

## Historic Scripture Lessons for \*\*\*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 43:1-3 NIV But now, this is what the LORD says - He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are Mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. 3 For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead.

### Epistle

**Romans 13:8-10** Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the Law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law.

### Historic Gospel

**Matthew 8:23-27** Then He got into the boat and His disciples followed Him. 24 Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25 The disciples went and woke Him, saying, "LORD, save us! We're going to drown!" 26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. 27 The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of Man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey Him!"

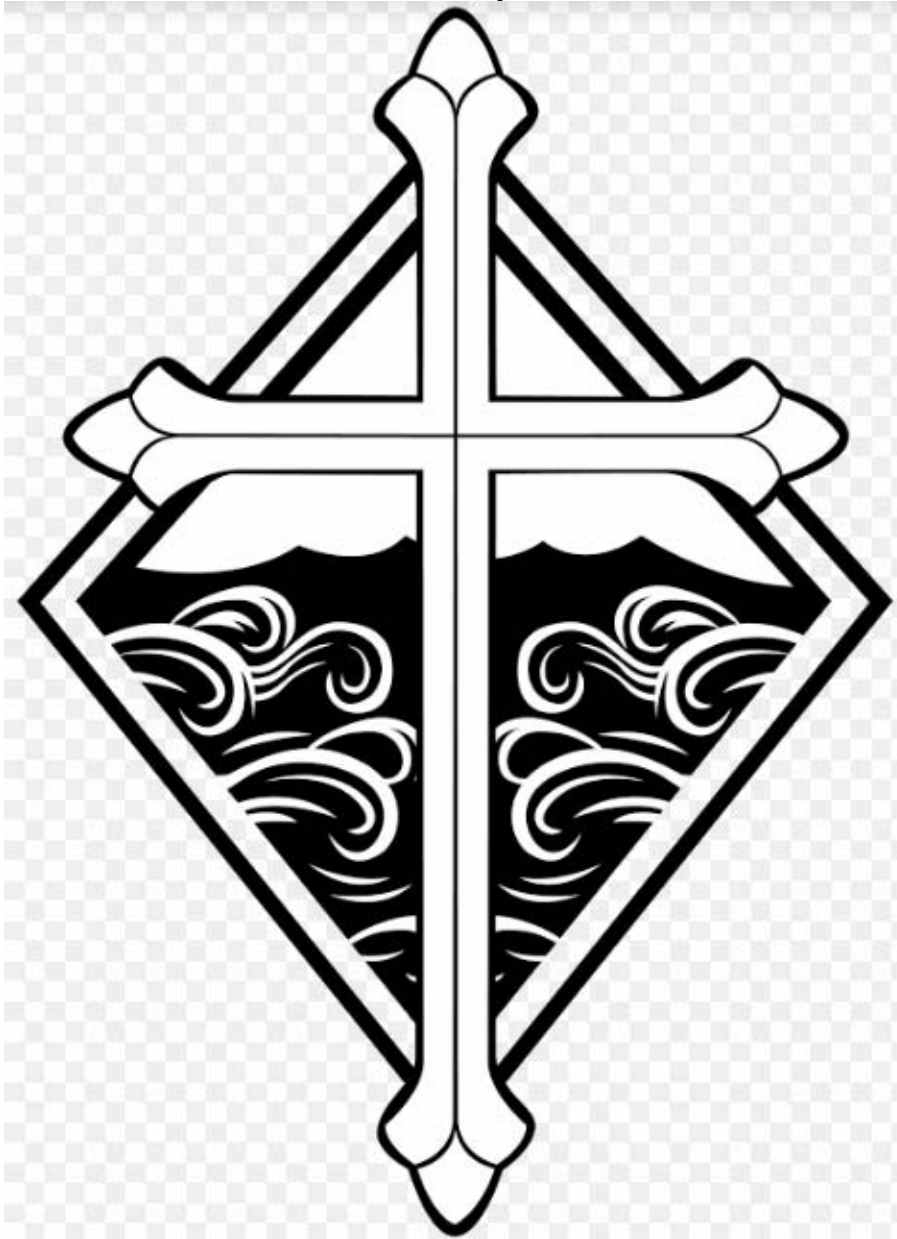
### 3-Year Gospel B (Sermon Text)

