

“First the Cross, then the Crown!”

*Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church
Oxford, FL*

September 13th, 2020

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

The Church is militant: first the cross, then the crown. The Prayer and Verse of the Day center the lessons. Today Christ tells us that for him and for us, going God's way means death must come before life. He calls on us to deny ourselves and follow him on the way of the cross. Those words offend our sinful flesh and make our Old Adam cry with Peter, "Never!" They make us accuse God with Jeremiah. So today the Church prays for the never---failing mercy of Christ that we might avoid such wicked and harmful thoughts and instead be guided on the cross---laden path to salvation. Then, and only then, do these words of Christ cease offending our flesh and become a joy and delight for our heart (Verse of the Day – see below).

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS THIS MORNING! We are honored by your presence and invite you to return to worship with us again. If you do not have a church home, consider making ours – yours! If you would like more information about Open Bible Lutheran Church, please feel free to speak to Pastor Schulz or to one of the Greeters. You may reach Pastor Schulz at 352-753-9038. Or go to our web site: www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com.

FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

Restrooms can be found on the right side of the Welcome Center and the left side of the new fellowship hall.

Personal Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Ask an usher.

Also "The Hearing Loop System" is installed. Please turn you hearing aid or cochlear implant to "T" (Telephone.)

Please turn off all cell phones Personal and other electronic devices. Thank you.



Applause: Please refrain from any applause during the service.

Photos: Please refrain from taking any pictures during the service.

✝ For respect of those who use the sanctuary for meditation before the service, please refrain from any unnecessary noise once the pre-service music has begun.

**Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me,
and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.**

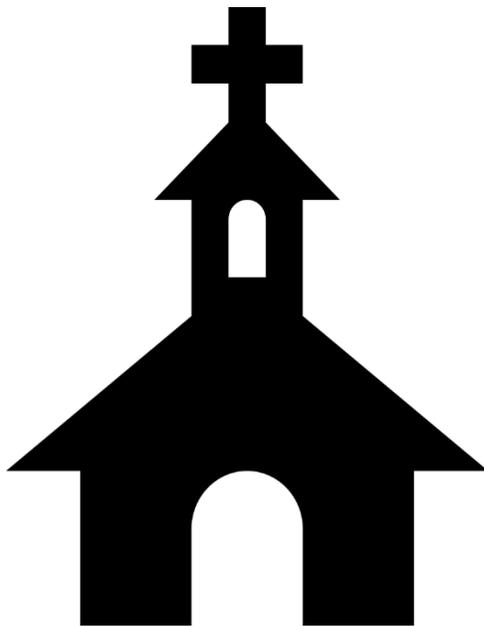
WE GATHER FOR PRAISE

Welcome and introduction

Greet Your Neighbor (Please practice social distancing)

OPENING HYMN: “O Church, Arise” (see page 4)

Words & Music Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend C: 2005 Thankyou Music



C: 

O Church, Arise

Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2005 Thankyou Music Adm. by worshiptogether.com songs.
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1 O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mor on; hear the
2 Our call to war to love the cap - tive soul, but to
Come see the cross. where love and mer - cy meet, as the
So Spir - it come. put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give —



call of Christ our Cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
rage a - gainst the cap - tor. And with the sword that makes the
Son of God is strick - en. Then see His foes lie crushed be -
grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle. That we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en. With shield of
wound - ed whole, we will fight with faith and val - or. When faced with
neath His feet, for the Con - quer - er has ris - en! And as the
win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful. As saints of



faith and belt of — truth, we'll stand a - gainst the dev - il's
trials on ev - 'ry — side. we know the out - come is se -
stone is rolled a - way and Christ e - mer - ges from the
old still line the — way, re - tell - ing tri - umphs of His



lies: an ar - my bold, whose bat - tle - cry is love, reach - ing
cure, and Christ will have the prize for which He died an in -
grave. this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues till the day ev - 'ry
grace. we hear their calls and hun - ger for the day when with



out to those in dark - ness. _____
her - it - ance of na - tions. _____
eye and heart shall see Him. _____
Christ we stand in glo - ry. _____

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

P: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C:  **“Glory Be to God on High”**
(to the tune of “Michael Row the Boat Ashore”)

Glory be to God on High, Alleluia.

Glory be to God on High, Alleluia.

Praise the Father, praise the Son, Alleluia.

