

WELS Agenda, 1894

Passionsheit (p. 168)

A. Allgemeine

1.

O Lord Jesus Christ, You who acquired the grace of your heavenly Father for us poor, lost Sinners through your holy, innocent suffering and has restored eternal life to us. We thank You from the bottom of our hearts for Your entire suffering and Your bitter death and for the great love and faithfulness, which You have thereby shown to us. We beg You, preserve us in Your eternal love for the sake of Your suffering and death, grant us grace through the Holy Spirit, so that we remember, praise, honor, and glorify the great cost of Your redemption and Your great generosity with thankful hearts, and let us in that way be strengthened in faith, lifted up in hope, kindled in love for you, roused in patience, willing and constant in obedience, and let us die to our sins, and serve you, our Savior, all our lives in holiness and piety as thankful Christians. Finally also mercifully help us to be glad and trust in your bloody death until the very end unto eternal salvation, O Jesus Christ, you faithful Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

2.

B. Gruendonnerstag (p. 172)

We thank you, Lord Jesus, that You have thought so well of Your beloved congregation and instituted and ordained for us upon earth so holy a table and so comforting a Sacrament. We thank you, You Holy One, our once-and-for-all Sacrifice for our sins, that You Yourself are our Passover Lamb in this Holy Supper, and that You feed us poor, hungry men with and give us to drink of Your Holy Body, and you so cheerfully share with us and commit to us all the goods and kindnesses which You have won. Yes, our Lord, the bread that we break is the communion in Your Body, and the cup which we bless is the communion in Your Blood. How could we possibly repay You for making Yourself so near to us and establishing such a heavenly, divine communion with us! In this You feed us with and give us to drink of Your Body and Blood, You securely unite and join us with You, that we from now on are Your members, Your flesh and bones. You humbly deign to share with us, so that now Your entire obedience, merits, and righteousness are our own, and we thereby are therefore righteous and pleasing before our God,

as if we were ourselves like You, You Mediator of the new covenant. How consolingly You strengthen our faith, as You bodily awaken our confidence! Help, Lord Jesus Christ, so that our communion may be ever deeper, ever firmer, so that we trust Your merits and Your generosity ever more deeply, ever more joyfully. O dwell and live in us, Lord Jesus, together with the Father and the Holy Ghost, show Your power in us incessantly and make us truly alive, holy, and blessed, so that we joyfully serve Your name with pure hearts, with new tongues, with dutiful hands and feet, so that our members do and accomplish everything which is pleasing to You, so that we are raised up as new creatures in Your image, our Lord and Head, and through the power and might of God are kept and preserved to eternal perfection.

Oster (p. 179)

1.

Almighty, eternal, merciful (warm-hearted) God and Father of our faithful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, You who are an inexhaustible fountain of all goodness. We poor, miserable children thank You from the bottom of our hearts, that You have not withheld your only-begotten Son, but You have given Him for the sake of our sins, and on the third day have awakened Him from the dead for the sake of our righteousness.

We thank you also, most faithful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that You have given Yourself into our misery, and have clothed Yourself with our guilt and sin, have made amends for them by Your blood and death, by Your joyful resurrection have taken from death its power, and have restored righteousness, life, and blessedness, and we pray You of Your boundless mercy, that You would not let Your heavenly and inexpressible treasures and good deeds toward us poor little worms be lost, but would let us be and remain partakers in them through steadfast faith, with broken and contrite hearts. May it be pleasing to You, by virtue of Your unfailing promise, forever out of the human race, and also indeed all here in this land and congregation, to assemble and preserve an eternal church. May you send faithful workers into Your harvest, and curb and guard against all false doctrine and error, and let all [Christian] rulers and authorities, especially the beloved government in our land, be entrusted to you, preserved in your gracious care, and protected from all evil. May You also show compassion for the household—father, mother, children, servants and all those among us—and attend to us with Your heavenly grace, protect us from the cunning and trickery of the devil, from sins and shame, mercifully let the fruit

of the land grow, bestow the daily bread, and lend grace, so that we through your death and resurrection finally reach the end of our faith, that is, wholeness and blessedness of soul, You who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, true God, forever and ever. Amen.

2.

