

Sunday, February 5, 2023, 9:00am

As Christmas is still fresh in our memory, is it too soon to begin talking 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 of the Jews.

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 the Word and Sacraments.

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

Prelude

#904, Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

904 BLESSED JESUS, AT YOUR WORD

1 Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.

3 Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

4 Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

Text (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, 1707, Berlin; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.
Text: Public domain

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

C: Amen.

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

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

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name, Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 152

Pastor	In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Congregation	Lord, have mercy.

Pastor	For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
Congregation	Lord, have mercy.

Pastor	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.
Congregation	Lord, have mercy.

Pastor	For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
Congregation	Lord, have mercy.

Pastor	Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Congregation	Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Congregation

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free
to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory
are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray,

**C: O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that,
relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your
mighty power; 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

“‘Why have we fasted, and You see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and
You take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own
pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 2:1–16

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him”—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting Spiritual truths to those who are Spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are Spiritually discerned. The Spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

Congregation Alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon: Only Jesus

P: Please rise and join me as we confess our faith,

C: NICENE CREED

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

Congregation

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

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.

**P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus
Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world
You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the
substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory.
Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud
and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing,
SANCTUS**

LSB 161

Congregation

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of our Lord

**P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death
until He comes.**

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,

C: LORD'S PRAYER

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LSB 163

Congregation

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

#563, Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

563 JESUS, THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.

2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.

4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.

Text: Public domain

#702, My Faith Looks Up to Thee

702 MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

2 May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87

Text: Public domain

#524, How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, And drives away our fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul And to the weary, rest.

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.

4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, Accept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Text: Public domain

THANK THE LORD

LSB 164

Congregation

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

P: Together, we pray,

C: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

God's Benediction

#660, Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

660 STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS

1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner; It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.

2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey; Stand forth in mighty conflict
In this His glorious day. Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.

3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone. The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own. Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long; This day the din of battle,
The next the victor's song. The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

Up2Date

Postlude