

#25 Sixth, the Church Is Recognized by Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving

Sixth, the holy Christian people are externally recognized by prayer, public praise, and thanksgiving to God. Where you see and hear the Lord's Prayer prayed and taught; or psalms or other spiritual songs sung, in accordance with the word of God and the true faith; also the creed, the Ten Commandments, and the catechism used in public, you may rest assured that a holy Christian people of God are present. For prayer, too, is one of the precious holy possessions whereby everything is sanctified, as St. Paul says [I Tim. 4:5]. The psalms too are nothing but prayers in which we praise, thank, and glorify God. The creed and the Ten Commandments are also God's word and belong to the holy possession, whereby the Holy Spirit sanctifies the holy people of Christ. However, we are now speaking of prayers and songs which are intelligible and from which we can learn and by means of which we can mend our ways. The clamor of monks and nuns and priests is not prayer, nor is it praise to God; for they do not understand it, nor do they learn anything from it; they do it like a donkey, only for the sake of the belly and not at all in quest of any reform or sanctification or of the will of God. (Luther's Works, v.41, p.164)

Prayer for those affected by the coronavirus

Omnipotent, eternal, and merciful God, You are the Savior of all men, especially those who believe [1 Tim. 4:10]. You have commanded through the apostle that prayers be offered for all men [1 Tim. 2:1]. I beg You, on behalf of all who are suffering under the affliction and hardship caused by the coronavirus, to uphold them with the consolation of Your grace, and support them with the help of Your might. Clothe with heavenly power and strength those who sweat in the most grievous agony of Satanic temptations. Make them partakers of Your victory, O Christ, most powerful Victor over the devil. May the refreshment of Your heavenly grace encourage those whose bones are dried up by the fire of sorrow. Uphold all those who fall and raise up all who are bowed down [Psa. 145:14]. Be gracious in allowing illness, so that physical sickness may be a spiritual medicine for those who are ill. May they recognize that sickness is an attendant of sin and a forerunner of death. Give to them strength of faith and patience, O truest Physician of souls and bodies. Restore them to their former health, provided that it is advantageous to their eternal salvation. Restore to us the unfettered assembly of your congregations for Divine Service and take away the famine of Your Word, that we may rejoice in going to the house of the Lord to receive your gifts.

The Order of Matins, p.208

- + **Hymn #362** "Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"
 - + "O Lord, open my lips..." p.208f
 - + Ascription of Praise p.209
 - + Lenten Invitatory
 - P. The Lord has redeemed His people
 - C. Oh, come, let us worship him.
 - + The Venite p.209f
 - "Oh, come, let us sing..."
 - The Lenten invitatory is repeated.*

- Hymn #98** "Glory Be To Jesus"
- Psalmody Psalm 43
- Readings Genesis 22:1-14,
Hebrews 9:11-15,
St. John 8:42-59
- Responsory for Lent p.212
 - "We have an advocate with the Father..."
- Sermon

- + Te Deum..... p.214
 - "We praise you, O God..."
- + The Prayers..... p.219
 - Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy...")
 - Lord's Prayer
 - Salutation
 - Collect for Judica
 - Collect for Passiontide
 - Special Prayers
 - Collect for Grace
- + Benedicamus/Blessing p.222

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