

# **LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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## **Maundy Thursday**

April 1, 2021

**Welcome to worship!** The Psalmist says, "I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving...." That's what priests do; they make offerings for themselves and on behalf of others. In the first reading from Exodus, like a priest would do, each father in Israel sacrifices a lamb on behalf of himself and his family, and the blood of that lamb covered their dwelling and protected them. The reading from First Corinthians celebrates the sacrifice of our great High Priest, Jesus, providing His body and blood for our forgiveness. In the Gospel, Jesus demonstrates the sacrificial life of service that is a characteristic of the priesthood of all believers.

### **+ Service of Light +**

#### **Versicles**

*LSB 243*

L Now is the time of God's favor,

C **Now is the day of salvation.**

L Turn to us again, O God of our salvation,

C **That the light of Your face may shine upon us.**

L May Your justice shine like the sun,

C **And may the poor be lifted up.**

## 891 O Light Whose Splendor

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: 1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens; 2 As twilight hovers near at sunset; 3 In all life's brilliant time-less moments, With radiance brighter than the sun, And lamps are lit, and children nod, Let faithful voices sing Your praise, Pure gleam of God's unending glory, In evening hymns we lift our voices, O Son of God, our Life-bestower, O Jesus, blest Anointed One; To Father, Spirit, Son: one God. Whose glory lights endless days.

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P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

L Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 116:12-19*

<sup>12</sup>What shall I render to the LORD  
**for all his bene- fits to me?**

<sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation  
**and call on the name of the LORD,**

<sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows to the LORD  
**in the presence of all his people.**

<sup>15</sup>Precious in the sight of the LORD  
**is the death of his saints.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, I am your servant;

**I am your servant, the son of your maidservant, You have loosed my bonds.**

<sup>17</sup>I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
**and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will pay my vows to the LORD  
**in the presence of all his people,**

<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
**in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the LORD!**

## 452 O Perfect Life of Love



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,  
2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;  
3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;  
4 And on His thorn - crowned head And on His sin - less soul



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.  
His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.  
All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that ten - der heart.  
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.

- 5 In perfect love He dies;  
For me He dies, for me.  
O all-atoning Sacrifice,  
I cling by faith to Thee.
- 6 In ev'ry time of need,  
Before the judgment throne,  
Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,  
Thy merits, not mine own.
- 7 Yet work, O Lord, in me  
As Thou for me hast wrought;  
And let my love the answer be  
To grace Thy love has brought.
- Tune and text: Public domain

## Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 24:3–11*

<sup>3</sup>Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." <sup>4</sup>And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup>And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. <sup>7</sup>Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." <sup>8</sup>And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup>and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. <sup>11</sup>And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 10:16–17*

<sup>16</sup>The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup>Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*Mark 14:12–26*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

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

<sup>12</sup>On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, [Jesus'] disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>13</sup>And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, <sup>14</sup>and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup>And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." <sup>16</sup>And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>17</sup>And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup>And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." <sup>19</sup>They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" <sup>20</sup>He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. <sup>21</sup>For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

<sup>22</sup>And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. <sup>24</sup>And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

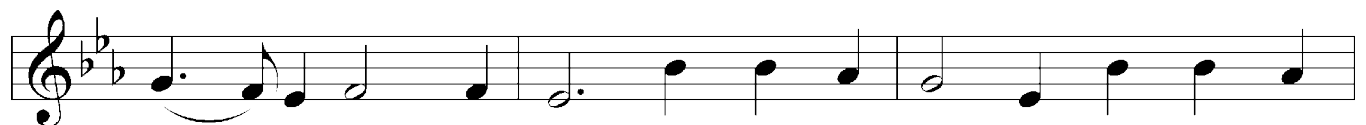
P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

