

Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone and ta'en thy wages:
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.
Fear no more the frown o' the great;
Thou art past the tyrant's stroke;
Care no more to clothe and eat;

To thee the reed is as the oak;
The sceptre, learning, physic, must
All follow this and come to dust.

Fear no more the lightning-flash,
Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone;
Fear not slander, censure rash;
Thou hast finish'd joy and moan;
All lovers young, all lovers must
Consign to thee and come to dust.

- *Shakespeare*

Prelude

Entrance Hymn

601

1. *Savior, when in dust to you
low we bow in homage due;
when, repentant, to the skies
scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
oh, by all your pains and woe
suffered once for us below,
bending from your throne on high,
hear our penitential cry!*

2. *By your helpless infant years,
by your life of want and tears,
by your days of deep distress
in the savage wilderness,
by the dread, mysterious hour
of the insulting tempter's pow'r,
turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye;
hear our penitential cry!*

3. *By your hour of dire despair,
by your agony of prayer,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn,
piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
by the gloom that veiled the skies
o'er the dreadful sacrifice,
listen to our humble sigh;
hear our penitential cry!*

4. *By your deep expiring groan,
by the sad sepulchral stone,
by the vault whose dark abode
held in vain the rising God,
oh, from earth to heav'n restored,
mighty, reascended Lord,
bending from your throne on high,
hear our penitential cry!*

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray

C: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who confess. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Warning of Judgment

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

Primary Attributes of God

Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

What to do to favor God's relenting

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged;
gather the children, even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.
Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"
Then the Lord became jealous for his land,
and had pity on his people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

**He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever. R**

*He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

*as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.*

**As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.**

*For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust. R*

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5

So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. Therefore, we implore you on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God. For our sake God made Jesus, who did not sin, to become sin so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him we also urge you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For God says,

*"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."*

Understand that "the acceptable time" is right now and "the day of salvation" is right now! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry. But, as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are truthful;
as unknown, and yet are well known;
as dying, and see--we are alive;

as punished, and yet not killed;
as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Hymn

599

1. *Lord Jesus, think on me,*
and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free
and make me pure within.

2. *Lord Jesus, think on me,*
by anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be
and taste your promised rest.

3. *Lord Jesus, think on me,*
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.

4. *Lord Jesus, think on me,*
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 6

Jesus taught saying:

"Pay attention to not doing your righteousness before people for their perusal; for then you have no wages from your Father in the heavens.

So, whenever you may give alms, you may not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may be glorified by people. Most certainly, I say to you, they receive their wages. But as you are giving alms, do not let your left know what your right is doing, so that your alms may be done cryptically; and your Father who is seeing cryptically will reimburse you.

And whenever you may pray, you will not be like the hypocrites; for they love to be standing and praying in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be dazzling people. Most certainly, I say to you, they receive their wages. But whenever you may pray, go into your inner room and having shut the door, pray to your Father cryptically; and your Father who is seeing cryptically will reimburse you.

But when you are praying, you may not use the meaningless words

repetitively as the Gentiles do; for they think that in their wordiness they will be heard. You may not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way:

Our Father in the heavens,
Sanctify Your name!
Bring Your kingdom!
Do your will: as in heaven, so on earth!
Give us our daily bread today!
And forgive! us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the temptation,
but rescue us from the evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

But whenever you may fast, do not be like the hypocrites with dismally disfigured faces so as to dazzle people with their fasting. Most certainly, I tell you, they receive their wages. But when you are fasting, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not dazzle people with your fasting, but by your Father who is cryptic; and your Father who sees cryptically will reimburse you.

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Pastoral Address

Hymn of the Day

517 (with passing tones)

1. *Again we keep this solemn fast,*
A gift of faith from ages past,
This Lent which binds us, lovingly
To faith and hope and charity.

2. *The law and prophets from of old*
In figured ways this Lent foretold,
Which Christ, all ages' Lord and Guide,
In these last days has sanctified.

3. *More sparing, therefore, let us make*
The words we speak, the food we take,
Our sleep, our laughter, ev'ry sense;
Learn peace through holy penitence.

