

Prayer Vigil 2009

We are pleased that you have accepted the invitation to pray during these hours. In the early hours of that first Good Friday, Jesus was taken from the Garden of Gethsemane, to the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest. By early morning, probably around six o'clock, they brought him before Pilate, where he stood trial. By nine o'clock, Jesus had been taken away to be crucified. At noon, darkness fell over the whole area, until three o'clock. Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. His body had been taken by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea and placed in the tomb by sundown.

It was very early on Sunday morning when the women came to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. When they got there, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" the angel asked. He is not here. He has risen!

It is our prayer that the time you spend in prayer and meditation during these hours will be a blessing to you and that your daily prayer life will continue to grow.

This year's devotion guide will walk you through the Gospel of Mark. We will stop here and there and take opportunities to pray, as God's Word leads us to prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Almighty God, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mark begins his Gospel this way: "The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Does this remind you of Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."? Mark rejoices to announce a new beginning and a fresh start for humankind. Back in the Garden of Eden, everything was "very good." At least it was for a while, until Adam and Eve sinned and brought death into the world. Mark rejoices to tell a "good story," for that is what the word "Gospel" means. This is the good story of God's promise of rescue for a lost world.

It was one of the lowest points of the Second World War when General Douglas MacArthur had to abandon the Philippines, for a time, to the more powerful Japanese forces. Even before he left, he promised the people of the Philippines that he would not forget about them or abandon them to the enemy. He would be back. They could count on it. He would rescue them.

Even so, God promised Adam and Eve that one day the Seed of the woman would come and crush the serpent's head. Our gracious God would not abandon his creation to the enemy. He would come and fight the foe and bring ultimate victory by means of the cross and the empty tomb.

Read Mark 1:9-13

Jesus battling with Satan and healing the demon-possessed everywhere he went is one of the frequent themes in the Gospel of Mark. In the wilderness temptation of Jesus, Mark doesn't tell us what went on, only that it happened. How do you imagine it? Jesus, the Son of God, did not get a free ride during those forty days. Do you really think that the devil would have pulled his punches? Scripture says that Jesus was in every way tempted, just as we are, yet was without sin. In fact, Jesus would have been tempted in ways that we cannot imagine. You and I have the promise that God will not "allow you to be tempted

beyond your strength.” Jesus had no such fail-safe, no bullet-proof vest. There was no one and nothing for him to hide behind.

*Praise God that we have a high priest who is able to sympathize with our weakness.
Pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
Pray that when you are tempted and when you do fall, that Jesus will lift you up, forgive you and restore you, just as he did Simon Peter, after Peter denied him three times.
Pray for the love and wisdom to help and restore others who have fallen into temptation
Praise God that the Holy Spirit prays for us in our weakness.
Thank God for his promise that “greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.*

**With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;
but for us fights the Valiant One, whom God himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there’s none other God; He holds the field forever.**

Mark 1:21-34

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are-- the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching-- and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

What can we learn from this?

There are powerful forces out there in the world ... forces that we have no power to overcome. But Jesus has power over the devil and his horde.

When we are sick, we should pray. When those we love are sick, we should bring that need to Jesus, as James and John did.

We should pray for everyone in need. How many of the sick in the town were brought to Jesus? *All of them!*

Take note also of how Peter's mother-in-law responded to what Jesus did for her. She began to wait on them. Her thankfulness inspired her service to the Lord Jesus.

Pray that God would thwart and hinder every plan and scheme of the devil, that he would protect us from the evil one.

Pray for those near and far that are in need of healing, and that God would restore them according to his gracious will.

