



“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
A Lenten Devotion Based on the Hymn
LW 114, 115 or LSB 425, 426

Sing Stanza 1

Leader: Look to the cross! The Lenten season again is with us. It brings us humbly before our Savior. Truly we have been made rich through the forgiveness of our sins, which we gained through Jesus’ death. Jesus, the Prince, dying in a horrible way for the paupers’ sin.

Sing Stanza 2

Leader: We owe everything to Jesus. We are saved by His grace, not of our own merit. It is a gift given to us by God. We, in gratitude, want to live for Him. The earthly things seem unimportant now. These we can sacrifice, give up. He gave His life — His sacrifice.

Sing Stanza 3

Leader: His life! That’s a lot! We look at His suffering, the pain of the crown of thorns on His brow, the beating, the nails through His hands and feet. The sorrow of our sins was truly His greatest pain. How could He do all this for us? Surely we don’t deserve it. But He loved us, very deeply does He love us, and this love was so great that He could do this for us!

Sing Stanza 4

Leader: All the things of this world, the riches, the jewels, nothing could repay Jesus for this act of love. Love so great can only be returned by our total dedication to Him. As the hymn says, “my soul, my life, my all.” To do this, we need to be repentant. We express repentance not only during Lent, but throughout the year.

Read responsively Psalm 51 as a prayer of repentance. This Psalm is referred to as “The Passion Psalm.”

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Response: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

R: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

L: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

R: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

L: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

R: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

L: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

R: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

L: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

R: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

L: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

R: Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

L: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

R: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

L: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

R: In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

L: Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar (Ps. 51:1-19 NIV).

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Written by Carol Draube, Sioux City, IA
Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League 2010