**Mark 1:21-28** They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught them as One who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 24 "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!" 25 "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26 The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27 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." 28 News about Him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

### ✠ 2018 OSL Annual Voters' Meeting TODAY! January 28<sup>th</sup> 11 am AGENDA:

- |                         |                          |                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Devotion             | 5. Set Mtg. Time (Limit) | 9. Old Business      |
| 2. Roll Call-Attendance | 6. Elections (Officers)  | 10. New Business     |
| 3. Call for New Voters  | 7. Financial Reports     | 11. Adjourn          |
| 4. Minutes (2017 Mtg)   | 8. (Other) Reports       | 12. (Lord's) Prayer. |

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ✧ *Jesus Calms the Storm*  
*Trust in Jesus* 🕊 January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 🕒 9:30 am



*Historic Church Year Symbol Set for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany: Matthew 8*  
*"Trust the Man in the Boat." Jesus calms the storm on the Sea of Galilee..*

Image courtesy of the Lutheran Synod Publishing <https://lutheransynodpublishing.com>

# OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

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BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✱ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✱ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

## January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Epiphany-4 Trust in The LORD

**WELCOME to OUR SAVIOR!** We are so happy to have you worship Our Savior with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time or in a long time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come worship with us again! **God bless you.**

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** On gold liturgy sheets or red Hymnal starting p.5.

Service	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Invocation Hymn	428 (6v)	I Am Trusting Thee LORD Jesus
Psalm 98	98 "4v"	All the Ends of the Earth Have Seen Power
Hymn of the Day	425 (6v)	Sing v.1-5 All Depends on Our Possessing
Offertory Verse	425 (6v)	Sing v.6 If on earth my days He lengthen...
Third Hymn	431 (6v)	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Closing Hymn	54 (3v)	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

### Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday  
 Gen.33:1-20 Gen.35:1-21 Gen. 37:1-36 Gen.29:1-23 Gen.40:1-23 Gen. 41:1-37  
 Mat.11:11-24 Matt.12:1-21 Mt.12:22-50 Matt.13:1-23 Matt.14:1-36 Mat.15:1-20

### PROPERs for FOURTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY ✱✱✱✱ JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

**INTROIT** Worship Him, all you His angels. Zion heard and was glad. The daughters of Judah rejoiced because of Your judgments, O LORD. The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice, let the multitude of isles be glad. ...from Psalm 148

**COLLECT** Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to help and defend us; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our LORD, Who lives, and reigns with You and..." C: J A---men.

**GRADUAL** Alleluia! Oh, praise the LORD, all you nations! Laud Him, all you people. Alleluia! For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the LORD endures forever. Alleluia! ...from Ps.102

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS printed on the outside back page of the bulletin →

O.T. Isaiah 43:1-3 God says via Isaiah, "Fear not!" of water or fire.  
 Epi. Romans 13:8-10 Sum up the Law in this: "Love your neighbor."  
 Gos. Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus calms the storm on the Sea of Galilee.

(Offertory Verse) All Depends on Our Possessing #425 v.6 "If on earth..."

6. If on earth my days He lengthen, He my weary soul will strengthen;  
 All my trust in Him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,  
 Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in His grace. A-men.

**PSALM 98 C: J All the Ends of the Earth, Have Seen the Power of God.**  
**Refrain All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God.**

Verse 1. Sing to the Lord a new song, \_\_\_ for He has done wondrous deeds; \_\_\_  
 His Right Hand has won the Vict'ry for Him, His ho-ly Arm. \_\_\_\_\_

J All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends...

Verse 2. The Lord has made His Salvation known, His justice revealed to all; \_\_\_  
 Remembered His kindness and faithfulness, to Is-rael. \_\_\_\_\_

J All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends...

Verse 3. All the ends of the earth have seen, salva—tion by our God; \_\_\_  
 Joyfully sing out all you lands, break forth- in song. \_\_\_\_\_

J All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends...

Verse 4. Sing to the Lord with harp and song, \_\_\_ with trumpet and with horn; \_\_\_  
 Sing in your joy before the King, The King-, our Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

J All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends of the...