Lord Jesus Christ, You strong Lion from the root of Judah, You invincible Hero, you mighty Royal Victor, You strong Samson, You Sin-Obliterator, You Conqueror of death, You Snake-stabber and Destroyer of Hell: I give you heartfelt thanks for your victorious, joyous resurrection, whereby You have taken the power of death, brought back an eternal and imperishable life to light. You have shown yourself as an almighty Lord, who has the keys of hell and of death, which you open and no one can close. You were dead and behold, now you live forever and ever. You have saved your people from death and rescued them from hell. Death, where is your sting, Hell, where is your Victory? To You, Lord Jesus, be thanks, for you have given us the victory. You have become a poison to death and a pestilence to hell; You have swallowed up death forever, and wiped away all the tears from our eyes. Come, let us go to the Lord: He has smitten us, He will bind up our wounds; He has wounded us, He will again heal us; He will raise us on third day, He will make us alive after two days, so that we will live before Him; therefore my heart rejoices and I am happy to honor you [Ps. 16:9], for God has not abandoned His soul in hell, and has not allowed that His Holy One see decay. You have been abandoned by God for a little while, but now are crowned with honor and splendor; You were taken away by oppression [*Angst*] and judgment, and who will speak of Your descendants? The Stone, which the builders rejected, has become the Cornerstone, the Lord has done this, and is a wonder for our eyes. One sings with joy in the tents of the righteous: the right hand of the Lord is raised high, the right hand of the Lord holds the field forever. I will not die, but live and proclaim the work of the Lord. You have drunk from the brook beside the way, therefore You have lived up your head. You are truly the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes on you will live, even though he dies. You are the Life of the believing; therefore they can nevermore die, for You, their Life, do not die, therefore they cannot lose their life. O my Lord Jesus, You have dawned as the beautiful sunrise, the majestic Way You rose in an earthquake, Your holy angel opened and showed the grave and said: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Come here, see the place where He laid." O, what shining, zealous servants are here at your grave, the

holy watchmen, who wait for their Lord when He is rises. O friendly Lord, You appear to Mary Magdalene and Peter and say, "Go and say to my brothers: I go to My Father and to your Father, to My God and Your God." You become a pilgrim to Emmaus, and explain to your troubled disciples all the Scripture. You come to the Apostles in the locked house, You show them Your hands and feet, Your side and the marks of Your wounds and heal thereby the wounds of their unbelief, You eat with them from pure love, as a sign that You indeed live, so that You may feed them with the fruits of Your resurrection; You share those same fruits out of Your eternal peace, which contains all heavenly goodness, favor and grace of God, forgiveness of sins, righteousness, victory, comfort, eternal joy and life. On the other hand, You show that sin, death, devil, anger, curse, hell and damnation are overcome and removed, or else no peace could come to us. O richly loving, gracious, most trustworthy, living peace, You noble fruit of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, come into my heart, make my soul glad, for on account of this peace one is glad, as one rejoices in the harvest, as one is glad when one divides up the spoils. You, my Lord Christ, have as the Royal Victor distributed the right spoils of immortality after having won the battle, the beautiful festival dress of the Transfiguration, as Samson in his wedding, when he smote the Philistines. Let us also, O Lord, rise with You through true repentance, and let us have a part in the first resurrection, so that the other death may have no power over us; rise in us, live in us, conquer and overcome in us the world, sin, death, devil, and hell, comfort our soul in anxiety and sorrow through Your Word and the Spirit of peace. Awaken also my body on the last day through the power of Your resurrection to eternal life. May I lie in the grave without lament, and sleep until the last day, when You will open my grave and awaken me to everlasting joy. Then you will say: "Wake up and praise, you who sleep under the earth, for My dew is a dew of a green field." At that time, my futile, perishable, mortal body will put on incorruption, immortality, power and honor, and will be like Your transfigured body. For our life is hidden in you; when, however, You our Life appears, so also we will appear with you in your glory. Amen.

3.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, You almighty God and strong royal Victor, You who have torn apart the bands of death, in great majesty and glory have risen from the grave, and have become the firstborn of those who sleep: we thank you for this, Your great day of honor for Your holy suffering, death, and resurrection; for it has all worked out for good for us. You have as the true,

strong Samson heroically pulled up and obliterated the doors and gates of hell, in order that we in everlasting freedom may go out and in. You have led us with a powerful hand out of the hellish Egyptian slavery and from the kingdom of death, from whom You have taken its power, and have rescued us from eternal slavery. You are risen from the dead and proceeded with power as our Head and Shepherd, in order that we as your members and sheep may also not remain in the grave, but should rise through you to everlasting glory. Therefore we call out today with joyful hearts: "To God be praise and thanks, who has give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." And we ask You, let your holy resurrection at all times be a comfort to us, so that we believe firmly, that You have hidden all our sins and misdeeds deep in Your grave, so that they do not come before the face of our heavenly Father any more, nor bring us shame. Help us also finally to powerfully overcome all the distress and pain of death through the joyful comfort of the resurrection of the body, and when you will call through the voice of the archangel: "Arise, you dead," so open our graves and let us go to you with joy. For we will look cheerfully upon Your holy face, and, as You did with Your beloved disciples after Your resurrection, hold many heartfelt, friendly, loving conversations with You in heaven, and praise You together with the Father and Holy Spirit in eternity.

4.

