

A GOD WHO THIRSTS

As we prepare: Thirst, like hunger, is primal. Throughout John's Gospel, the evangelist has crafted a commercial of sorts for a new water, a better water than that which only slakes a temporary thirst. He has been cultivating a desire for living water.

John was baptizing in the water of the Jordan. Water and the Spirit, Jesus told Nicodemus, are the means of being born again. He made two- to three-hundred gallons of water into the finest vintage wine. I will give you living water, Jesus promised the woman at the well. Jesus walked on the water of a stormy Sea of Galilee. He healed a blind man by spitting and making a poultice of mud to smear in his eyes. He washed His disciples' feet with a bowl of water. And the soldier with a spear would confirm that Jesus was in fact dead, by unleashing the river of blood and water from His side.

Just before that, the One who is Himself living water, says, "I thirst." What could be more human than thirsting? His lips are dry, His tongue sticking to the roof of His mouth. Only man can thirst. Only God can fulfill the prophecy. He thirsts not for Himself but for the salvation of all men. As He is dried up, He is becoming the draft of forgiveness for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Early Evening

LSB 297

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A candle may be lighted.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Joyous light of glory:
of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.
We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light.
We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.
O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.

Hymn: Jesus, in Your Dying Woes

LSB 447 sts. 1–2, 13–15

1 First Word: Luke 23:34
Jesus, in Your dying woes,
Even while Your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for Your foes:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

While Your wounds Your lifeblood
drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

2 Savior, for our pardon sue
When our sins Your pangs renew,
For we know not what we do:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

14 Thirst for us in mercy still;
All Your holy work fulfill;
Satisfy Your loving will:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

13 Fifth Word: John 19:28
Jesus, in Your thirst and pain,

15 May we thirst Your love to know.
Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Reading

Psalm 22:12–18

¹²Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
¹⁶For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
¹⁷I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

John 19:28–30

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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.**

Almighty God, Your Son thirsted on the cross for our salvation so that we might be satisfied forever. As we walk through this wilderness world toward the promised land of the new heavens and the new earth, sustain us with the living waters that Your Son gives us in His Word and Sacraments, that having received a foretaste of everlasting refreshment, we may point others to Jesus, who quenches our every thirst; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, Your Son's chalice is filled with the streams of living water that flow from His spear-pierced side. Grant us a thirst for His Sacrament, that having tasted His blood, which is true drink, we may be filled with His unending life and never perish; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who live and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for the evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our constant companion on the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope among us, that we may recognize You as You are revealed in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. Grant this for Your name's sake.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Abide with Me

LSB 878

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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Acknowledgments

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