

Be Gracious To Me **EMPTY WORDS**

You are daily assailed by empty words: idle small talk, advertising slogans, and news reports that play on your fears. Perhaps even your friends and family get in on the act, betraying you with flattery and falsehoods. King David was only too familiar with such afflictions: “When one comes to see me,” he said, “he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad” (Psalm 41:6). Our Lord’s powerful Word was David’s refuge from vain and malicious talk. It is your refuge too. In Baptism, Jesus Christ has lifted you out of the verbal cesspool and placed you firmly on the rock of His Word. That Word is never empty, but it shall accomplish that which He purposes for you.



THE OPENING HYMN #436 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”



1	Go	to	dark	Geth - sem - a - ne,	All	who	feel	the
2	Fol - low	to	the	judg - ment hall,	View	the	Lord	of
3	Cal - v'ry's	mourn - ful	moun - tain	climb;	There,	a - dor - ing		
4	Ear - ly	has - ten	to	the tomb	Where	they	laid	His



tempt - er's	pow'r;	Your	Re - deem - er's	con - flict	see,
life	ar-raigned;	Oh,	the	worm - wood	and the gall!
at	His feet,	Mark	that	mir - a - cle	of time,
breath - less	clay;	All	is	sol - i - tude	and gloom.



Watch	with	Him	one	bit - ter	hour;	Turn	not	from	His
Oh,	the	pangs	His	soul	sus-tained!	Shun	not	suf - f'ring,	
God's	own	sac - ri - fice	com-plete.	"It	is	fin - ished!"			
Who	has	tak - en	Him	a - way?	Christ	is	ris'n!	He	



griefs	a - way;	Learn	from	Je - sus	Christ	to	pray.	
shame,	or	loss;	Learn	from	Him	to	bear the cross.	
hear	Him	cry;	Learn	from	Je - sus	Christ	to	die.
meets	our	eyes.	Sav - ior,	teach	us	so	to	rise.

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE OPENING SENTENCES Joel 2:13; Isaiah 55:6–7

P: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

P: Seek the Lord while He may be found;

C: call upon Him while He is near.

P: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

**C: let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.**

THE PSALM Psalm 41

P: Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C: In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

P: the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C: You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

P: The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

**C: As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me,
for I have sinned against You!”**

P: My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”

**C: And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers
iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**

P: All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

**C: They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again
from where he lies.”**

P: Even My close friend in whom I trusted, who ate My bread, has lifted his heel against Me.

C: But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

P: By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

**C: But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence
forever. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
Amen and Amen.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O merciful Lord Jesus, grant us of Your gentleness and forbearance, of Your compassion and love, and of Your tenderheartedness, that filled with Your grace we may always find fitting and helpful words to speak and willingly forgive the wrongs and evils done us. This we ask in Your precious and mighty name.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE READING OF THE PASSION HISTORY

THE LENT RESPONSORY

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

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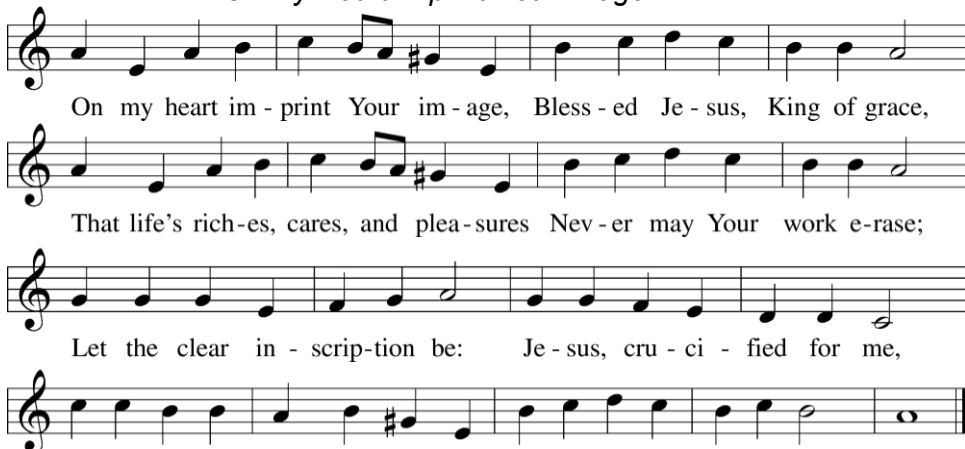
THE HYMN *"We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died"* (Tune: LSB #839)

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| 1 We sing the praise of Him who died,
Of Him who died upon the cross.
The sinner's hope let all deride;
For this we count the world but loss. | 4 It makes the coward spirit brave
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes the terror from the grave
And gilds the bed of death with light; |
| 2 Inscribed upon the cross we see
In shining letters, "God is love."
He bears our sins upon the tree;
He brings us mercy from above. | 5 The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heav'n above. |
| 3 The cross! It takes our guilt away;
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day
And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup. | 6 To Christ, who won for sinners grace
By bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forever and forevermore. |

THE SERMON *"Empty Words"* Text: Psalm 41:6

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

THE HYMN #422 *"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"*



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev-er may Your work e-rase;
Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo-ry and sal - va - tion!

(please stand)

THE PRAYERS

The Kyrie



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collects

P: Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the challenges and changes of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Gracious Father, where we have done wrong this day, forgive. Where we have spoken hastily, repair and calm with Your love. What we have ignored, supply the healing balm. Give us quiet rest; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” (LSB #883)



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the
2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that
3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as
4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet



bles - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,
I this day have done, That with the world, my -
lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that
sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.
self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.
vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!

**5 When in the night I sleepless lie,
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
No pow'rs of darkness me molest.**

**△ 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Acknowledgments

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