Good Lord Jesus Christ, we speak to You praise and thanks for Your great love and mercy, that You, for the sake of our sins have endured the death of the cross and for the sake of our justification have arisen from the dead, destroyed our death through Your death, and through Your resurrection have brought to us eternal righteousness and life. We ask you, increase and strengthen our faith, so that we do not doubt that You have overcome death, hell, and all evil for good, and You are truly risen to immortal life and entered into glory, whereby we also have become partakers of the power and fruit of Your suffering and Your resurrection. In Your name we have received the forgiveness of sins and walk in new life. In Your name our corpses will rise again on the last day from the earth, completely clothed with immortality, splendor and glory. Before this time here awake, O Lord, those who lie spiritually dead in their sins. Make them living through Your powerful Word, so that they trust and believe your Victory, that You will certainly rescue them from all evil and complaining and eternally exalt [them] in your kingdom,

where You will appear before them with the Father and the Holy Spirit and be their bliss and joy, their light and their glory. Amen.

5.

Friendly Lord Jesus Christ, You triumphant Easter King, we praise and glorify Your inexpressible love, according to which You so often showed Yourself to Your friends on the day of Your resurrection and You have gladdened their troubled hearts with powerful comfort. We also ask You to be the companion on the pilgrimage of life, to be our houseguest and bless our food. Be our treasure in our hearts and enlighten them through the brightness of your saving Word, so that they become ardent in love and burn with true faith. When also the sun of our life and the day of this world sets [comes to an end], remain by us with Your grace and lead us out of this worrisome vale of sorrow into the heavenly Jerusalem, so that we may recognize and eternally see you clearly face to face and together with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6.

Lord Jesus Christ, You Son of the living God: just as You visited Your deeply troubled disciples after Your joyful resurrection, You have comforted and gladden them, so also we heartily ask You, appear also to us and to all Christians with peace and joy. Give us peace in our hearts. Grant peace in the land and thereupon let us rejoice in the houses of peace eternally. O Lord, show to us and to all troubled souls Your wounds, so that we rejoice heartily in the face of all the enemies of Your suffering and joyful resurrection. Give us the Holy Spirit, so that we daily rise from the death of sins and live in a new life. O You blessed Easter King, let our bodies on that day be glorified like Your body. Keep us all in heartfelt Easter joy and give us also with it the eternal Easter peace, You who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are highly praised through all eternity.

Himmelfahrt

1.

Lord, almighty God and Father, You who have greatly gladdened us today through the Ascension of Your Son, we offer You heartfelt praise and thanks for Your comfort, which is given to us in the Ascension of Your Son. He has entered into His glory and has promised to

draw us also to Himself there. We ask You, help, so that we believe this heartily, and comfort ourselves with it at all times, to call on You in the name of Your Son, and to thank You eternally. Turn Your most holy face from our sins; look instead on the blessed countenance of Jesus Christ, whom You have set at Your right hand for our comfort. Be gracious to us, O Lord, and favorably grant our requests. Send down from heaven out of the bright, white cloud, Your Holy Spirit, so that our hearts arrive with Jesus Christ out of the night of sins into righteousness, to love You and to serve You forever with joyful obedience. O Lord, our God, help, so that we with Him and through Him ascend, conquer, triumph, and reign. Alleluia. Amen.

2.

Lord Jesus Christ, almighty Lord and God, we thank You, that You, after obtaining victory over all Your enemies, celebrated Your Ascension with great majesty, with triumph and jubilation of the heavenly angels and have sat down at the right hand of Your heavenly Father. Thus Your cross and suffering has a blessed outcome: You have entered through death into Your eternal glory. Dear Savior, You are on the shore, and we are still upon the wild sea; you are in victory, and we are still in battle. Yet still give us your grace, that we focus on You with our hearts and thoughts, so that our hearts may be where our treasure is. Let us trample everything worldly under our feet, so that we can fly to You in the highest with heartfelt prayers, sighs, and wings of the true faith. We believe and comfort ourselves steadfastly, [that] You will not leave as Your members here in misery, but finally, when we have finished our race and concluded our life in true faith, will take us also to Yourself. For You have indeed so fervently asked and said to Your heavenly Father before Your suffering: “Father, I want that, where I am, they whom You have given to Me may also be with Me, so that they may see My glory.” And since You have ascended not only to Your Father, but also to our Father, and have promised Your disciples and us: “I will come again and take you to be with Me that you might be where I am,” therefore fulfill Your comforting promise, dear Redeemer, and fetch us soon to Yourself, for our hearts are longing for You. How gladly we would like to be with You in our heavenly Fatherland, how much rather we would prefer that to more time wandering in this miserable pilgrimage. How gladly we would lay aside our earthly tents. For we pine after our dwelling, which is in heaven, and yearn that the mortal would be swallowed up by life and that we would be at home with You. We say with David: “When will we get to that place where we will behold God’s face?” Lord, we

wait. But until our last hour comes, we want to press on with our minds in heaven and with an intense longing to be home with You, You who are the joy and delight of our hearts, highly praised through all eternity. Amen.