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
	Sue Smith (Bev Foster's daughter)	Sue: liver & pancreas growth. Bev may visit
	Jim & Elma Hendricks	LORD's will be done. Jim at home. Blood pressure spikes
	Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing
	Don Miner (Carolyn)	Don had shoulder replacement. Recovering at home
	Jon Sawyer Sr (Andrea)	Jon Sr is at home. Will need a (heart) transplant
	Martha Sawyer (Jon's mom)	In Mississippi in rehab after her TIAs & strokes
	James Vanesky & Delores Platt	Delores & Jim at home. Both doing rehab

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Ethel & Steve Wendt	Joan Patrick
Treaters	June Weyenberg	Volunteer

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday Attendance/ LORD Supper	32 / 29	26 / 25
Bible Class Attendance Sun/Wed	8	7
Sunday Offering for LORD	\$.	YTD Total \$.

### Calendar of Events

Today Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am	Bible Study Heb. 12 JC, Hero of Faithful
Epiphany-4 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (NO Holy Communion)
☪ Trust in the LORD	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk
2018 Annual Mtg.	~11:00 am	OSL Annual Voters' Meeting at church
Wednesday 1/31	6:00 pm	NEW Midweek Bible Study: Jesus' Parables
Next Sunday 2/4	8:30 am	Bible Study Heb. 13 JC, Whose Kin We Are
Epiphany-5 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)
Church ☪ Militant	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk

Our Savior Elders are: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Steve Wendt 858-3611 & Don Wienke 815-8892. Please contact with any concerns.

### January 28 ELS Centennial: Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done: 1918-2018

Today, as the ELS observes its Centennial, the synod consists of 17,000 members in 131 congregations. But prior to 1917, the synod consisted of 150,522 souls in 986 congregations. At that time, the Synod also operated one college, one teacher-training school, one seminary, twelve academies (high schools), four orphans' homes, three old-people's homes, two hospitals, and a publishing house.

Next Sun. 2/4 Epiphany-5B (L.S. p.15) TLH #s 467 Ps.98 292 644 315 467.5-7



## EPIPHANY-4(B) Mark 1:21-28 *"TEACHING WITH AUTHORITY"* 01.28.17 OSL

INTRODUCTION It's a Sabbath day in Capernaum, so where would you expect to find Jesus? **Of course – in the synagogue. Where else?** The synagogue was the "congregating place." That's what the word "synagogue" means, a place to gather. We say, "congregation." Every sabbath Jesus went to the congregation. Even "Super Bowl Saturday" (if there had been such a thing), you would have found Jesus in the synagogue.

**The sabbath was a Holy day.** *"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. You shall sanctify the holy day."* That meant no work – a nice meal, some rest, lots of Word of God, but no work. "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God." Sabbath, shabbat, means "rest." Slaves work seven days a week without rest; God's free people worked six and rested on the seventh.

Rest didn't mean sleeping in until the pregame show. Nor did it mean getting out the golf clubs for a quick morning round. **Rest meant worship, gladly hearing and learning the Word of God.** For the Israelites, rest began on Friday evening with a nice meal with undiluted wine, then sleep, then a day full of the Word in the synagogue. Now today, the sabbath law is fulfilled in Christ and doesn't apply to us in a particular day. The Christian congregation is not a synagogue and Sunday is not a sabbath. What was a **Law in the OT**, (punishable by the death penalty for sabbath breakers), is now a **free thing in the New**. But it does say something about the depth of **our sinful nature when God has to make a law about rest.**

Jesus is **OUR sabbath, our rest.** When we deal with Jesus, it's **not** work but a **gift, pure rest.** And if we're rest-less, then perhaps it's because we don't rest enough in the Word, and we don't seek our rest where "two or three are congregated" and Jesus promises to be there for them, to give them rest.

Jesus taught the folks there in the synagogue at Capernaum. That's what went on in the synagogue – teaching from the Torah and prayers. And Jesus, newly baptized and ordained, would be seen as the new rabbi on the block. What would He say? The people were all ears.

**What Jesus said amazed the people.** He taught as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. Their teachers would credential themselves by their teachers, in an apostolic succession to **Moses**. They would say, *"I was taught by rabbi so-and-so who was taught by rabbi so-and-so"* on down the line all the way back to Moses, and **you know it didn't get bigger than Moses.** Our equivalent today is lots of degree paper on the wall, which may prove you're smart but doesn't prove you're right.

