



gracefallschurch.org



GraceFallsChurchVA



gracelutheranchurchva



Grace Falls Church

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The finger of blame. There are two directions it can point. You can point the finger of blame at yourself, confess your sin, rest in the grace and forgiveness of Jesus, cry out for his empowering help, and then seek the forgiveness of the person whom you sinned against. Having done this, you walk away with both a conscience that is clear and a reconciled relationship.

Or you can point the finger of blame at the other person, denying your own responsibility and convincing yourself that he/she not only wronged you, but that he/she is the cause of any wrong that you did. As you do this, your sense of offense grows, and because it does, your anger grows, as does your belief that the other person needs to change. You are not at ease. You are riled up. Your relationship with the other person remains unreconciled.

Someone once said that one never sees a person in a protest carrying a sign with an arrow pointing downward and with the words, "I am the problem," painted on it. One of the aspects of the deceitfulness of sin is our ability to swindle ourselves into thinking that we are seldom at fault. And because we are good at convincing ourselves that we are not at fault, we also become skilled at causing ourselves to feel good about thoughts, desires, words, and actions that God says are not good. One of the ways that we tend to further our own trouble is to convince ourselves that our sin is not so sinful after all. When one convinces himself/herself that his/her sin is not so sinful after all, one also convinces oneself that you don't need God's amazing, forgiving, rescuing, and renewing grace. Anyone who argues against his/her own need of grace is in grave spiritual danger.

Lent is about pointing the finger of blame in the right direction. It is about humble self-examination, honest confession, and grief over sin that causes us to seek and celebrate afresh the forgiveness for which Jesus suffered and died. Because Lent is a season of personal confession, it is also a season of spiritual renewal. Renewal happens because confession causes us to see things for what they really are, and in doing so, to begin to confess and address things that, perhaps, have long needed to be confessed and addressed. The more we see our sin, the more we respond tenderly to other sinners and desire for them the same grace and forgiveness that we have received. And as we taste "new life" with forgiveness, we also celebrate anew that grace that is ours in Jesus.

We carry out this Lenten service in the name of the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE READING OF *THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST*

Please give your attention to the reading of the fourth of six readings from *The Passion History of Our Lord Jesus Christ*. These readings are drawn from the four Gospels.

Hymn

My Song Is Love Unknown, *on page 4 of this worship guide*

MESSAGE

The Hands of the Passion: Hands of Self-Preservation

Based on Matthew 27:15-26

A RESPONSIVE LENTEN PRAYER*

Pastor Kevin: Merciful God, Heavenly Father, you have commanded us to meet together in your name and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to ask of you what is needful and profitable for us and for all people, and have graciously promised to hear our prayers and grant our requests. We implore you to pardon all our sins and unrighteousness, and to enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit that we may ask you for whatever things are needful for Your Church and for all the world.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor Kevin: For Your Church and people, we pray: Save and defend them from the power of those whom you have not sent. Send them pastors and teachers, who will faithfully seek your scattered sheep, bring them to the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and diligently build them up in all your will and pleasure. Grant that all ungodliness and wicked works, and all heresies, schisms, and false religion, may be done away with. In the unity of the true faith and the confession of your dear Son, grant that we may be one in him, and dwell together in love, to the honor of your name and the good of all people.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor Kevin: For all in authority, especially, for all who bear rule over us, we pray: Grant that they may be yours indeed, put down all evil, and uphold and further all good, that we, being delivered from the fear of our enemies, may serve you in all holiness and righteousness.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor Kevin: And as it is your will to be a Savior to the whole world, we also pray for all sorts and conditions of humankind: Draw to your dear Son those who are yet far from him, and grant that those whom you have drawn to him may daily grow in grace, and in the knowledge of the Lord.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor Kevin: For all who are in any trouble or sorrow, we pray: Comfort them in their distress and send them speedy deliverance out of all their afflictions. Help us to lay to heart your fatherly discipline, that we may judge ourselves and amend our ways, that we come not under your judgments.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor Kevin: Grant, also, that we, who are here assembled for your worship, may hold fast your Word, die to self, and be wholly given to your dear Son, our Savior, who by his bitter sufferings and condemnation, and by his glorious resurrection and ascension has brought us to unity with himself and with his whole Church.

All: LORD, graciously grant that we know your peace, your love, your righteousness, your healing, and your mercy this day and all our days. Amen.

Hymn

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night, *on page 6 of this worship guide*

BLESSING

May God grant you good health and hope in Jesus.

110

My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew his way And his sweet prais - es
 4 Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
 stow, But such dis - dain! So few The longed - for Christ would
 sing, Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
 spite? He made the lame to run; He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 know! But oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 Who at my need His life did spend!
 And for his death They thirst and cry.
 Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have
 My dear Lord made away.
 A murderer they save;
 The Prince of life they slay.
 Yet cheerful he
 To suff'ring goes
 That he his foes
 From death might free.

6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was his home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing;
 No story so divine,
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-83, alt.
 Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879-1962

LOVE UNKNOWN
 66 66 4444

Tune and Setting © John Ireland Trust

10

592 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night For all the bless - ings
 2 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as lit - tle
 3 When in the night I sleep - less lie, My soul with heav'n - ly

of the light. Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings, Be - neath thine
 as my bed. Teach me to die so that I may Rise glo - rious
 thoughts sup - ply; Let no ill dreams dis - turb my rest, No pow'rs of

own al - might - y wings. For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son
 at the awe - full day. Oh, may my soul on thee re - pose
 dark - ness me dis - tress. Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;

The ill that I this day have done, That with the world, my -
 And may sweet sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more
 Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye

self, and thee I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake.
heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, abr., alt.
Tune: Charles F. Gounod, 1818-93, adapt.

EVENING HYMN
LM D

Now the Light Has Gone Away

593

1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that I've done wrong to - day.
3 Let my near and dear ones be Safe with you e - ter - nal - ly.
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; You once died that I might live.

Ask - ing you to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
Make me ev - er more like you, Good and gen - tle, kind and true.
Oh, bring me and all I love To your hap - py home a - bove.
All your pre - cious gifts are free — Oh, how good you are to me!

- 5 Ah, my best and kindest Friend,
You will love me to the end.
Let me love you more and more,
Always better than before.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.
Tune: *Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen*, Kaiserwerth, 1842, alt.

MÜDE BIN ICH
77 77

Acknowledgments

The copyright to *The Passion History of our Lord Jesus Christ* is held by The Wartburg Project. © 2014. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Bible readings: Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Hymns are reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-711025. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-711025.

*This is one of the older prayers from the Lutheran Reformation. It owes much to Philipp Melanchthon and the Reformation of Cologne, which influenced to a large degree the first *Book of Common Prayer* of the Anglican Church. This prayer is adapted from the original Common Service.