Praise the Spirit, Three in One, Alleluia.

Sing we praises unto Thee, Alleluia.

For the truth has set us free, Alleluia.

P: Luther's Morning Prayer:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hand I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked for may have no power over me.

C: Amen.

WE GATHER AROUND HIS WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 15:15-21

(page 1167)

After bearing much persecution, God's prophet finally tired of self-denial. He wondered whether God's promises amounted to nothing, but were as failed and fruitless as a dried-up brook. God commands his prophet to repent and turn to God for mercy. God didn't promise to remove the persecution, but to make Jeremiah strong enough to take it.

You understand, O LORD; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.

I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable?

Will you be to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails?

Therefore this is what the Lord says:

"If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman.

Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them.

I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you," declares the Lord.

"I will save you from the hands of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the cruel." **NIV-1984**

Response: CW # 465 “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken” vs 1

C: 

*Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow you.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
You on earth once suffered, too
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've ever hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heav'n are still my own.*

THE SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 12:1-8

(page 1707)

In view of everything God did to save you eternally, let death come before life for you. First the cross, then the crown. Offer your bodies as living sacrifices. This only makes sense in the Christian response of life lived by dying to self and living for Christ.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. **NIV-1984**

Response: CW # 465 “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken” vs 2

C: 

*Let the world despise and leave me;
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
You are not, like them, untrue.
And since you have smiled upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends may shun me
Show you face, and all is bright.*

THE GOSPEL LESSON : MATTHEW 16:21-26

(page 1477)

(Please stand out of reverence for Christ)

Jesus came to fulfill the redemptive mission for which he was anointed; he had not come to fulfill Israel's earthbound views of Messiah. Thanks be to God that our Savior saw the necessity of the cross before the crown. Now for Christian followers, cross comes before the crown as well. We die to self, but gain Christ, the Life.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? **NIV-1984**

Response: CW # 465 "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken" vs 3

C: 

*Go, then, earthly fame and treasure!
Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!
In your service pain is pleasure;
With your favor loss is gain.
I have called you Abba, Father!
You my all in all shall be.
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: #579 "Lift High the Cross"

C: 

(Refrain)

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*Come, Christians, follow where the Master trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God. (Refrain)*

*Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. (Refrain)*

*So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! (Refrain)*

SERMON:

Sermon Text: Matthew 16: 21-26

"Cheer Up, Christian, It's the Cross!"

Pastor Mark M. Schulz

Apostles Creed

C: *I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

*I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there 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.

WE GATHER FOR THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all of us who have benefited from the Lord's generosity, that we might grow to rejoice in this generous mercy when He displays it to others, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, that we not be inclined, as Peter, to reject the cross but rather to embrace the cross of Christ in penitent faith, acknowledge that nothing less than the cross could save us, and accept the crosses in our lives as signs we belong to Christ crucified, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation, that the Lord would bless all people in their rightful callings as they seek to serve their neighbors in love, and that those who have been entrusted with positions of leadership and authority would exercise their calling with humility and wisdom, for the good of the defenseless, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For families, that parents who have been entrusted with the care and nurture of children would fulfill their task with courage and zeal, instructing their children in the fear of the Lord for their eternal good, and for all others who share the task of caring for and nurturing children, that they might appreciate the significance of their callings and teach the littlest disciples of the Lord with joy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are sick or suffering in any way, [*especially for* _____]

and all who have requested our prayers,] that they might have relief from pain and courage to endure whatever crosses and tribulations the Lord chooses to lay upon them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

In thanksgiving for those who have preceded us in life and in death, that the Lord would send the Holy Spirit to keep us steadfast in faith and zealous in confession of the Holy Gospel even as they were, and that He might give comfort to us as we mourn our dead, grieving in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

These things and whatever else You know that we need, kind Father, grant us for the sake of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (*Contemporary*)

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WE GATHER FOR DISMISSAL INTO OUR MISSION FIELD

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: CW # 474 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"
If able, please stand!

C: 

***Stand Up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross
Lift high his royal banner; It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory His army shall he lead
Till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.***

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict in this his glorious day!
Ye that are brave, now serve him against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger and strength to strength oppose.***

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in his strength alone,
The arm of flesh will fail you Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor; each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.***

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, The next the victor's song.
To him that over-cometh a crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory shall reign eternally.***

Announcements