



When the Devil Does His Worst,  
Jesus Always Wins

June 9, 2024

Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church  
Crossville

## TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME – “A Top Down Faith”

When the devil does his worst, Jesus always wins. That truth is a miracle of God's grace. Today and in the weeks ahead, we see God's grace coming from “top down.” He comes to us with love that is completely undeserved. This is the true nature of God.

In today's gospel Jesus faces obstacles that the devil put in front of him. But Jesus says clearly that he is the one who ties up the strong man, the devil. He is stronger than the devil himself. And in the first lesson from Revelation 20 we see that Satan is bound – right now, in the New Testament era – as Jesus brings people to his love and forgiveness.

## SILENT PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we so often run from you. We so often make excuses for our sin. We so often blame someone or something for our sin. But you are the God of constant forgiveness. Strengthen our trust in you, and give us your peace as we hear about your love once again today. Amen.

## SUGGESTED READING BEFORE WORSHIP

Genesis 3:1-7. Try the YouVersion app or [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) on your phone.

## CONNECT CARD

Please give us feedback, suggestions, questions, or prayer requests on the “Connect Card.” You may place it in the offering plate when the offering is gathered.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED MEMBERS

Check out our announcement monitor in the lobby and learn about [Dan & Amy Lipinski](#) and [Gwen & Mike Kellogg](#).

## OUR GUESTS

- **Thank you** for choosing us. Please make yourself at home!
- There's **coffee, tea,** and **water** before worship for you in our lobby and more coffee & treats after worship.
- Help yourself to materials on our **guest welcome table** in the lobby.
- **Restrooms** are easily accessible – men's through the first double doors, women's through the second double doors.

Visit us online at our Facebook page or  
[www.ascntn.org](http://www.ascntn.org)  
John Qualmann, pastor  
(920) 209-5437 or [johndqualmann@gmail.com](mailto:johndqualmann@gmail.com)



# God's People Gather to Worship

## WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

### **"Christ is the World's Light"**

*Christian Worship 515:1-3*

**Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;  
Born in our dark-ness, he be-came our brother.  
If we have seen him, we have seen the Fa—ther:  
Glory to God on high!**

**Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other;  
No one can serve him and despise another.  
Who else unites us, one with God the Father?  
Glory to God on high!**

**Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other;  
Sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother.  
He who redeemed us reigns with God the Father:  
Glory to God on high!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Minister** In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Congregation** **Amen.**

**M** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

**M** Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## ALL SING

## “Christ is the World’s Light”

*Christian Worship 515:4*

Give God the glory, God and none other,  
Give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;  
Give God the glory, God with us, our brother:  
Glory to God on high!

# God’s People Listen to God Speak

## FIRST LESSON

## Revelation 20:1-6

<sup>1</sup>And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. <sup>2</sup>He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. <sup>3</sup>He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

<sup>4</sup>I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## ALL SING

## “Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me”

by Rich Thompson, Johnny Robinson, Michael Farren

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

[refrain] To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.

For my life is wholly bound to his.

Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side the Savior, he will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, his power is displayed.

**[refrain]: To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.**

**Through the deepest valley he will lead.**

**Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!**

**Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, the future sure, the price, it has been paid.**

**For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and he was raised to overthrow the grave.**

**[refrain]: To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.**

**Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.**

**Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!**

**Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for he has said that he will bring me home.**

**And day by day I know he will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.**

**[refrain]: To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.**

**All the glory evermore to him.**

**When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:**

**Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

**Yet not I, but through Christ in me. Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

## **GOSPEL**

## **Mark 3:20-35**

<sup>20</sup>Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

<sup>22</sup>And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

<sup>23</sup>So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup>In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

<sup>30</sup>He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

<sup>33</sup>"Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

<sup>34</sup>Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

**MESSAGE**

Genesis 3:8-15

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and

hers;

he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

NOTES FOR PERSONAL MEDITATION AND REFLECTION:

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**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

For our guests, please do not feel obligated to give a gift, but we would be honored if you would fill out your **Connect Card**. You may place it in the offering plate.

To give a gift electronically, simply use the QR code on your phone and it will take you to our secure online giving platform.



**“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” - Proverbs 3:9,10**

## PRAYERS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

OR

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen

## CLOSING SONG

**“Lord, Dismiss Us, With Your Blessing”**

*Christian Worship 927*

## BLESSING

**from Numbers 6**

M The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Let all God’s people say:

**C Amen!**

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<sup>1</sup>The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God’s people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, “So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them” (Numbers 6:27).

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***You are all invited for coffee & treats in our fellowship hall.***

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## ***Today's Bible Study***

***Please join us for our video Bible study this morning at 11:30, entitled "Believe."***

***"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and forever. Amen!" - 2 Peter 3:15***

***Please join us!***

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