

## WORDS WITNESSED FROM THE CROSS

*"I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:43*

### AS WE GATHER

Who is the greatest conqueror ever to have walked on earth? Using the criterion of how much territory a conqueror ruled over, the Mongol warrior Genghis Khan could be considered the greatest conqueror in history. At the peak of his power in the thirteenth century AD, his rule extended over 4,860,000 square miles. Coming in at the second spot was the Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great. The borders of his empire in the fourth century BC included much of Europe and North Africa and parts of the Middle East and Asia, which totaled some 2,180,000 square miles. History reveals that those massive empires did not survive long past the deaths of these warrior leaders. In our worship, we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the "Conqueror renowned" (*LSB 554:1*) who "triumphed over cross and grave" (*LSB 551:4*). His coming to earth to bring about a matchless victory for us over evil and all that oppresses us is eternal and limitless!

### FIRST MIDWEEK IN LENT

March 12, 2025

### PRELUDE, BELLS, WELCOME

#### HYMM "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" LSB 435

- 1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,  
Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain  
Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide,  
Opened when our Savior died.
- 2 Come in poverty and meanness,  
Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness,  
From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
Ye shall walk with God in light.
- 3 Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.
- 4 They that drink shall live forever;  
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never  
Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died,  
Sealed when He was glorified.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87; setting: Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Text: Public domain

## INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## PSALM 8

P O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens.

C **Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

P When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

C **what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?**

P Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

C **You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,**

P all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

C **the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

**O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

**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.**

## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

## COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Gracious Father, for the joy set before Him, Your Son, Jesus, endured the suffering of the cross. In our suffering, O Lord, strengthen our faith that we may know Your companionship in our darkest hours; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## THE PASSION OF OUR LORD - PART 1

### APOSTLES' CREED

**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 T everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMM “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” LSB 447**

*sts. 4–6*

- 4 Second Word: Luke 23:43  
Jesus, pitying the sighs  
Of the thief, who near You dies,  
Promising him paradise:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 5 May we in our guilt and shame  
Still Your love and mercy claim,  
Calling humbly on Your name:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.
- 6 May our hearts to You incline  
And their thoughts Your cross entwine.  
Cheer our souls with hope divine:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Text: Thomas B. Pollock, 1836–96, alt.

Music: Berhard Schumacher, 1886-1978

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**SERMON WORDS WITNESSED from the Cross – “I tell you the truth, Today you will be with Me in Paradise”**

**OFFERING**

**HYMN “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” LSB 422**

- 1 On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasas Konig, 1691-1758

Text and Tune: Public domain

**RESPONSIVE LITANY**

**P** Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** **Let our cry come to You.**

**P** Almighty God, in the fullness of time, You sent the promised offspring, Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us.

**C** **By His redeeming death, He has crushed the serpent’s head for us.**

P Saved from sin, death, and the devil by His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death,

C **help us to find healing in His wounds**

P and grant us eyes of faith

C **to see that His cross is, for us, the tree of life.**

P Throughout these forty days, O Lord, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus

C **and help us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us,**

P until the day when we and all the faithful rest and rejoice with You in paradise

C **and experience the fullness of Your peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

P Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

P Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

### **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.**

### **LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER**

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.

C **Amen.**

### **HYMN "Jerusalem the Golden" LSB 672**

1 Jerusalem the golden,  
With milk and honey blest—  
The promise of salvation,  
The place of peace and rest—  
We know not, oh, we know not  
What joys await us there:  
The radiancy of glory,  
The bliss beyond compare!

2 Within those walls of Zion  
Sounds forth the joyful song,  
As saints join with the angels  
And all the martyr throng.  
The Prince is ever with them;  
The daylight is serene;  
The city of the blessèd  
Shines bright with glorious sheen.

3 Around the throne of David,  
The saints, from care released,  
Raise loud their songs of triumph  
To celebrate the feast.  
They sing to Christ their leader,  
Who conquered in the fight,  
Who won for them forever  
Their gleaming robes of white.

4 O sweet and blessèd country,  
The home of God's elect!  
O sweet and blessèd country  
That faithful hearts expect!  
In mercy, Jesus, bring us  
To that eternal rest  
With You and God the Father  
And Spirit, ever blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1930-95 alt; setting: Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861

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## **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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