### 933 My Soul Rejoices



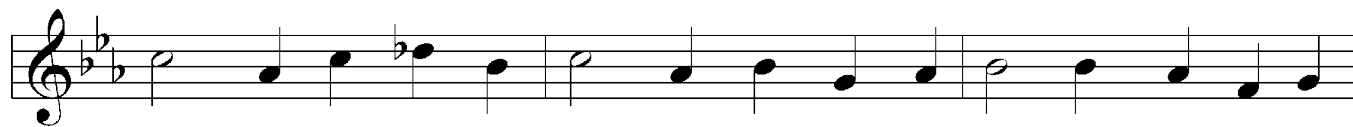
1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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## The Litany

LSB 249

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For Matthew, our Synodical President; for John, our District President; for Donald, our Circuit Counselor; for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For Joseph, our President, Anthony, our Governor, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, for those who work to find a cure for the corona virus, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C Thanks be to God.**

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

### **Collect For Peace**

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 251*

L Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

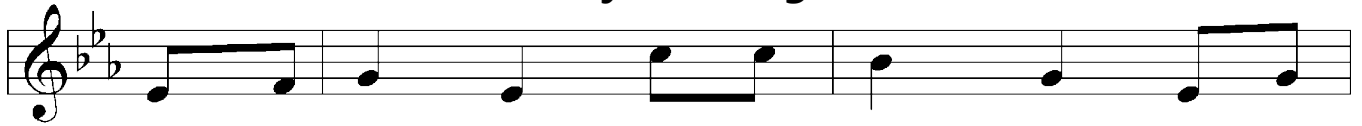
### **Benedicamus**

*LSB 252*

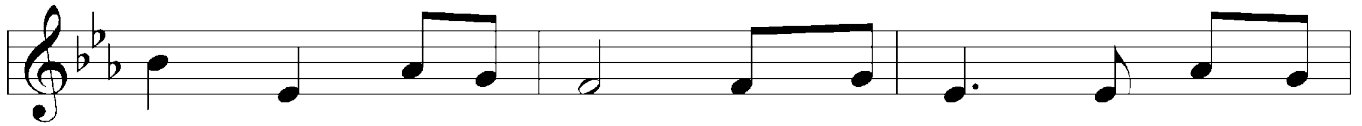
L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

# 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning



1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,  
 2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, Long - ing  
 3 What was there that You could give them That would  
 4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, All one  
 5 One day all the Church will cap - ture That bright



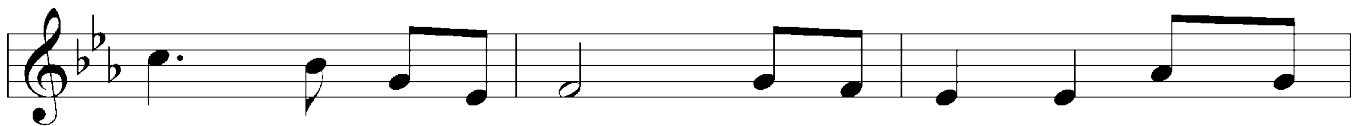
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty  
 with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones  
 nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -  
 bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -  
 vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;  
 on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part:  
 live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?  
 vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.  
 rap - ture That Your heart de - sired for us,



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at  
 Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last  
 "Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me  
 One with You and one an - oth - er In a  
 When the longed - for peace and u - nion Of the



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's  
 pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their  
 as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance  
 u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,  
 Great - est and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.  
teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.  
of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."  
broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.  
mu - nion In Your nev - er - end - ing feast.

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## Sermon

When I think about love, I think about a table. There's a table at my house that some of you may have seen before. It's a wooden table that's worn by years of use. It has scratches and divots in the top of it, and each one likely has a story behind it. It's the table my father used to sit at with his family as he grew up during the late 1920s. My dad, Chuckie, sat here. His brother, Harry, and his sister Ruth, sat there and there. My Grandpa Charlie sat at the head of that little table, and my grandma Hattie sat where she would be closest to the oven and the sink.

Have you ever stopped to think about how many of the big events in our lives involve tables? In many families, the primary love language is being

with loved ones around the table. Whenever somebody has a birthday or gets married or is born or dies, we usually wind up with some food around a table with the people we love. How many great moments in your life can you remember laughing and lingering with loved ones around the table?

