

# Parables: The Laborers in the Vineyard



**Lent VI**  
**April 1, 2020**

Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word  
and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

# PARABLES

## Opening Hymn

## What Grace Is This!

715

1 What grace is this! My Lord and King  
Has set his face to suffering.  
My God eternal dies to bring  
Eternal life to me.

2 What grace is this-That very God  
Would stoop to lift a cross of wood  
And walk a road of rock and blood,  
A sinner's road, for me.

3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all,  
He yields to Pontius Pilate's law  
And lets the Roman hammers draw  
A rush of blood for me.

4 What grace is this! Rude agonies!  
With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.  
The sinless Son bears each misdeed.  
He pays for all, for me.

5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths  
And gently laid in manger-trough,  
He's taken, dead, from wretched cross  
And wrapped again for me.

6 What grace is this? How can it be?  
He wears this raw humility  
To lift me to eternity.  
Such grace-sweet grace-for me.

*This hymn helps us recognize the nature of divine grace, which is entirely independent of anything we are or can offer to God. God's grace willingly acts on behalf of rebellious sinners, as especially displayed in the suffering and death of our Savior.*

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STAND

**M:** O Lord, open my lips.

**C:** And my mouth shall declare your praise.

**M:** Hasten to save me, O God.

**C:** O Lord, come quickly to help me.

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**M:** Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

*BE SEATED*

**Psalm 130**

**p. 114**

*Refrain*

Remember your mercy, O Lord;  
remember your mercy and love.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;\*  
O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive\*  
to my cry for mercy.

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,\*  
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness;  
therefore you are feared.

### ***Refrain***

I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.\*

My soul waits for the Lord more than  
watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,\*

for with the LORD is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

**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.**

### ***Refrain***

Refrain Tune: Michael Joncas. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,  
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### **Psalm Prayer**

**M:** God of might and compassion, open your ears to the prayers of  
your people, who wait for you. Do not leave us in the depths of our  
sins, but listen to your Church pleading for the fullness of your  
redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Passion History Lesson Six**

### **Seasonal Response**

**All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.**

**Sermon Hymn**

**Christ, the Life of All the Living**

**114 (v. 1-5)**

## 114 Christ, the Life of All the Living

1 Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the Death of death, our foe,  
Who, thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe-  
Through thy suff'rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

2 Thou, ah, thou hast taken on thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

3 Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

4 Heartless scoffers did surround thee, Treating thee with cruel scorn,  
And with piercing thorns they crowned thee. All disgrace thou, Lord,  
hast borne  
That as thine thou mightest own me And with heav'nly glory crown me.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did thy foes accuse thee-Thence I gain security.  
Comfortless thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Text: Ernst C. Homburg, 1605-81, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, st. 1-2, 5, 7,  
alt.; *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book*, St. Louis, 1912, st. 3-4, 6.

**Sermon Text**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

**Sermon**

**Parables: The Laborers in the Vineyard**

1 Lord of the living harvest That ripens o'er the plain,  
Where angels soon will gather Their sheaves of golden grain,  
Accept our hands to labor, Our hearts to trust and love,  
And be with us to hasten Your kingdom from above.

2 As lab'ers in your vineyard, Lord, give us work to do,  
Content to bear the burden Of weary days for you,  
To ask no other wages When you will call us home  
Than to have shared the labor That makes your kingdom come.

3 Be with us, God the Father; Be with us, God the Son  
And God the Holy Spirit, Most blessed Three in One.  
Make us your faithful servants You rightly to adore,  
And fill us with your blessing Both now and evermore.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-75, abr., alt.

## Offering

*STAND*

## Prayers

### Lord's Prayer

#### Prayer for Peace

**M:** Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Blessing**

**M:** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

## **Lord, Support Us All Day Long**

**782**

1 Lord, support us all day long, Guide and strengthen.  
Evening comes, the world is hushed, Shadows lengthen,  
Work is done, life's fevered pace Now has ended;  
Christ, to you, our final rest Is commended.

2 Be our light in darkness, Lord, Our defender;  
In your presence perils all Must surrender.  
Drive all dark satanic snares From each dwelling;  
Then, at peace, our hearts your praise Will be telling.

3 With your presence, Lord, draw near Those who labor  
Through the nighttime on behalf Of their neighbor.  
Grant them courage for each fear, Faithful caring:  
Your compassion and your love Truly sharing.

4 Gracious Lord, we give you thanks, Praise and bless you,  
As the giver of all good We confess you.  
This past day we now commit To your keeping  
And entrust to you the hours Of our sleeping.

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