

**"THE ORDER OF EVENING SERVICE OR VESPERS" \***

---

**The Hymn. Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds LSB #465**

by Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947

1. Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
In praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here;  
"Christ hath triumphed! Christ hath triumphed!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. Eternal is the gift he brings,  
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still He comes to give us life;  
And by His presence stills all strife.  
"Christ hath triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Augsburg Publishing House, 1958

Tune: *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*  
Public Domain

*Then shall be sung or said responsively the Versicle with the Gloria Patri as here follows. All stand.*

*Versicle.* O Lord, open Thou my lips.

**Answer.** And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

*Versicle.* Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**Answer.** Make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without  
end. Amen. Hallelujah!**

**The Psalm—Psalm 61 (ESV).**

<sup>1</sup> Hear my cry, O God,

**listen to my prayer;**

<sup>2</sup> from the end of the earth I call to you

**when my heart is faint.**

Lead me to the rock

**that is higher than I,**

<sup>3</sup> for you have been my refuge,

**a strong tower against the enemy.**

<sup>4</sup> Let me dwell in your tent forever!

**Let me take refuge under the shelter of Your wings! *Selah***

<sup>5</sup> For you, O God, have heard my vows;

**You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.**

<sup>6</sup> Prolong the life of the king;

**may his years endure to all generations!**

<sup>7</sup> May he be enthroned forever before God;

**appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him**

<sup>8</sup> So will I ever sing praises to your name,

**as I perform my vows day after day.**

**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 Lessons.**

*The Scripture Lessons shall then be read, then a Versicle and Response may be sung or said:*

**The First Reading.**

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ...

<sup>17</sup> "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out."

Versicle: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Answer. Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.**

### The Epistle.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Versicle: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Answer. Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.**

### The Holy Gospel.

John 21:1-14 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. <sup>8</sup> The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Versicle: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Answer. Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.**

---

HOMILY:

### Thy Kingdom come.

*What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.*

*How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.*

Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* CPH

John 21:14 "This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead."

The previous two times we saw the risen Jesus, He showed himself to the disciples on the first day of the week, on a Sunday. So Peter on this third Sabbath may have had the bright idea to stick around. But no, Peter is a fisherman. And fishermen go fishing ... on a Sunday.

Peter invited six of his friends to be in the boat from Saturday sundown to Sunday sunrise. Peter plus the six would make it seven who started out at the end of the seventh day. This was not a violation of the Sabbath rest, for the sun had gone down on Saturday. They were fishing all night on the first day of the week. And they caught nothing.

Just as the day was breaking they heard a stranger on the shore calling: "Have you caught any fish?" I think of the many times that I've walked past a fisherman and asked the same question. And they have given the same answer: "No fish yet."

From the shore, He offered advice: "Try the right side of the boat." Immediately, at daybreak the right side was swarming with the swimming. Déjà vu. Luke had captured the earlier scene: <sup>4</sup> "And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking." Luke 5:4-6 (ESV)

They have seen this before! So many fish! "It is the Lord!" Peter, who once walked on water, is again out of the boat and in the drink! He threw himself in with the miraculous catch.

Centuries before Jonah was out of the boat; sailors threw him into the deep. A fish swam Jonah to shore. And on the third day he was up out of the belly and onto the beach. God said, "Go and tell", tell the nations at Ninevah. Tell them, "God will destroy and God will spare."

Jesus fulfilled the prophesy of Jonah. Matthew tells of this good news: <sup>38</sup> "Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." <sup>39</sup> But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of

the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:38-40 (ESV)

Centuries after Jonah, God would destroy and God would spare. He gave His only Son up for us all. He destroyed sin and death in the pierced body of His Son. Christ Jesus lay in the belly of the earth. And on the third day, the earth would find Him on the shore. This is the third time the disciples have seen the Lord. And on this third time, Jesus is on the shore. And we are spared.

Peter recognized the Lord on the shore. And Peter went into the water after Jesus. One hundred yards later Peter came up on to the shore. Jesus was before him, with a fire for warmth; and fish roasting; and daily bread, like manna from heaven. This was the First day's breakfast. Jesus makes Himself known to the seven at breakfast. There is some fish, symbol of a Christian, and the breaking of the bread. And then he tells Peter: "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." John 20:15 (ESV) Peter would feed them the good news: Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed. See he has flesh and blood. And He eats with them.

Bring more fish! Why? To feed more than seven. From this eighth day of new creation, Jesus will feed 153 and me. This is more than common chromosomes. Adam's heritage was harmful for his sin separated us from God. Our ancestry was one huge rebellious man. And yet, here is a new Man, begotten of God, born of woman, dead for sin, risen for the world, and sitting on the shore feeding the followers and offering more.

Peter pulled the net ashore. 153 large fish was the count. The net was not torn. Why 153? It's a mystery; but, the math is as satisfying as the mouthful. If one stacks the catch with seventeen fish on the bottom and one fish on the top, then, one would have a triangle of St. Peter's fish 17 tilapia high. Seeing a three sided equilateral triangle, Augustine makes a point to say the 153 fish triangle shows the three on one God who in Christ has gathered all the nations and saved them by His Rising on the third day. That's quite the Easter breakfast. Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

---

Offerings to God in thanksgiving for your life and your daily bread may be sent to your house of worship.

---

**The Hymn.      Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds      LSB #465**

*by Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947*

3. O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
Set heart and will on things above,  
That we conquer through Your triumph;  
Grant grace sufficient for life's day,  
That by our lives we truly say,  
"Christ hath triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4. Adoring praises now we bring,  
And with the heav'nly blessed sing,  
"Christ has triumphed, Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father and our Lord,  
To Spirit blest, most holy God,  
All the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Text: Augsburg Publishing House, 1958*

*Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen  
Public Domain*

*Versicle.* Let my prayers be set forth before Thee as incense;  
*Answer.* And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**The Canticle.      Magnificat.      St. Luke 1:46-56**

My soul does magnify the Lord  
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.  
For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
For He that is mighty has done to me great things  
And holy is His name.  
And His mercy is on them that fear Him

From generation to generation.  
He has showed strength with His arm.  
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He has put down the mighty from their seats  
and exalted them of low degree.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
and the rich He has sent empty away.  
He has helped His servants Israel, in remembrance of His mercy  
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed, forever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be  
world without end. Amen.

**The Prayer.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Then all shall say:*

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Salutation.* The Lord be with you.  
**Answer.** And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Versicle.* The Lord will give strength unto His people.

**Answer.** The Lord will bless His people with peace.

### **Collect for Peace.**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto Thy servants that peace, which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*Then may be sung or said*

### **The Benedicamus.**

*Versicle:* Bless we the Lord.

**Answer.** Thanks be to God.

### **The Benediction.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all.

**Amen.**

*At the close of the Service silent prayer should be offered.*

*This text was converted to html format for Project Wittenberg by Christopher M. Fincher and is in the public domain. You may freely distribute, copy or print this text. Please direct any comments or suggestions to:*

*Rev. Robert E. Smith, Concordia Theological Seminary*

*E-mail: robert.smith@ctsfw.edu*

*Surface Mail: 6600 N. Clinton St., Ft. Wayne, IN 46825 USA*

*Phone: (260) 452-3149 Fax: (260) 452-2126*

Divine Savior Lutheran Church

1025 N. Buckman Street

Shepherdsville, KY 40165

(502) 543-2905

[www.divinesaviorshepherdsville.org](http://www.divinesaviorshepherdsville.org)

[divinesaviorshepherdsville@gmail.com](mailto:divinesaviorshepherdsville@gmail.com)

---

\* Text from: *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book*  
(St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1912), pp. 19-23