

Welcome to Vespers for the **Thursdays of the Season of Easter**. The Service for Vespers is on p142-153 in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). The Psalms are **Psalm 68 on p244-5** and **Psalm 113 on p270-1**. The hymn is **#300**.

**PSALM 68**      (*The cantor will sing / speak the antiphon. The psalm will be sung / spoken in unison.*)

ANTIPHON

*Sing to God, sing praises | to his Name;\*  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens, | alleluia.*

<sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let his ene- | mies be scattered;\*  
let those who hate him | flee before him.

<sup>2</sup>Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives | it away;\*  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of God.

<sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;\*  
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to his name; exalt him who rides up- | on the heavens;\*  
YAHWEH is his name, re- | joice before him!

<sup>5</sup>Father of orphans, defend- | er of widows,\*  
God in his holy | habitation!

<sup>6</sup>God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners | into freedom;\*  
but the rebels shall live | in dry places.

<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,\*  
when you marched | through the wilderness,

<sup>8</sup>the earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the | God of Sinai,\*  
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.

<sup>9</sup>You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon | your inheritance;\*  
you refreshed the land when | it was weary.

<sup>10</sup>Your people found their | home in it;\*  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord | gave the word;\*  
great was the company of women who | bore the tidings:

- <sup>12</sup>“Kings with their armies are flee- | ing away; \*  
the women at home are divid- | ing the spoils.”
- <sup>13</sup>Though you lingered a- | mong the sheepfolds, \*  
you shall be like a dove whose wings are covered with silver, whose feathers are | like  
green gold.
- <sup>14</sup>When the Almighty | scattered kings, \*  
it was like snow fall- | ing in Zalmon.
- <sup>15</sup>O mighty mountain, O | hill of Bashan! \*  
O rugged mountain, O | hill of Bashan!
- <sup>16</sup>Why do you look with envy, O rugged mountain, at the hill which God chose for his | resting  
-place? \*  
Truly, the LORD will dwell | there forever.
- <sup>17</sup>The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thou- | sands of thousands; \*  
the Lord comes in holi- | ness from Sinai.
- <sup>18</sup>You have gone up on high and led captivity captive; you have received gifts even | from your  
enemies, \*  
that the LORD God might | dwell among them.
- <sup>19</sup>Blessed be the Lord | day by day, \*  
the God of our salvation, who | bears our burdens.
- <sup>20</sup>He is our God, the God of | our salvation; \*  
God is the LORD, by whom we | escape death.
- <sup>21</sup>God shall crush the heads | of his enemies, \*  
and the hairy scalp of those who go on still | in their wickedness.
- <sup>22</sup>The Lord has said, “I will bring them | back from Bashan; \*  
I will bring them back from the depths | of the sea;
- <sup>23</sup>that your foot may be | dipped in blood, \*  
the tongues of your dogs in the blood | of your enemies.”
- <sup>24</sup>They see your proces- | sion, O God, \*  
your procession into the sanctuary, my God | and my King.
- <sup>25</sup>The singers go before, musicians | follow after, \*  
in the midst of maidens playing up- | on the hand-drums.
- <sup>26</sup>Bless God in the | congregation; \*  
bless the LORD, you that are of the foun- | tain of Israel.

<sup>27</sup>There is Benjamin, least of the tribes, at the head; the princes of Judah | in a company;\*  
and the princes of Zebul- | on and Naphtali.

<sup>28</sup>Send forth your | strength, O God;\*  
establish, O God, what you have | wrought for us.

<sup>29</sup>Kings shall bring | gifts to you,\*  
for your temple's sake | at Jerusalem.

<sup>30</sup>Rebuke the wild beast | of the reeds,\*  
and the peoples, a herd of wild bulls | with its calves.

<sup>31</sup>Trample down those who lust | after silver;\*  
scatter the peoples that de- | light in war.

<sup>32</sup>Let tribute be brought | out of Egypt;\*  
let Ethiopia stretch out her | hands to God.

<sup>33</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;\*  
sing praises | to the Lord.

<sup>34</sup>He rides in the heavens, the | ancient heavens;\*  
he sends forth his voice, his | mighty voice.

<sup>35</sup>Ascribe pow- | er to God;\*  
his majesty is over Israel; his strength is | in the skies.

<sup>36</sup>How wonderful is God in his | holy places,\*  
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! | Blessed be God!

#### ANTIPHON

*Sing to God, sing praises | to his Name;\*  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens, | alleluia.*

**PSALM 113**      (*The cantor will sing / speak the antiphon. The psalm will be sung / spoken in unison.*)

#### ANTIPHON

*The Lord is high a | bove all nations,\*  
He takes up the weak out of the dust, | alleluia.*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;\*  
praise the name | of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,\*  
from this time forth for- | evermore.

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its | going down\*  
let the name of the | LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup>The LORD is high a- | bove all nations,\*  
and his glory a- | bove the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God, who sits en- | throned on high,\*  
but stoops to behold the heavens | and the earth?

<sup>6</sup>He takes up the weak out | of the dust\*  
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes.

<sup>7</sup>He sets them | with the princes,\*  
with the princes | of his people.

<sup>8</sup>He makes the woman of a | childless house\*  
to be a joyful moth- | er of children.

#### ANTIPHON

*The Lord is high a | bove all nations,\*  
He takes up the weak out of the dust, | alleluia.*

# O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's might - y  
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den of our  
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been  
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us of our



Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by  
sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to  
paid; you now as - cend the Fa - ther's throne in  
pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:  
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.  
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.  
mer - cy pur - i - fied, by mer - cy pur - i - fied.

5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,  
our future great reward;  
our only glory, may it be  
to glory in the Lord!

6 All praise to you, ascended Lord;  
all glory ever be  
to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
through all eternity!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.  
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

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