Jesus taught **on His own authority:** *"You have heard it said, but I say to you..."* That was something (totally) different. That kind of teaching the people hadn't heard before, not since Moses and the prophets. Jesus' teaching came with the full blast authority of the Lord Himself. He spoke as the Lord Himself, because that's who He is – the Lord. He was the Prophet of whom Moses spoke in Deuteronomy, the One who would have the words of God in His mouth. To hear Jesus was to hear it straight from the mouth of God Himself. His words were God's words; His teaching God's teaching, and He didn't need a bunch of degrees hanging on the wall.

**The people were amazed.** The people had never heard anything like it before. **Mark doesn't tell us what Jesus was teaching,** but we can assume that it

had to do with sin, forgiveness, and the kingdom that had come with His coming. In other words, pretty much the same stuff you hear every Sunday, or at least are supposed to hear if the preaching is running on all cylinders. Now maybe that's not what you came to hear, or even want to hear, but that's what God wants to be heard – repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus. Certainly the devil doesn't want that kind of preaching going on.

**There was a man in the Capernaum congregation** with an unclean spirit, a demon. I don't know how common demon possession was, but it seems that the **devils were putting in overtime during Jesus' ministry.** You can be sure that wherever the doctrine of Christ is being taught, the devil and his demons will be hard at work. There's nothing the devil despises more than the preaching of Christ crucified for sinners. You can preach social justice and morality until you're blue in the face and the devil couldn't care less. But preach Christ, and all sorts of trouble will start.

A man jumps up in the middle of Jesus' sermon and shouts, *"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God."* **Disorder is always** the way of the devils. God is a God of order. He creates and keeps everything in order. The devil prefers disorder, disruption, chaos. Lots of hollering and jumping around.

Notice how **demons know who Jesus is**, and they even speak the truth about Jesus. He's the Holy One of God come to destroy the works of the devil. Right on every front. But this truth is a crooked truth, meant to distract, to short-circuit Calvary, to get Jesus off His baptismal road to the cross, to leak the little secret with some advance publicity.

That's why the demons were always trumpeting that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. **Jesus was trying to bring His hearers along slowly**, shaping their hearing and reshaping their expectations. But the devil wanted to get the image of "messiah" in the people's minds. Get them to think of Jesus in terms of power and politics. Push on their messianic buttons and get them riled up. Forget about this cross and death and resurrection. Let's talk about glory and power and revolt. The more people thought of Jesus as a Messiah in their own terms, the less they would hear the Gospel.

The demons would have loved to **stop Mark's gospel at chapter 1, so we could close up the book and never get to chapter 16** and Jesus' death and resurrection. He would love to have you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God without all this stuff about Cross, and Body and Blood, and Death and Resurrection. The devil loves "spiritualities" and Cross-less, bloodless gospels that are really no Gospel at all. You remember **Peter**, who confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. And then Jesus began to teach them what it meant for Him to be the Christ, how He must suffer and on the third day rise from the dead. And Peter, meaning well, said, *"Lord, that must never happen to you."* But Jesus rebuked Peter. Those weren't God's words, **those were the devil's words.** It must happen. The Christ must suffer, die, and rise or there is no salvation for the world.

I seriously doubt that the devil much cares about the **Christianity you see on TV which talks about God doing you favors**, and God giving you an easy and prosperous life if you only believe. What the devil hates and what he tries to mess up is faith that trusts Jesus for forgiveness, faith that looks to Jesus crucified and sees

life, faith that suffers all things for Jesus' sake knowing that Christ has conquered and in Him we conquer too.

In Mark, Jesus' being the Christ, the Messiah, is a secret, hidden until the end, when He hangs dead in the darkness on the Cross and a Gentile soldier blurts out, *"Truly, this was the son of God."* And then no one silences him. Why? Because hanging there on the Cross, Jesus is the most Son of God, most Holy One of God. This is why He came, this is why He was baptized, this is why He set His face to Jerusalem. This is how the kingdom of God comes to us – by His dying and rising. And until that happens, until the world sees Him dead on a Cross, they will not understand what it means for Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of God. And neither will we. We will always try to reshape Jesus into something else.

