



## Wednesday after Laetare

Saints Peter and Paul  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
(Unaltered Augsburg Confession)

Greenville County, South Carolina

March 18, 2015

The Lutheran Hymnal

The Order of Vespers

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HYMN NO. 153

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

*Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.*

*Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His?  
Friends thro' fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would interpose to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that Justice gave.*

*Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the Sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the WORD, the LORD'S ANOINTED, Son of Man and Son of God.*

*Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost;  
Christ's the Rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built. Amen.*

### THE PSALMODY

Psalm 139

O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

<sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

<sup>3</sup>You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>For *there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD,*  
You know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I*  
cannot *attain it*.

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup>**If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are* there.**

<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>**even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.**

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," even the night shall be light about me;

<sup>12</sup>**Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light *are* both alike to You.**

<sup>13</sup>For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>**I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and *that* my soul knows very well.**

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, *and* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>**Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when *as yet there were* none of them.**

<sup>17</sup>How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>**If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You.**

<sup>19</sup>Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.

<sup>20</sup>**For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take *Your name* in vain.**

<sup>21</sup>Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

<sup>22</sup>**I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.**

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties;

<sup>24</sup>**and see if *there is any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

## **2 PETER 2:1-11**

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup>And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. <sup>3</sup>By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

<sup>4</sup>For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; <sup>5</sup>and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; <sup>6</sup>and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to

destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; <sup>7</sup>and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked <sup>8</sup>(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)— <sup>9</sup>*then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, <sup>10</sup>and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,<sup>11</sup> whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

## SAINT JOHN 6:36-51

But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. <sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup>This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. <sup>40</sup>And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

<sup>41</sup>The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

<sup>43</sup>Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

## THE SERMON

### THE GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

HYMN NO. 27

Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

*Oh, bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.*

*Oh, bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness And without praises die!*

*‘Tis He forgives thy sins; ‘Tis He relieves thy pain;  
‘Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.*

*He crowns thy life with love When ransomed from the grave;  
He that redeemed my soul from hell Hath sov’reign pow’r to save.*

*He fills the poor with good; He gives the sufferers rest:  
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th’ opprest.*

*His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world His truth and grace By His beloved Son. Amen.*

**THE VERSICLE**

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**THE MAGNIFICAT**

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**THE PRAYERS**

**THE KYRIE**

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**THE 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.**

**THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

**THE SALUTATION**

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**THE COLLECT FOR PEACE**

**THE BENEDICAMUS**

**THE BENEDICTION**