

THE CRUCIAL HOURS

The Semblance of Legality

790 Before the Ending of the Day

CW 790

- 1 Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray.
Your grace and peace to us allow
and guard and keep your people now.

- 2 From evil dreams defend our sight,
from all the terrors of the night,
from all deluding thoughts that creep
on heedless minds disarmed by sleep.

- 3 O Father, this we ask be done
through Jesus Christ, your only Son,
whom with the Spirit we adore
forever and forever more. Amen.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.
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Confession of Sins

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
**we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our
deeds, and in all that we have not done.**

Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we
are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when
we shall serve him in newness of life. **Amen.**

51A Be Merciful, O Lord

Refrain



Psalm tone



Have mercy on me, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.

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

Hide your face from my sins,*
and blot out all my iniquity.

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

**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.**

Refrain

Psalm Prayer

Lord, keep us safe in the refuge of your anointed Son, so that when the nations rage against him, we are not terrified. You have begotten him from eternity and have seated him on your throne in heaven. Let us see him as he truly is, the One who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

2 Samuel 12:1–13

¹The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your

house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

¹¹“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’ ”

¹³Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2

²⁰We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.

²For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

Luke 18:9–14

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

- 1 He stood before the court
on trial instead of us;
he met its pow'r to hurt,
condemned to face the cross—
our King, accused of treachery;
our God, abused for blasphemy!
- 2 These are the crimes that tell
the tale of human guilt;
our sins, our death, our hell—
on these the case is built.
To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays dumb.
The guilt is ours, no answers come.
- 3 The sentence must be passed,
the unknown pris'ner killed;
the price is paid at last,
the law of God fulfilled.
He takes our blame, and from that day
th' accuser's claim is wiped away.
- 4 Shall we be judged and tried?
In Christ our trial is done;
we live, for he has died,
our condemnation gone.
In Christ are we both dead and raised,
alive and free—his name be praised!

Text: Christopher M. Idle, b. 1938, alt. Text: © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

Sermon

Luke 22:66

⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

Offering

The Sacrament

Preface

CW 165



The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

Distribution

558 Salvation unto Us Has Come

CW 558

- 1 Salvation unto us has come
by God's free grace and favor;
good works cannot avert our doom,
they help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
who did for all the world atone;
he is our one Redeemer.
- 2 What God did in his law demand
and none to him could render
caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
for man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires

the spirit of the law requires,
and lost is our condition.

- 3 It was a false, misleading dream
that God his law had given
that sinners could themselves redeem
and by their works gain heaven.
The law is but a mirror bright
to bring the inbred sin to light
that lurks within our nature.
- 4 From sin our flesh could not abstain,
sin held its sway unceasing;
the task was useless and in vain,
our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart
or purify our wicked heart,
so deep is our corruption.
- 5 Yet as the law must be fulfilled
or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
our human nature sharing.
He has for us the law obeyed
and thus the Father's vengeance stayed
which over us impended.
- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
and brought to us salvation,
each Christian therefore may be glad
and build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
your death is now my life indeed,
for you have paid my ransom.

- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
your Word cannot be broken;
your call rings out, "Come unto me!"
No falsehood have you spoken.
Baptized into your precious name,
my faith cannot be put to shame,
and I shall never perish.
- 8 The law reveals the guilt of sin
and makes us conscience-stricken;
but then the gospel enters in
the sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
the law no peace can ever give,
no comfort and no blessing.
- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
and rests in him unceasing;
and by its fruits true faith is known,
with love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
works serve our neighbor and supply
the proof that faith is living.
- 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
to Father, Son, and Spirit,
the God who saved us by his grace;
all glory to his merit!
O triune God in heav'n above,
you have revealed your saving love;
your blessèd name be hallowed!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr., alt.

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Prayer

Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy Word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity.

Amen.

Blessing

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us. **May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

924 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

(Students sing italic verses, Congregation sings bold verses)

- 1 *Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with your grace
that Satan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.*
- 2 *Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with your Word
and thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.*
- 3 **Abide with heav'nly brightness
among us, precious Light;
your truth direct and keep us
from error's gloomy night.**
- 4 *Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;
let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through your Word.*

5 **Abide with your protection
among us, Lord, our strength,
lest world and Satan fell us
and overcome at length.**

6 *Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with your love;
grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.*

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632 Text: Public domain

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