

*Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world.*



Trinity 26

**Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Unaltered Hugsburg Confession
Greenville County, South Carolina
November 16, 2014**

THE INTROIT.



Save me, O God, | by Thy name*
and judge me | by Thy strength.

Hear my prayer, | O God;*
give ear to the words | of my mouth.

He shall reward evil to mine | enemies.*
Cut them off | in Thy truth.

THE COLLECT.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Thy Holy Spirit that, being ever mindful of the end of all things and the day of Thy just judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with Thee forever hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT. Isaiah 40:9-11

⁹O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift *it* up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong *hand*, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward *is* with Him, and His work before Him. ¹¹He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry *them* in His bosom, *and* gently lead those who are with young.

EPISTLE

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

³We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, ⁴so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, ⁵*which* is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; ⁶since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

THE GRADUAL.

He shall call to the heavens | from above*

and to the earth that He may judge His | people.

The heavens shall declare His | righteousness,*

for God is Judge Himself. Hallelujah! Halle- | lujah!

The ransomed of the Lord shall come to Zion with everlasting joy up - | on their heads;*

they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow with weeping shall fly away.

Halle- | lujah!

HOLY GOSPEL Saint Matthew 25:31-46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

³⁷“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’

⁴¹“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave Me

no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

⁴⁴"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

⁴⁵Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

From Martin Luther's Sermon for 26th Sunday after Trinity, Saint Matthew 25:31-46

22. Therefore see to it that you are among those who are kind and merciful upon earth for Christ's sake, or who even suffer for His sake, then you may joyfully await the last day, and need not be afraid of the judgment, for He has already selected you and placed you among those who shall stand at His right hand.

23. For we, who are Christians, should hope for the coming of this judgment and desire it with our whole heart, as we pray for it in the words: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, deliver us from evil"; so that we may also hear the glad and welcome words: "Come, ye blessed, into the Kingdom of My Father." This is the verdict we await; for this reason we are Christians, and just for the sake of this hope we are so severely oppressed, first by Satan and by our own flesh, which would not have us believe this and rejoice over it; then by the tyranny and enmity of the world. For we must constantly see and hear the maliciousness which Satan and the world practice against the Gospel. There is so much misery upon earth that we ought to be tired of this life and cry aloud: "Come, dear Lord, and deliver us."

No. 540 With the Lord Begin Thy Task

With the Lord begin thy task, Jesus will direct it;
For His aid and counsel ask, Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
In His name then close thine eyes; Be to Him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration;
On the Lord cast ev'ry care, He is thy Salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near thee,
Save thee from the Tempter's might, With His presence cheer thee.

With thy Savior at thy side, Foes need not alarm thee;
In His promises confide, And no ill can harm thee,
All thy trust do thou repose In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.

If thy task be thus begun With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then thy course will run, Naught thy soul distressing.
Good will follow everywhere While thou here must wander;
Thou at last the joy wilt share In the mansions yonder.

Thus, Lord Jesus, every task Be to Thee commended;
May Thy will be done, I ask, Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Thy name begun Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done To Thy praise forever. Amen

No. 610 And will the Judge Descend

And will the Judge descend, And must the dead arise
And not a single soul escape His all-discerning eyes?

And from His righteous lips Shall this dread sentence sound
And thro' the num'rous guilty throng Spread black despair around:

"Depart from Me, accursed, To everlasting flame,
For rebel angels first prepared, Where mercy never came"?

How will my heart endure The terrors of that Day
When earth and heav'n before His face Astonished shrink away?

But ere that trumpet shakes The mansions of the dead,
Hark from the Gospel's cheering sound What joyful tidings spread:

Ye sinners, seek His grace Whose wrath ye cannot bear;
Fly to the shelter of His cross And find salvation there.

No. 402 O God, Forsake Me Not

O God, forsake me not! Thy gracious presence lend me;
Lead Thou Thy helpless child; Thy Holy Spirit send me
That I my course may run. Be Thou my Light, my Lot,
My Staff, my Rock, my Shield – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Take not Thy Spirit from me
And suffer not the might Of sin to overcome me.
Increase my feeble faith, Which Thou Thyself hast wrought.
Be Thou my Strength and Pow'r – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, hear my supplication!
In ev'ry evil hour Help me o'ercome temptation;
And when the Prince of hell My conscience seeks to blot,
Be Thou not far from me – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Thy mercy I'm addressing;
O Father, God of Love, Grant me Thy heavenly blessing
To do when duty calls Whate'er Thou didst allot,
To do what pleaseth Thee – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, I am Thine forever.
Grant me true faith in Thee; Grant that I leave Thee never.
Grant me a blessed end When my good fight is fought;
Help me in life and death – O God, forsake me not!

Deliverance of Saint Peter is from *The Dore Bible Gallery* (1886). The quote is from Luther's Church Postils of 1905, which are available on audio CDs.

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