

Sunday, February 5, 2023, 11:15am

With Christmas still fresh in our memory, is it too soon to talk about the cross?

As the mysterious star drew the Wise Men to the newborn King, so a light draws us to the goal of His mission, the glory of salvation found only in the crucified King.

How strange it must sound to those who have not heard or who do not yet believe when we sing *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*. Only God the Holy Spirit can enlighten a person with the Spiritual wisdom of faith.

And He gives, and strengthens, that faith through Word and Sacraments.

Today, that faith, enlightened by the cross, produces a life of love and good works in all we say and do.

Opening Praise Song

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Together, we pray,

C: Gracious God, by Your light of grace shining in our hearts and enlightened by the cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ, inspire in us a faith that is alive and glorifies You in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Children's Time

Isaiah 58:3–9a

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 2:1–12

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th Chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

(Matthew 5:13-20)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to Thee, O Christ.

Sermon Praise Song

The Sermon

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children

P: Lord, in Your mercy **C: hear our prayer.**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Words of our Lord

P: We pray,

C: THE LORDS PRAYER

God's Benediction

Sending Praise Song

Up2Date