

9. LENT

Lord God, our Father in heaven, you have shown your great love toward us by sending your Son into the world to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

We give you thanks because you have made us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light, having rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of your beloved Son.

Lord God, Son, the Savior of the world, though you were in the form of God, you did not consider equality with God something to cling to, but emptied yourself, taking form of a servant, being born in human likeness. You humbled yourself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

We give you thanks because you are our merciful and faithful High Priest, have made reconciliation for the sins of the people. You were despised and rejected, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. You were wounded for our transgressions; you were bruised for our iniquities; upon you fell the punishment that made us whole; and by your wounds we are healed.

Lord God, Holy Spirit, one with the Father and the Son, you fill our hearts with the love of God and make our bodies your holy temple.

We give you thanks because you descended upon the Christ, anointing him to bring good news to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free those who are oppressed; and to proclaim the time of the Lord's favor.

LA TROBE (581 A), hymn 72

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One in Three, and Three in One,
as by the celestial host,
let your will on earth be done;
praise by all to you be given,
glorious Lord of earth and heav'n.

From all self-righteousness,
From ingratitude and selfishness,
From lukewarmness,
From all indifference to your meritorious life and death,
Deliver us, gracious Lord and God.

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PASSION CHORALE (151 A), hymn 69

What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest Friend,
for all your dying sorrow, your mercy without end?
Grant me to lean unshaken upon your faithfulness
till I from earth am taken to see you face to face.

By your holy incarnation and birth,
By your early exile,
By your pure and blameless childhood,
By your willing obedience,
By your humility, meekness, and patience,
By your faithfulness in your earthly calling,
By your fasting and temptation,
By your perfect life before God and humanity,

Bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God.

By your tears and agony, your crown of thorns and cross,

Lead us to repentance for our sins.

By your willing sacrifice of yourself even unto death,

Make known to us the mystery of your love.

Into your open arms stretched out upon the cross,

Receive us all.

By all your sacred wounds and precious blood,
By your innocent suffering and dying,
By your rest in the grave,
By your glorious resurrection and ascension,

Bless us and save us, Christ Jesus, our Redeemer.

Fulfill in us your prayer that all who love you may be one, as you are in the Father,
and the Father in you.

Hear us and help us, gracious Savior.

You have made God known to us as Father, so that the love with which he has
loved you may be in us.

And you in us.

Christ, and him crucified,

Remain our confession of faith.

COVENANT (185 A), hymn 71

Lamb of God, you shall remain forever
of our songs the only theme;
for your boundless love; your grace and favor,
we will praise your saving name;
that for our transgressions you were wounded,
shall by us in nobler strains be sounded,
when we, perfected in love,
once shall join the church above.

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