*Pray that God would be with those in the midst of sickness and pain, and grant them His peace.
Pray that your thankfulness for God's gifts might overflow in acts of service.*

A Hymn of Meditation LSB #541

**“Away from us!” the demon cried
When Christ, the Lord, drew near.
“Our dark, disordered world is lost
When You, the Light, appear!”**

**But Jesus spoke with God's own power:
“Come forth!” was His command;
For evil cannot bear the light
Nor sin the Truth withstand.**

**O risen Christ, God's living Word,
To us, we pray, draw near.
Come, speak the truth that cleanses sin
With love that conquers fear.**

**Drive out the doubt that cripples faith;
Expel our pride and greed
That we, from powers that threaten us,
May, by Your grace, be freed.**

**Then help us, Lord, to greet each day
With hearts and wills made new
And when You call us forth to serve,
To rise and follow You.**

Mark 2:1-4

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

It always amazes me to see these faithful friends go out of their way to bring this paralyzed man to Jesus. Perhaps they simply didn't realize when they started out that getting him to Jesus was going to be so much work. But having begun, they couldn't just stop without finishing what they had started out to do. Did you ever wonder if Noah knew what he was getting into when he started building the ark? Moses certainly had some understanding of what was ahead when God called him at the burning bush. Moses tried every reason he could think of to say no to God. God wouldn't let him say no. Have there been times in your life when you wanted to say no to God, but He wouldn't let you?

Thank God that He did not abandon you to your fear and laziness.

Thank God for the blessings He had in store for you through all those things you didn't want to do at first. Noah would never have seen a rainbow. Moses would never have seen the Promised Land. Our four friends from Mark 2:3 would never have seen their friend walk, nor heard the words of blessed forgiveness that Jesus poured out upon him.

Pray for those who need to be brought to Jesus for healing and for forgiveness. Pray that the Lord would show you how to bring them.

Praise God for those who brought you to Jesus ... your parents ... friends ... Sunday School teachers ...

Mark 2:9

Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?

Have you ever given this verse some prayerful thought? Which one is easier? Jesus can heal with a word. He can heal by long distance. He can heal with a touch. He can heal by delayed action. He can spit in the dust and make mud, then use it to heal. Forgiveness of sins isn't nearly that easy. Where did Jesus get the authority to forgive sins? He got it from the cross. Jesus set aside His glory to become the Lamb of God who carries away the sin of the world. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Only by taking our sins upon Himself, could Jesus announce this forgiveness. Healing is free; forgiveness came at a price ... not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

Hymn of Meditation (LSB #547)

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect, final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heaven His praise to sing.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

Mark 4:1-20

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times." Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in

parables so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop-- thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

How many opportunities for prayer does this bring to your heart and mind?

Pray for the planting and growth of the seed in our children and grandchildren.

Pray for those in whom the seed has been planted, but where Satan keeps taking it away by means of wrong home and family priorities.

Pray for those who have strayed from the faith, for those whose faith is challenged by the economic times, by illness, or by family circumstances.

Pray for those in whom the seed had been planted, but where the worries and cares of this life keep choking it out.

Pray for those whose faith suffers because of the deceitfulness of wealth and the desire for more and more things.

Pray that God would lead you to see opportunities to sow the seed in the hearts and lives of people around you.

Pray that God would give you the grace and strength to use those opportunities.

Pray for Mark Jurgens as he prepares to return to Honduras as a mission worker with Latin American Missions.

Pray for Laura Prusha, Valerie Marshall and Peter Verlinden as they prepare for a six week mission trip to Quito, Ecuador in May and June.

Pray for our Sunday School teachers, that they would not grow weary of sowing the seed, and for parents that they would make regular Sunday School and church attendance a priority for their family.

Pray for our Nursery School and Kindergarten that our Lord would use this ministry to plant the seed of the Gospel in our community.

Pray for this summer's Vacation Bible School, that we may plant the seed among the children who attend, as well as their families.

Pray for our sister congregations in our District and Synod.

