

# Even in the In-Between



## Lent Midweek Worship Series

Pairing Scripture  
with poems  
by Tanner Olson

**TONIGHT:**  
**Romans 8 &**  
**“You Alone”**

## Wednesday, March 1, 2023

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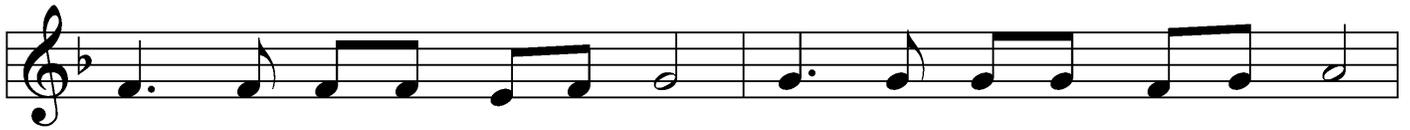
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**Opening Hymn**

**Now the Light Has Gone Away**

LSB 887 sts. 1-5



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,  
 2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;  
 3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;  
 4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.  
 5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.  
 Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.  
 O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.  
 All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!  
 Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.  
 Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, 1842, Kaiserswerth

**Invocation and Call to Worship**

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

Hebrews 12:2

C: **the author and perfecter of our faith,**

P: who for the joy that was set before him

C: **endured the cross, despising the shame,**

P: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

C: **Now is the time of God's favor; now is the day of salvation.**

2 Corinthians 6:2b

P: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

Psalms 85:4, 4:6, 37:6, 113:7

C: **that the light of Your face may shine on us.**

P: May Your justice shine like the sun;

C: **and may the poor be lifted up.**

**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.**

## ***Confession and Absolution***

1 Peter 5:6-11, 1:3-5

P: Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God  
so that at the proper time he may exalt you.  
Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.  
Be sober-minded; be watchful.  
Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion,  
seeking someone to devour.  
Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering  
are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

**C: *We humble ourselves before the Lord.  
We confess that we have sinned against heaven and earth,  
against the Lord, His Creation, and one another.  
Please come to us, Lord, and forgive. Amen.***

P: We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1 John 2:1

**C: *He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.*** Mark 10:33

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Psalms 32:1

**C: *He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.***

P: We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C: *He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people. Amen.***

*Silence for meditation on our need for Christ's forgiveness.*

P: At the command of the Lord, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy God the Father provided a ram as a substitute. We give thanks to the Father that on Calvary He did not spare His only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. The God of all grace has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, and He Himself restores, confirms, strengthens, and establishes you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. According to his great mercy, he has caused you to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: *Amen.***

**Song of Response**

**Create in Me**

LSB 192

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

**Reading Paired with Tonight's Poem**  
(See Handout)

**Romans 8:18-30 (ESV)**

**Tonight's Poem by Tanner Olson**  
(See Handout)

**Another Version of the Reading**

**Romans 8:18-25 (VOICE)**

<sup>18</sup> Now I'm sure of this: the sufferings we endure now are not even worth comparing to the glory that is coming and will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For all of creation is waiting, yearning for the time when the children of God will be revealed. <sup>20</sup> You see, all of creation has collapsed into emptiness, not by its own choosing, but by God's. Still He placed within it a *deep and abiding* hope <sup>21</sup> that creation would one day be liberated from its slavery to corruption and experience the glorious freedom of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that all creation groans *in unison* with birthing pains up until now. <sup>23</sup> *And there is more*; it's not just creation—all of us are groaning together too.

Though we have already tasted the firstfruits of the Spirit, we are longing for the total redemption of our bodies that comes when our adoption as children of God is complete—<sup>24</sup> for we have been saved in this hope *and for this future*. But hope does not involve what we already *have* or see. For who goes around hoping for what he already has? <sup>25</sup> But if we wait expectantly for things we have never seen, then we hope with true perseverance and eager anticipation.

### ***Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: *And also with you.***

P: Father Almighty, God and Father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, By faith the saints of old held fast to Your promise of things hoped for though not yet seen, leaving an example and encouragement for us who walk now by faith and not by sight. You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: *Amen.***

### ***Responsory***

*John 4:23a; 3:16*

P: The hour is coming, and is now here,

**C: *when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.***

P: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,

**C: *that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C: *He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people. Amen.***

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#### ***Acknowledgments***

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.

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**Hymn of the Day**

**Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ**

LSB 769



1 E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ,  
2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;  
3 Come with the strength I lack, bring vi - sion clear



I know not how to ask or what to say;  
Help me to see Your pur - pose and Your will—  
Of hu - man need; O give me eyes to see



I on - ly know my need, as deep as life,  
Where I have failed, what I have done a - miss;  
Ful - fill - ment of my life in love out-poured,



And on - ly You can teach me how to pray.  
Held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.  
My life in You, O Christ; Your love in me.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–96, alt.

Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662

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**Sermon**

**“Even in the In-Between”**

**Romans 8:18-30**

**Offering**

**Prayers**

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For Synodical President Matthew Harrison, District President Allan Buss, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For President Biden, for Governor Pritzker, for Mayor Hood, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**C: To You, O Lord.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

## **Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

## **My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

LSB 702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;  
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my  
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's  
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!  
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.  
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87  
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## **Announcements**