What makes it so enjoyable isn't just what we're eating or drinking—it's the *people* and our connection to them that make our time spent at the table so fundamental.

That's why tables and meals are especially important to God. God celebrates the great event of the Old Testament—the Passover—with people and their families around a table. In tonight's Old Testament Lesson, when God's covenant with the Israelites is confirmed, He invites Moses and seventy elders to come up on the mountain to eat and drink with Him. And the offerings sacrificed at the Tabernacle or the Temple were accompanied by a meal in which the worshipper was assured that everything is right with him and God. All those meals because *God wants to be connected with His people.*

When I think about love, I think about a table. In the Bible, to set out food for someone is a gesture of hospitality and honor. Abraham set out food for God Himself when the three visitors came to see him. When people eat a meal together around a table, it shows they *belong* together.

Around the family table I used to sit at, I don't recall anybody ever telling me *where* to sit. I simply knew where my place was. All of us have a deep human instinct that tells us we need to have a place at the table. It means you *belong*. It means you are *somebody* in this family. It means you are *loved*.

It's the same at God's family table. God has a place at His table for *you*. That invitation for you to sit at His table is God saying, "I'm *interested* in you...I *hear* you...I would like to *understand* you...I'm on *your side*...I'd like to *help* you...I'd like to *be* with you...I *accept* you...you are *somebody* in this family...you are *loved*." I want to be connected with you."

When I think about love, I think about God's table. On Maundy Thursday, we celebrate that Jesus gathered His disciples around a table. And as He passed the bread to them, He said, "Take; this is my body." Then He took a cup, and

when He had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." When I think about love, I think of God's table because Jesus is giving the most loving gift He could give to His less than loyal, less than believing disciples. Jesus is giving His disciples His very body and blood—everything He had and was—so that their disloyalty and their lack of faith might be forgiven.

When God has us seated at His table, there are seats for all His people. On this side of the table, there are seats for you and for me. On the opposite side of the table, the side we can't see, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Apostle Paul, my parents and many of your parents, and spouses, and all God's people who have gone before us sit. Our side of the table is a bit of a mess. On *our* side, we're still dealing with things such as sin and sickness and death. But on *their* side of the table, all of those things seem like a dream that can't be remembered. On their side of the table is perfect happiness, contentment, and enjoyment.

Sometimes on our side, we experience empty seats at the table. I can't imagine how quiet the wooden table of my father's family must have been when it had two empty seats during the early 1940s. Chuck and Harry were gone. They were off fighting a war, and their vacant places at the table were a reminder that sometimes, people never return to their places on our side of the table. Their empty seats bring tears to our eyes, and wounded and broken hearts, because they mean somebody we dearly love has been taken from us. There's not just an empty space at the table. There's an empty place inside of us where there used to be joy, and it feels like life will never be the same.

When I think about love, I think about God's table. In the Tabernacle and in the Temple of the Old Testament, there was a golden Table that held the Bread of the Presence. There were always 12 loaves of bread on God's table. 12 Tribes, 12 loaves—*everybody* has a place at God's table. They say that the sense of smell evokes our deepest, emotional memories, and if that's true, every time they smelled that bread, God was telling His people, "When you

come to *My Tent* and *My Table*, I want you to remember that you are accepted unconditionally."

We no longer have that golden table from the Tabernacle available to us.

But we have something even *better*. This evening we have a table to which we are invited where Jesus serves us His very body and blood, the medicine that heals all of our spiritual wounds and promises us a seat on the other side of God's table in eternity. It's a table at which there is bread that assures us that we are not only connected to one another, we are especially connected to God at His table.