Hymn of Meditation (LSB #577)

**Almighty God, Your word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heaven descend And righteous fruits abound.**

**Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,
But give it root in every heart To bring forth fruits of love.**

**Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.**

**So when the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving power may know.**

Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

When was the last time you faced a storm in your life? Were you able to remain calm and confident in the midst of the storm, or did it seem as if Jesus was asleep? Fears come from different sources. Here in these verses, the disciples were afraid because of the storm. They were also afraid because Jesus seemed to have abandoned them. At the end, when they saw what Jesus could do, and that the wind and the waves obeyed him, they were even more terrified!

What comfort do we have in the midst of the storms of life? The Bible tells us that no matter how far Jonah tried to get away from God, it wasn't far enough. That truth, of itself, isn't a lot of comfort. What comfort is there in the storms of life?

Psalm 121:1-8

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life;

the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

God's word promises a gracious watching, powered by God's love for you. If God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, how much does He love you?

Let's look at it mathematically. If God's love is infinite and we divided it in half ... one half for you and one half for me, how much would we each get? We'd each get all of it, because infinity divided by 2 equals infinity. You'd get the same answer if you divided it by the population of the world ... infinity. In practical terms, what this means is that you have your Lord's undivided attention ... all the time!

1 Peter 5:7 ... Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.

Philippians 4:6-7 ... Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

How many more verses can you think of?

Who do you know whose life is in turmoil right now? Pray that God would either calm the storm or calm their heart in the midst of the storm.

Storms can help us grow closer to our Lord Jesus. Pray that He would use the storms in your life to lead you to higher and higher levels of trust in Him.

Storms are sometimes sent by God to lead people to repentance. Pray for those who need to be drawn closer to Jesus.

Storms sometimes happen in the lives of believers so that others can see Jesus through how we handle things. Pray that the Lord would use your life as a light to others, that they may be led to Jesus.

Hymn for Meditation (LSB # 722)

**Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favour I go astray;
So take my hand, O Saviour, And lead the way.**

**Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.**

**Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that you will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.**

Mark 7:24-30

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Many people want to pray to God on the basis of who they are. In Luke 18:10-14, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-- robbers, evildoers, adulterers-- or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' As far as the Pharisee was concerned, God owed it to him to answer his prayers. He had earned it. You can almost hear him say, 'Lord, I'm only asking for what I deserve.'"

The parable continues, "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"

Jesus concluded: "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Our only plea is to pray to God on the basis of who He is. He is the God of all grace. He loves sinners. He opens his hands and satisfies the desires of every living thing. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. You and I need never shy away from praying to our heavenly Father. You are His child through faith in Christ.

Is there anything that you haven't prayed for because you didn't feel worthy ... or because you thought it might be too trivial ... Don't let that stop you. Pray boldly!

Meditation Hymn (LSB # 779)

**Come, my soul, with every care, Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray, Therefore will not turn away.**

**Thou art coming to a King; Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and power are such None can ever ask too much.**

**With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood for sinners spilt, Set my conscience free from guilt.**

**Lord, Thy rest to me impart, Take possession of my heart;
There Thy blood-bought right maintain And without a rival reign.**

**While I am a pilgrim here, Let Thy love my spirit cheer;
As my guide, my guard, my friend, Lead me to my journey's end.**

**Show me what is mine to do; Every hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith; Let me die Thy people's death.**

Mark 10:1-16

Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" "What did Moses command you?" he replied. They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

- pray for families, for children, for parents
- pray for those suffering from abuse, from toxic marriages
- praise God for the gift of marriage and family

Mark 11:1-10

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

**Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One. Refrain**

**The company of angels are praising thee on high;
and mortal men and all things created make reply. Refrain**

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present. Refrain**

**To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Refrain**

**Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. Refrain**

Mark 14:22-26

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Meditation Hymn (LSB #618)

**I come, O Saviour, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!**

**Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!**

**Unworthy though I am O Saviour, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art:
*Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!***

**Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
*Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!***

**What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace.
*Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!***

Mark 14:66-72

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway. When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about." Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

