

I praise you, for I am

Fearfully
and
Wonderfully
Made.

Psalm 139:14

Entrance Hymn: Sovereign Ruler of the Skies (tune: Patmos)

Sovereign Ruler of the skies, Ever gracious, ever wise,
All my times are in your hand, All events at your command.

He that formed me in the womb Guides my footsteps till the tomb;
All my times shall ever be Ordered by his wise decree.

Mortal dangers round me fly; Till he bids, I cannot die;
Not a single arrow hits Till, in love, our God permits.

God all-gracious, wise and just, In your hands my life I trust;
You at all times I will bless: Having you, I all possess.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution (Psalm 139)

P O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

C You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

P You search out my path and my lying down

C and are acquainted with all my ways.

P Even before a word is on my tongue,

C behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

P You hem me in, behind and before,

C and lay your hand upon me.

P Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

C it is high; I cannot attain it.

P Almighty and Everlasting God, Your understanding comprehends all things. You see how Your creatures have departed from Your wise design. You know the desires of all humankind have become entirely unrighteous. Our thoughts, words, and deeds worship us above You and serve self instead of one another. Yet Your Son has

assumed our feeble nature and feels our weakness and need. For the sake of His sacrifice, remember us in mercy. Lay not Your hand of reckoning upon us and grant remission of all our sins.

C Amen.

P Where shall I go from your Spirit?

C Or where shall I flee from your presence?

P If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

C If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

P If I take the wings of the morning

C and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

P even there your hand shall lead me,

C and your right hand shall hold me.

P If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

C and the light about me be night,"

P even the darkness is not dark to you;

C the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

P O Lord, our Heavenly Father, You pursue us in jealousy to the ends of the heavens and earth. We cannot flee from Your judgment nor hide from the punishments we deserve. But Your Son, our Savior Christ Jesus, has traded our guilt in exchange for His glory. His death and resurrection have brought us the light of life everlasting. Drive our evils away from us with repentance, forgiveness, and faith, that we may behold Your goodness now and evermore.

C Amen.

P For you formed my inward parts;

C you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

P I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

C Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

P My frame was not hidden from you,

C when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

P Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them,

C the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

P How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

C How vast is the sum of them!

P If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

C **I awake, and I am still with you.**

P Children of men, do not fear! Incarnate Christ Jesus has come among us, sharing both womb and world, plumbed the depths of the earth, plundered death and the tomb. Take heart, for the Almighty Maker has created, redeemed, and called you His own. Upon your confession, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God!

C **O men of blood, depart from me!**

P They speak against you with malicious intent;

C **your enemies take your name in vain.**

P Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?

C **And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?**

P I hate them with complete hatred;

C **I count them my enemies.**

P Search me, O God, and know my heart!

C **Try me and know my thoughts!**

P And see if there be any grievous way in me,

C **and lead me in the way everlasting!**

C **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.**

P Lord God, our Father and Savior, open our hearts to receive and delight in Your wonders. Open our lips to rejoice and proclaim all Your works. Strengthen us in flesh and spirit to refuse wickedness and replace the lust for control with Your own truth and love. Give us courage to rescue the vulnerable and compassion to relieve the victim that together we may share Your life.

C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: How Great Thou Art (tune: O Store Gud)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Job 10:9-13 Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 2:5-18 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 10:24-33 [Jesus said:] “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy

both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Creed

Sermon Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (tune: Lobe Den Herren)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

Sermon

Offering Hymn: Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd (tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch)

Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd,
Children all are dear to you;
May your loving arms enfold them
In your care their whole life through.
By your tending and protecting
Keep them safe in all they do.

Tender Shepherd, never leave them,
Never let them go astray;
By your warning love directed,
May they walk the narrow way.
Thus direct them, thus defend them
Lest they fall an easy prey.

By your holy Word instruct them,
Fill their minds with heav'nly light;
By your pow'rful grace convince them
Always to approve what's right.
Let them feel your yoke is easy,
Let them find your burden light.

Taught to love the holy praises
Which on earth your children sing,
With their lips and hearts, sincerely,
Glad thank-off'rings may they bring,
Then with all the saints in glory
Join to praise their Lord and King.

Prayers

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P O Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have fearfully and wonderfully made us, created, redeemed, and called every member of our race from fertilization to forever, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. Lend us Your Holy Spirit that our lips may sound it forth with courage and our lives may show it forth in compassion. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P In Your book are written, Lord God, every one of our days. Receive our thankfulness for the birthdays and anniversaries celebrated among us this week (especially [name(s)]), and graciously strengthen us by these blessings to appreciate each neighbor as a gift and privilege. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You have searched us and see every grievous way in us. Forgive us for any hesitance in assisting our neighbors endangered by sinful measures such as abortion and assisted suicide. Grant the vulnerable ones protection and rescue, grant our land reprieve from these evils, and grant repentance to all who permit or promote them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Your all-encompassing presence and power hems us in behind and before. Work wisdom, commitment, and integrity in our officials and elected representatives that they may exercise Your authority to restrain vice and reward virtue. Secure for us a safe, free, and fair nation wherein we implement the sanctity of every human life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Dear Father in heaven, even the darkness is as light to You. Let Your relief and healing rest upon those among our number with injuries, illnesses, and any other ailments of body or soul (especially [name(s)]). Draw near in consolation to those of us experiencing surprise pregnancy, terminal diagnosis, infertility, abuse, or abandonment, that they may find hope and joy in Your kingdom. For Jesus' sake, take away the guilt and shame of hearts broken by the abortion of their own children. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lead us, O Lord and Savior, in the way everlasting. Unite us in Your Son as brothers and sisters sharing faith and fellowship unto abundant and eternal life, through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The service may continue with the liturgy of the Lord's Supper according to local custom. Suggested distribution hymns: "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born" (LSB 624); "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (LSB 443); and "Lord of All Hopefulness" (LSB 738).

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

Recessional Hymn: God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven (tune: Ard Hyd Y Nos)

God, who made the earth and heaven, Darkness and light:
You the day for work have given, For rest the night.
May Your angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet Your mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us, All through the night.

And when morn again shall call us To run life's way.
May we still, whate'er befall us, Your will obey.
From the pow'r of evil hide us,
In the narrow pathway guide us,
Never be Your smile denied us All through the day.

Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, And when we die,
May we in Your mighty keeping All peaceful lie.
When the last dread call shall wake us,
Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us With You on high.

△ Holy Father, throned in heaven, All-holy Son,
Holy Spirit, freely given, Blest Three in One:
Grant us grace, we now implore You,
Till we lay our crowns before You
And in worthier strains adore You While ages run.

Postlude

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