With a Word, Jesus silences the disruptive demon and restores order to the liturgy of the synagogue.. *"Be silent. Come out of him,"* Jesus says. And the demon obeys. He must. He has no choice. He must obey the Word. It's the same Word, by the way, that Jesus uses to still the chaotic storm, the wind and the waves. *"Be silent."* Literally, *"Shut up!"* This is the creative Word speaking, and the creature must obey.

I'm always amazed with how easily Jesus deals with the demons. Just a word, nothing more. And though the demon makes a circus side-show of convulsing the man and shrieking, in the end it must submit to the Word of Jesus because Jesus is Lord even of the devil and His demons. That's why Luther, in the Large Catechism, calls the devil *"God's devil."*

Now that's authority! This was not persuasive preaching with PowerPoint. Nope. This is a Word that cuts through the darkness, that casts out the demons, the changes water into wine, that calms the wind and stills the waves, that cleanses the leper, and lifts the paralyzed man from his bed. It's a Word that declares with the authority of God that Baptism is your personal rebirth in Christ, that the bread of the Supper is His Body given for you, the wine of His Supper is His Blood shed for you. By His Word your sins are forgiven, you are saints in Christ. By His Word He will raise you from the dead.

CONCLUSION This is Capernaum ...for you. Your congregation. A synagogue of the baptized, gathered to hear the Word spoken on Christ's authority. *"I forgive you all of your sins."* Spoken into the darkness of your sins, silencing the demons, bringing salvation, healing, and life. We need to hear this authoritative Word from the One to whom all authority in heaven and on earth has been given. We need to hear it spoken against our sin, against the devil, the world, and our own flesh – justifying us, declaring us to be righteous, forgiven, holy in Christ.

Don't let the demons drag you down. The Devil will try his best – creating unrest in the world, destroying homes and marriages, making mischief in our churches, distracting us, throwing us off the good news to another gospel. He drives us to doubt and despair. Luther threw ink bottles and passed gas at him. These days we either take him too seriously and too lightly. Don't kid yourself in our modern sophistication. The devil stalks around like a roaring lion, Peter says, looking for someone to devour. He wants you. He wants to get between you and Jesus. He wants to keep you away from the Word and your congregation. Resist him by standing firm in the faith, in the doctrine of Christ. *"He can harm us none. He's already judged, the deed is done."* One little Word can fell him, when that little Word comes with the authority of Jesus, Who died and rose to save you. *IJN, Amen.*

## Possible Prayer of Church for\*\*\*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany January 28<sup>th</sup>

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible Brief silence)

Heavenly Father, Your servant Moses promised that You would raise up a prophet like him from among Your ancient people, putting Your words into his mouth. We bless Your name that You fulfilled that promise when You sent Your Son with the words of eternal life for us to hear and to treasure. Make all ministers of Your Church faithful in preaching that Word, and grant all Your people grace to hear and welcome it with joy. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son spoke with power and showed His authority to release from the oppression of the devil those whom the enemy had afflicted. Through our Savior's mighty Word, continue to free those in bondage to the powers of darkness, transferring them into the Kingdom of Your Son, that with us they may marvel at Your gracious love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Kind Master, You summon Your children to consider and weigh the impact of their actions on their weaker brothers and sisters and so not to live in such a way that they are merely pleasing themselves. Help all the members of our congregation to be considerate of one another and not to put needless stumbling blocks in the way of each other's faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your merciful keeping, we commend all those entrusted with civil authority among us. Help them to serve our nation and communities with honor. Remember also all in our armed forces and particularly our chaplains who minister to them in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, You invite everyone who is godly to offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found. Hear the cries of Your children who call to You in their time of need: those who are ill, hospitalized, injured, grieving, lonely or frightened [and especially all we name before You: **OSL Prayer List**].

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Have mercy on them all, O Lord, and let them take comfort in Your steadfast love that surrounds those who trust in You. Lord, in Your mercy, <b>hear our prayer.</b>		

Blessed is the one whose transgression You forgive and whose sin You cover. Grant that all who approach the holy altar today to partake of Your Son's true body and blood may taste the goodness of Your forgiveness and bring forth the fruits of faith in their lives. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You are our hiding place. You preserve Your children from trouble and surround them with shouts of deliverance. Receive our thanks for all the faithful departed who have gone before us and now rest in Christ. Bring us with all Your saints to the joys of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen. Then, the Lord's Prayer...**