**Jesus! and shall it ever be A mortal man ashamed of Thee?
Ashamed of Thee, whom angels praise, Whose glories shine through endless days?**

**Ashamed of Jesus? Sooner far Let evening blush to own a star.
He sheds the beams of light divine O'er this benighted soul of mine.**

**Ashamed of Jesus? Just as soon Let midnight be ashamed of noon.
'Tis midnight with my soul till He, Bright Morning Star, bids darkness flee.**

**Ashamed of Jesus, that dear Friend On whom my hopes of heaven depend?
No; when I blush, be this my shame, That I no more revere His name.**

**Ashamed of Jesus? Yes, I may When I've no guilt to wash away,
No tear to wipe, no joy to crave, No fears to quell, no soul to save.**

**Till then--nor is the boasting vain-- Till then I boast a Savior slain.
And oh, may this my portion be, That Christ is not ashamed of me!**

Mark 15:6-15

Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. "What shall I do, then,

with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" they shouted. "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

**Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Thy holy wounds I find,
Every hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treacherous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me ere its first beginning.**

**Should some lust or sharp temptation Prove too strong for flesh and blood,
Let me think upon Thy Passion, And the breach is soon made good.
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded," That the Tempter flee confounded.**

**If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road
With it mirth and luring voices, Let me think upon the load
Thou didst carry and endure That I flee all thoughts impure,
Banishing each wild emotion, Calm and blest in my devotion.**

**Every wound that pains or grieves me, By Thy stripes, Lord is made whole;
When I'm faint, Thy Cross revives me, Granting new life to my soul.
Yea, Thy comfort renders sweet Every bitter cup I meet;
For Thy all-atoning Passion Has procured my soul's salvation.**

**O my God, my Rock and Tower, Grant that in Thy death I trust,
Knowing Death has lost his power Since Thou trod'st him in the dust.
Savior, let Thine agony Ever help and comfort me;
When I die, be my Protection, Light and Life and Resurrection.**

Mark 15:33-39

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-- which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

**O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

**Men mock and taunt and jeer Thee, Thou noble countenance,
Though mighty worlds shall fear Thee And flee before Thy glance.
How art thou pale with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy visage languish That once was bright as morn!**

**Now from Thy cheeks has vanished Their color, once so fair;
From Thy red lips is banished The splendor that was there.
Grim Death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou has lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.**

**My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me,
For it was my transgression Which brought this woe on thee.
I cast me down before Thee, Wrath were my rightful lot;
Have mercy, I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not!**

**My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine!
Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love,
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heavenly joys above.**

**Here I will stand beside Thee, From Thee I will not part;
O Savior, do not chide me! When breaks Thy loving heart,
When soul and body languish In death's cold, cruel grasp,
Then, in Thy deepest anguish, Thee in mine arms I'll clasp.**

**The joy can ne'er be spoken, Above all joys beside,
When in Thy body broken I thus with safety hide.
O Lord of life, desiring Thy glory now to see,
Beside Thy cross expiring, I'd breathe my soul to Thee.**

**What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.**

**My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish, Oh, leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!**

**Be Thou my Consolation, My Shield when I must die;
Remind me of Thy Passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well!**

Mark 16:9-16

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it. Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either. Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good

news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**Christ is risen, Christ is living. Dry your tears; be unafraid.
Death and darkness could not hold Him, Nor the tomb in which He lay.
Do not look among the dead for One who lives forevermore.
Tell the world that Christ is risen; Make it known He goes before.**

**If the Lord had never risen, We'd have nothing to believe.
But His promise can be trusted: "You will live because I live."
As we share the death of Adam, So in Christ we live again.
Death has lost its sting and terror; Christ the Lord has come to reign.**

**Death has lost its old dominion; Let the world rejoice and shout!
Christ, the firstborn of the living, Gives us life and leads us out.
Let us thank our God who causes Hope to spring up from the ground.
Christ is risen, Christ is giving Life eternal, life profound.**