

Sing with All the Saints in Glory: A Lenten Midweek Series



Wednesday, March 29, 2023

INTRODUCTION

This final week commemorates Hans Nielsen Hauge, a nineteenth-century Norwegian lay preacher, and John Donne, the seventeenth-century English poet and dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. At first glance there is little that connects these two—but at their heart both individuals were fervent in proclaiming the amazing grace of God with as much clarity as possible. This is the core of our Christian faith, that Jesus died to save us from our sins and rose to grant us everlasting life. We have died with Christ in baptism, and because he lives, we shall rise with him.



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Woodbridge, VA 22192
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GATHERING SONG

To You All Hearts Are Open

ACS 1012

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three lines of music. The first line begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics 'To you all hearts are o - pen, to'. The second line continues with 'you all de - sires known. To you there are no'. The third line features a triplet of eighth notes for the lyrics 'se - crets, al - might - y God;' and ends with 'we come to you.' marked as 'Last time' with a repeat sign and a double bar line.

Text: John Tirro, b. 1966; based on an 11th cent. collect, tr. *Book of Common Prayer*
Music: ALL HEARTS ARE OPEN, John Tirro
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GREETING

P: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

P: You are gracious and merciful,
O God, slow to anger, rich in love.
Receive our prayers as you have promised
and uphold us by your Spirit,
until all things, mended by your mercy,
are made whole and well in you,
through Jesus Christ, our healer and our hope.
Amen.

READING

Hans Nielsen Hauge

On Sundays I would go to church and after the sermon would speak with different people about what the pastor had said and about the catechism. At this time I received invitations—some written, some oral—from various people in the rural districts and towns to come to visit them. This I did and talked with them about our Christian duties and the reward promised to the true believer. I knew already that I had aroused opposition and ridicule and that this would continue in the future. But I realized from my study of history that this had usually been the lot of those who despise and forsake the way of the wicked and endeavor to follow the teachings of Christ.



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

READING

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

READING

John Donne

A Hymn to God the Father

Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun, which is my sin,
though it were done before?

Wilt thou forgive those sins, through which I run,
and do run still, though still I do deplore?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won others to sin,
and made my sin their door?

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun a year or two,
but wallowed in, a score?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun my last thread,
I shall perish on the shore;

But swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son shall shine
as he shines now, and heretofore;

And, having done that, thou hast done; I fear no more.

SONG

Sing With All the Saints in Glory

ELW 426



- 1 Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, sing the res - ur - rec - tion song!
- 2 Oh, what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing all that eye has yet per - ceived!
- 3 Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who once was dead.



Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry, to the for - mer days be - long.
Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing nev - er that full joy con - ceived.
Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es! Child of God, lift up your head!



All a - round the clouds are break - ing, soon the storms of time shall cease;
God has prom - ised, Christ pre - pares it, there on high our wel - come waits.
Life e - ter - nal! Oh, what won - ders crowd on faith; what joy un - known,



in God's like - ness we a - wak - en, know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it, Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
when, a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders, saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

READING**Revelation 7:9-17**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal ; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

SUNG PRAYER***O Lord, Hear My Prayer*****ELW 751**

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
 OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: I invite you to stand, sit, or kneel for our time of prayer.

P: We pray today, for those in hospice or nearing death...

For those mourning the loss of a loved one...

For the unity of all Christians...

For those preparing for baptism...

For the ministry of all the baptized...

For the church as it prepares to celebrate Holy Week...

Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy, Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

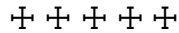
Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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BLESSING

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. May the God who makes sinners into saints bless us, keep us, and give us peace, now and always. **Amen.**



Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Interim Pastor: Rev. Kirsten Laderach
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Church Council Members:

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Dick Gullickson – Secretary, Fellowship Chair
Emily Hess – Day School Chair
Denise Riley – Worship & Music Chair
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For more announcements, please visit www.stmatthewsva.org

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Tuesday, April 4 – A Service of Lament, 7:00pm
Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm
Friday, April 7 – Good Friday Service, 7:00pm

Sunday, April 9 – Sunrise Easter Service, 6:30am
Sunday, April 9 – Easter Service, 10:00am