

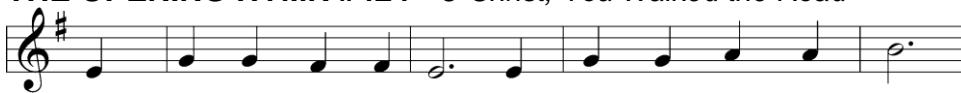
# ***Be Gracious To Me***

## **VINDICATION**

In Psalm 41:7–8, David lamented, “All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, ‘A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.’” These words pointed forward to our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose again in defiance of His enemies. Do you have enemies who whisper and scheme against you? Have you been brought low—perhaps so low that you despair of ever rising again? Jesus was vindicated in His resurrection, and you shall be too. You can have certainty in your resurrection and vindication because Jesus Christ is risen.



### **THE OPENING HYMN #424 “O Christ, You Walked the Road”**



- 1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.
- 2 No bread of earth a - lone Can fill our hun - g'ring hearts.
- 3 No blind - ing sign we ask, No won - der from a - bove.
- 4 When lures of eas - y gain With prom - ise bright - ly shine,
- 5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp - ta - tion's pow'r And fought our an - cient foe.  
Lord, help us seek Your liv - ing Word, The food Your grace im - parts.  
Lord, help us place our trust a - lone In Your un - swerv - ing love.  
Lord, help us seek Your king - dom first; Our wills with Yours a - lign.  
Stay with us through temp - ta - tion's hour To fight our an - cient foe.

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***(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 relents of disaster.**

**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 God, who gives strength to the weak and light to those who are in darkness, grant us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him we may know You more completely. Assure us that all things are made to work for our good through our Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we may with hopeful hearts await the glory of His kingdom of eternal grace. With boldness and confidence, we ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.**

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.**

## THE HYMN #542 "When I Behold Jesus Christ"



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,  
2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;  
3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;  
4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.



I won-der much at His love As He hung on the tree.  
I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.  
On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.  
My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

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**THE SERMON** "Vindication" Text: Psalm 41:4-8

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS**

## THE HYMN #431 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,  
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.  
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

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*(please stand)*

## THE PRAYERS

### The Kyrie



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

### The Lord's Prayer

**C:** 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.

### The Collects

**P:** Almighty God, whose compassion never fails and who invites us to call upon You in prayer, hear the heartfelt confession of our sins and receive our humble supplication for Your mercy. Spare us from the just punishment of sin, which our Lord Jesus Christ has borne for us, and enable us to serve You in holiness and purity of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Compassionate Lord, our Great Physician, watch over the sick and homebound. Shelter them from pain and loneliness and preserve them from a sense of futility and despair. Through Your Word, reveal to them that none of Your children suffer in vain or without Your divine permission and presence. Keep them in Your sufficient grace. Strengthen them with Your support and healing presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

P: Merciful Lord, pour out Your blessings upon all who teach in our congregation, all those who work with Your Scriptures and seek to show the love of Christ. For our children in our Sunday School and Confirmation classes, may each encounter with the Word of life make them better disciples of Jesus, our Lord. Plant and nourish a love and zeal for Your Word in all our hearts, both young and old; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of peace, You brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, equip us with everything good that we may do Your will, working in us that which is pleasing in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Luther's Evening Prayer**

**C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

### **The Collect for Peace**

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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 #877 "God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven"



1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, Dark - ness and light:  
2 And when morn a - gain shall call us To run life's way,  
3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, And when we die,  
△ 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav - en, All - ho - ly Son,



You the day for work have giv - en, For rest the night. May Your  
May we still, what - e'er be - fall us, Your will o - bey. From the  
May we in Your might - y keep - ing All peace - ful lie. When the  
Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, Blest Three in One: Grant us



an - gel guards de - fend us, Slum - ber sweet Your mer - cy send us,  
pow'r of e - vil hide us, In the nar - row path - way guide us,  
last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,  
grace, we now im - plore You, Till we lay our crowns be - fore You



Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.  
Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.  
But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.  
And in wor - thier strains a - dore You While a - ges run.

### Acknowledgments

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