining in Christ’s love, we respond to the evil in our world, even the evil that comes directly at us through the wrongdoings of our enemies, with the goodness of forgiveness. Instead of retaliating against evil ourselves, we allow our good and gracious God to respond to it, and overcome it, in our loving Savior.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

GATHERING HYMN “With the Lord Begin Your Task” *(Sunday only)*



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.
 2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise, and ad - o - ra - tion.
 3 With your Sav - ior at your side, Foes need not a - larm you;
 4 If your task be thus be - gun With the Sav - ior’s bless - ing,



For His aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.
 On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is your sal - va - tion.
 In His prom - is - es con - fide, And no ill can harm you.
 Safe - ly then your course will run, Toward the prom - ise press - ing.



Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, And when day is end - ed,
 Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,
 All your trust and hope re - pose In the might - y Mas - ter,
 Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where While you here must wan - der;



In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him com - mend - ed.
 Save you from the tempt - er’s might, With His pres - ence cheer you.
 Who in wis - dom tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.
 You at last the joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 1 John 1:8–9

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us therefore come before His throne of grace with humble and sincere hearts to lay our burdens down.

Silent prayer for personal confession

Pastor: Gracious Lord,

People: we come before You, laying the burden of our sin at the foot of Your cross. We openly acknowledge our failure to follow Your plans for our lives. We have stumbled and fallen in our service to You. We have placed our agenda ahead of Yours. We have been shallow in our love toward You and toward those You have placed in our path. We cry out for mercy, trusting in Your promise to forgive us through the love of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor: God has heard your cry for mercy and fulfills His promise to save and deliver you! Lavishing His grace upon you in Jesus, He enables you to love and forgive as He has first loved and forgiven you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTROIT Psalm 37:5–7

Pastor: Delight yourself in the Lord,

People: and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Pastor: Commit your way to the Lord;

People: trust in Him, and He will act.

Pastor: He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

People: and your justice as the noonday.

Pastor: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him;

People: fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the evil of sin and death at the cross for our redemption. Grant to us the goodness of our Savior so that we are not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 15:15–21

O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?

Therefore thus says the Lord:
“If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you,
declares the Lord.
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 26

Pastor: Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity,

People: and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

Pastor: Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

People: For Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in Your faithfulness.

Pastor: I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

People: I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

Pastor: I wash my hands in innocence and go around Your altar, O Lord,

People: proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all Your wondrous deeds.

Pastor: O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

People: Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

Pastor: in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

People: But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

Pastor: My foot stands on level ground;

People: in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.

EPISTLE Romans 12:9–21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE Matthew 16:25

Pastor: Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it,

People: but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 16:21–28

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Come, Follow Me,' the Savior Spake" *(Sunday only)*



1 "Come, fol - low Me," the Sav - ior spake, "All in My
 2 "I am the light, I light the way, A god - ly
 3 "My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
 4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your



way a - bid - ing; De - ny your - selves, the world for - sake,
 life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day;
 love is glow - ing; And gra - cious words My lips ex - press,
 soul's sal - va - tion, Your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,



O - bey My call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -
 I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, My mind, My
 From sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge



e'er be - tide, Take My ex - am - ple for your guide.
 well I show How you must so - journ here be - low.
 strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
 of the soul And lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."

(Hymn continues on next page)

5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,
And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word,
In suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

SERMON

CREED Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.**

OFFERING *(Offerings may be placed in the plate in the entry)*

OFFERTORY "We Give Thee But Thine Own" *(Sunday only)*



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What-e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive
3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
4 To com - fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!
And lambs for whom the Shep-herd bled Are stray - ing from the fold.
To tend the lone and fa - ther-less Is an - gels' work be - low.

5 The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.

6 And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

We Give  e
Thee But  wn

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Knowing the will of God that all would come to the knowledge of Your Son and find salvation in Christ, let us pray on behalf of our parish community and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Pastor: For our faith and faithfulness, especially for those persecuted for the cause of Christ; and

For our strength in time of trial and for us to persevere in grace in the day of trouble, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the Church, Jerusalem on high, our mother in Christ until Christ is fully formed in us;

For the pastors who serve us, that they may be faithful stewards of God's mysteries; and

For those at home and abroad, who bring the message of salvation to those who have not heard, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For Donald, our president; Tim, our governor; and all legislators and civil servants;

For those who must render judgment and impose punishment upon law-breakers; and

For those who work for peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord:

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For favorable weather and for those who tend the soil and harvest its fruits;

For business and industry, service workers and artisans;

For generosity toward those in need; and

For the unemployed and underemployed, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those married, that they would live in fidelity to their vows and promises;
For parents as they teach their children to know and love the Lord;
For single adults, that they may find fulfillment in their service to others; and
For our lives together showing the love of Christ one to another, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For grace to take up the cross and follow the Lord wherever He leads;
For courage in the face of challenge and adversity; and
For compassion and harmony in our life together, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For holy lives of faith;
For this holy assembly, that we may present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our remembrance of the saints and grace to follow their example of faith;
For God to grant us a place with them in their fellowship; and
For our eternal life in God's kingdom without end, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Almighty God, You have forgiven our sins and delivered us from death through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Continue to pour out Your mercy upon us, and grant to us all good things needful to this body and life and keep from us all things harmful. From You, through You and to You are all things, O Lord, holy Father, mighty God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Holy Spirit, You are one Lord, one God, now and forevermore.

People: Amen.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13

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

BENEDICTION Romans 12:21; Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: Do not be overcome by evil,

People: but overcome evil with good.

Pastor: Go forth with the blessing of your good and gracious God:

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.

People: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Christ Be My Leader" (Sunday only)



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.



Copyright Acknowledgements:

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Holy Bible (English Standard Version®). ESV® Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved.

"With the Lord Begin Your Task," © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100011748. Public domain

"Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake," Public domain

"We Give Thee But Thine Own," Public domain

"Christ, Be My Leader," © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100011748. Public domain