

Opening Versicles

LSB 285

L O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**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.**

† Psalm 146

Praise | the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*

I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

Put not your trust in | princes,*

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;*

on that very day his plans | perish.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,*

who keeps faith for- | ever;

who executes justice for | the oppressed,*

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the | righteous.

The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the | fatherless,*

but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.

The LORD will reign for- | ever,*

your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!

739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

LSB 739

1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord;
lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord;
lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;

Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord;
lead me home.

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Kyrie

LSB 285

L O Lord,
C have mercy.
L O Christ,
C have mercy.
L O Lord,
C have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Apostles' Creed

C 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.**

Reading

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Sermon Versicles

LSB 286

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C **let my cry come to You.**
L In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
C **for You answer me.**

L Hide Your face from my sins,
C **and blot out all my iniquities.**
L Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C **and renew a right spirit within me.**
L Cast me not away from Your presence,
C **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
L Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
C **my lips will praise You.**
L For You have been my help,
C **and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**
L Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
C **unite my heart to fear Your name.**
L I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
C **and I will glorify Your name forever.**
L May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
C **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**
L Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
C **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**
L Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
C **listen to my plea for grace.**

Collect of the Day

P O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

C **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.**

Benedicamus: L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Blessing: L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Acknowledgments

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