Sometimes we want to run away from being connected to God. Jesus tells us a story about a Father who had two sons he sat at table with. One day the younger son said, "Dad, I don't think it's *you* I'm connected to; I think it's your money I really care about. Let's pretend you're dead and give me everything I would get from you." So, the son left, and all the father could do is wait and watch and worry while the son's place at the table was empty. And when the son returned to his place at the Father's table, the older son



was *jealous* and said, "I can't believe you still want to be connected to that delinquent son of yours...I've stayed here and worked hard, and it feels like I don't want to be connected to somebody who loves so foolishly."

Believe it or not, God wants to *share* the experience of every son and daughter who sit around His table. Whether your experience is being a rebel or being reliable, our Father cares deeply. No matter how *horrible* our experience in life may be, whether it is *weeping*, or *fear*, or *grief*, or even feeling *God-forsaken* our Father wants to be connected to you while you go through it. And in case you *doubt* that He really does, consider this. In the *ultimate* show of connection with us, Jesus became *one* of us so He could come and sit at our earthly tables *with* us. He felt our *weeping* and *fear* and *grief* and being *God-forsaken* when He died on the cross so that you and I could look forward to God's family banquet table in eternity! That's when we'll be *perfectly* connected to God and all the people we love who sit around His family table.

In the meantime, the love of our Heavenly Father, and God's love shared by our brothers and sisters who sit around God's table with us will begin to heal your wounds...begin to repair your life...begin to cradle your broken hearts... begin to restore your soul.

When I think about love, I think about God's table. When a small child trips and skins her knee, a simple kiss from her mother brings healing. It's not that the skinned knee goes away. The physical pain remains, but the offering of love and desire to be connected in the form of a caring kiss makes all the difference. I invite you to sit at the table God has prepared for you, and discover the healing it will bring to your life. You will receive a holy kiss that heals all your places of hurt. Amen.

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I**

**pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Distribution**

**+ Stripping of the Altar +**

*The communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday. As the altar is stripped, worshippers are invited to meditate on the words of Psalm 22.*

## **Psalm 22**

My God, My God, why have you for- | saken me?\*

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not | answer,\*

and by night, but I | find no rest.

Yet you are | holy,\*

enthroned on the praises of | Israel.

In you our fathers | trusted,\*

they trusted, and you de- | livered them.

To you they cried and were | rescued;\*

in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.

But I am a worm and | not a man,\*

scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.

All who see me | mock me,\*

they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;

"He trusts in the Lord; let him de- | liver him;\*

let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!"

Yet you are he who took me | from the womb;\*

you made me trust you at my | mother's breasts.

On you was I cast | from my birth,\*

and from my mother's womb you have | been my God.

Be not far from me, for trouble | is near,\*

and there is | none to help.

Many bulls en- | compass me;\*

strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round me;

they open wide their | mouths at me,\*

like a ravening and roaring | lion.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are | out of joint;\*  
my heart is like wax; it is melted with- | in my breast;  
my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks | to my jaws;  
you lay me in the | dust of death.  
For dogs en- | compass me;\*  
a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my | hands and  
feet—  
I can count | all my bones—\*  
they stare and gloat | over me;  
they divide my garments a- | mong them,\*  
and for my clothing they | cast lots.  
But you, O Lord, do not be | far off!\*  
O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!  
Deliver my soul | from the sword,\*  
my precious life from the power | of the dog!  
Save me from the mouth of the | lion!\*  
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!  
I will tell of your name to my | brothers;\*  
in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you:  
You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify him,\*  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of | Israel!  
For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he  
has not hidden his | face from him,\*  
but has heard, when he | cried to him.  
From you comes my praise in the great congre- | gation;\*  
my vows I will perform before those who | fear him.  
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall | praise the  
Lord!\*

May your hearts live for- | ever!  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord,\*  
and all the families of the nations shall worship be- | fore you.  
For kingship belongs | to the Lord,\*

and he rules over the | nations.  
All the prosperous of the earth eat and | worship;\*  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who  
could not keep him- | self alive.  
Posterity shall | serve him;\*  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;  
they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet unborn,\*  
that he has | done it.

*All leave the church in silence.*

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