4. *Let us avoid each harmful way*
That lures the careless mind astray;
By watchful prayer our spirits free
From scheming of the Enemy.

5. *We pray, O blessed Three in One,*
Our God while endless ages run,
That this, our Lent of forty days,
May bring us growth and give you praise.

Confession

P: You shall have no other Gods.

C: We are to fear, love and trust God above anything else.

P: Do not take the Lord's name in vain.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not use His name superstitiously, or use it to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, but call on him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

P: Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not neglect His Word and the preaching of it but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

P: Honor your Mother and Father.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and others in right authority, but respect, obey, love, and serve them.

P: You shall not kill.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not harm our neighbor in any way but help them in all their physical needs.

P: You shall not commit adultery.

C: We are to fear and love God so that in matters of sex and sexuality our words and conduct are pure and honorable.

P: You shall not steal.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's property or money, or acquire them dishonestly or unjustly, but help them protect what they have.

P: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, or betray, slander, or defame them, rather we should speak well of them, and interpret their actions in the kindest way.

P: You shall not covet.

C: We are to fear and love God, and so we should not seek by craftiness to gain any of our neighbor's resources, nor are we to obtain them under pretext of legal right, but we should be of service to them and help to them so that they may keep what is theirs.

Hymn

609

1. *Chief of sinners though I be,*
Jesus shed his blood for me,
died that I might live on high,
lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his, and he is mine.

2. *Oh, the height of Jesus' love!*
Higher than the heav'ns above,
deeper than the depths of sea,
lasting as eternity.
Love that found me -wondrous thought
found me when I sought him not.

3. *Only Jesus can impart*
balm to heal the wounded heart,
peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,

joy that lifts the soul to heav'n;
faith and hope to walk with God
in the way that Enoch trod.

4. *Chief of sinners though I be,*
Christ is all in all to me;
all my wants to him are known,
all my sorrows are his own.
He sustains the hidden life
safe with him from earthly strife.

5. *O my Savior, help afford*
by your Spirit and your word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
keep me in the narrow way;
grace in time of need supply
while I live and when I die.

Crossing

P: The cross is a sign of our failure to live as God commands; a sign of the death that comes from sin. The cross is also the sign of our salvation, the mark and promise of our baptism.

Therefore, as we make the sign of the cross on our foreheads, let us contemplate both the righteous justice of God and the gracious love of God, for through our Lord Jesus Christ, we have confidence that God is pleased with repentant hearts that confront the truth of sin and turn from it. Let us include ourselves among the penitent, trusting God's mercy and living in obedience to God's command to love.

If you wish, you may now place your thumb on your forehead to prepare to make the sign of the cross as I say the traditional words I otherwise share with you individually: "Remember that you are dust, and that to dust you will return."

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins

*through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.*

Hymn

tune: ELW 359

1. *"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord to pray;*
**but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.**

2. *How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart*
**that broods on wrongs and will not let,
old bitterness depart?**

3. *In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:*
**What trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you.**

4. *Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease.*
**Then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.**

Benediction

Recessional Hymn

1. *Make me a captive, Lord,
And then I shall be free.*
**Force me to render up my sword
And I shall conqueror be.**
*I sink in life's alarms
When by myself I stand;*
**Imprison me within thine arms,
And strong shall be my hand.**

2. *My heart is weak and poor
Until it master find;*
**It has no spring of action sure,
It varies with the wind.**
*It cannot freely move
Till thou hast wrought its chain;*
**Enslave it with thy matchless love,
And deathless it shall reign.**

3. *My pow'r is faint and low
Till I have learned to serve;*
**It lacks the needed fire to glow,
It lacks the breeze to nerve.**
*It cannot drive the world
Until itself be driv'n;*
**Its flag can only be unfurled
When thou shalt breathe from heav'n.**

4. *My will is not my own
Till thou hast made it thine;*
**If it would reach a monarch's throne,
It must its crown resign.**
*It only stands unbent
Amid the clashing strife*
**When on thy bosom it has leant,
And found in thee its life.**

Dismissal