

**WORSHIP SERVICE FOR GRADUATION RECOGNITION
SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025 9:00AM**

THY STRONG WORD

LSB 578 *sts. 1-4*



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
night and deep as death, Broke the light of
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P To You, O LORD, I cry,
C **and to the Lord I plead for mercy.**

P For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.
C **Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

P Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.

C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **Amen.**

SONG

HOPE WAS BORN THIS NIGHT

1. **Tonight I can see a star shine
And its splendor fills up the sky
It's the same that appeared
And the wise men revered
When hope was born this night
Out upon the snowy fields
There's a silent peace that heals
And it echoes the grace
Of our Savior's embrace
Because hope was born this night**

Chorus

**Glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth,
good will to-ward men
Let all of the world
sing a chorus of joy
Because hope was born this night.**

2. **I can hear the Christmas bells ring
As softly a church choir sings
It's the song used to praise
The Ancient of Days
When hope was born this night
There are angels in this place
And my heart resounds with the praise
Like a shepherd so scared
I'll rejoice and declare
That hope was born this night**

Chorus

**Glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth,
good will to-ward men
Let all of the world
sing a chorus of joy
Because hope was born this night.**

(BRIDGE)

Gloria Gloria
...Gloria Gloria
Gloria gloria
...Gloria Gloria

Chorus (2x)

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth,
 good will to-ward men
Let all of the world
 sing a chorus of joy
Because hope was born this night.

(ENDING)

I know hope was born this night
Because Christ was born...this night

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER

L Let us pray.
Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

READING

Psalm 119:25–32

L A reading from Psalm, chapter 119.

²⁵My soul clings to the dust;
 give me life according to your word!
²⁶When I told of my ways, you answered me;
 teach me your statutes!
²⁷Make me understand the way of your precepts,
 and I will meditate on your wondrous works.
²⁸My soul melts away for sorrow;
 strengthen me according to your word!
²⁹Put false ways far from me
 and graciously teach me your law!
³⁰I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
 I set your just decrees before me.
³¹I cling to your testimonies, O LORD;
 let me not be put to shame!
³²I will run in the way of your commandments
 when you enlarge my heart!

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C **death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.**

P Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road,

C **while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.**

READING

Psalm 119:89–96

L A reading from Psalm, chapter 119.

⁸⁹Forever, O LORD,

your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

⁹⁰Your faithfulness endures to all generations;

you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

⁹¹By your appointment they stand this day,

for all things are your servants.

⁹²If your law had not been my delight,

I would have perished in my affliction.

⁹³I will never forget your precepts,

for by them you have given me life.

⁹⁴I am yours; save me,

for I have sought your precepts.

⁹⁵The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,

but I consider your testimonies.

⁹⁶I have seen a limit to all perfection,

but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SONG

**How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope**

**Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope**

Chorus

**Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope**

LIVING HOPE

**Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa**

Ending

**Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope**

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SERMON

SERMON TEXT

Psalm 119:153–160

RESH

¹⁵³Look on my affliction and deliver me,
for I do not forget your law.
¹⁵⁴Plead my cause and redeem me;
give me life according to your promise!
¹⁵⁵Salvation is far from the wicked,
for they do not seek your statutes.
¹⁵⁶Great is your mercy, O LORD;
give me life according to your just decrees.
¹⁵⁷Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,
but I do not swerve from your testimonies.
¹⁵⁸I look at the faithless with disgust,
because they do not keep your commands.
¹⁵⁹Consider how I love your precepts!
Give me life according to your steadfast love.
¹⁶⁰The sum of your word is truth,
and every one of your just and righteous decrees endures forever.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

P “I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus.”
(1 Cor. 1:4). On *(Date)*, you will all cross the stage of your high school to receive a diploma. This will mark
the end of your high school careers, and the start of something new. As this day approaches, we begin
with words of thanksgiving.

P For every Teacher...
C **Thank You, Lord.**

P For every coach and leader of the many extra-curricular activities...
C **Thank you, Lord.**

P For our Principals, school administrators, and school board members...
C **Thank you, Lord.**

P For the school secretaries, for nurses, and guidance counselors...
C **Thank you, Lord.**

P For those who work in the cafeteria, for custodians, for bus drivers, and for all others not yet mentioned who
helped in some way to get every student to this point...
C **Thank you, Lord.**

(Students turn to face towards their parents.)

P Thank you Parents...

R *(graduates)* **Thank you for loving me. Thank you for caring for me. Thank you for bringing me to school and many activities. Thank you for feeding me right. Thank you for giving me clothes and a home. Thank you for sticking with me in my good days, my bad days, and the days we frustrated one another. Thank you.**

R *(Parents/Guardians)* **We love you and give thanks to God always for you. Go forth with our blessing and our love. Amen.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you as both graduates and families enter into this new phase of your life...

C **Amen.**

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

C **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

C **Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C **Yes, 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.**

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

C **I do, by the grace of God.**

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

C **I do, by the grace of God.**

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

C **I do, by the grace of God.**

P Go in peace, and serve the Lord throughout your days, with his blessing: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

C **We your brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray our blessing upon you as you go forth in the name of the Lord and continue to serve him. Amen.**

GRADUATION VIDEO

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, our gracious heavenly Father, for in Your goodness You have given Your only-begotten Son for our salvation. By the guiding of Your Spirit direct our ways that we be filled with His presence. Kindle in us the fire of Your love and grant that we ever make the good confession of our faith. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

- 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SONG

- 1) **Amazing Grace**
 How sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me
 I once was lost but now I'm found
 Was blind but now I see so clearly

Chorus

Hallelujah, Grace like rain falls down on me
 Hallelujah, All my stains are washed away
 They're washed away

- 2) 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
 And grace my fears relieved
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed

GRACE LIKE RAIN

Chorus

**Hallelujah, Grace like rain falls down on me
Hallelujah, All my stains are washed away
They're washed away, yeah**

**3) When we've been there
Ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days
To sing Your praise
Than when we'd first begun**

Chorus

**Hallelujah, Grace like rain falls down on me
Hallelujah, All my stains are washed away
They're washed away
Hallelujah...yeah, Hallelujah...yeah
Hallelujah...yeah, oh yeah
Hallelujah, All my stains are washed away
They're washed away**

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SONG

THE LION AND THE LAMB

Verse 1

**He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord Almighty**

Chorus

**Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him**

Verse 2

**So open up the gates
Make way before the King of kings
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty**

Chorus

**Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him**

Bridge

**Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord (Almighty)**

Chorus

**Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him**

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PRAYER

L Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

SONG

OUR GOD

1. Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like You
2. Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God, our God

Bridge

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against?

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against?
What could stand against?

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God, our God

Bridge

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against?

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against?
What could stand against?

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God, our God

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