Sermon transcript

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Topic: Isaiah 51:4–8: "Hearken unto me, my people, and give ear unto me, O my nation!" (and LORD'S Supper)

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Today too let us forget everything and remember the Lord, let us turn away from all else and look to Him who has promised to be with us, to be amongst us and to bless us. We warmly invite you all to this year-end meeting and believe that God will bless us. As this year 1991 draws to a close, I would like to read a few verses from Psalm 91. Let us stand for this, Psalm 91 from verse 1:

[1] ***He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.***

[2] ***I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.***

[3] ***Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.***

[4] ***He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.***

[5] ***Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;***

[6] ***Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.***

[7] ***A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.***

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You from the bottom of our hearts for Your Word. How refreshing are the words from Thy mouth, O Lord! We thank You for the Holy Scriptures. We thank You for the Old and New Testament. We thank You for the living testimonies found therein, for our comfort and edification.

We thank You for this day, which we are able to spend together in Your presence, O Lord, and also for the grace that You have kept us, so that today, in this place, we may give thanks, consciously give thanks to You, O God, for Your faithfulness, for all Your sustaining care, for Your help, which we have received in so many ways. May

it please You, O Lord, to be in our midst today as well. Beloved Savior, we invite You and we ask You, forgive us, be gracious to us, cleanse and sanctify us, beloved Lord, for You are holy and those who are Yours shall be and may be sanctified in You, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. We give You our heartfelt thanks for everything, in Jesus' holy name, Hallelujah, Amen, Amen.

You may be seated.

I would like to read three passages from the Bible, which speak of the one God and if anyone finds that the phrase "Triune God" is also mentioned anywhere, then it could be read out as well. But it does not appear in the Bible. It exists in people's minds and in church books, but not in Holy Scripture. Romans, chapter 16, verse 27:

[27] ***To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.***

James 2, verse 19, James 2, verse 19:

[19] ***Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well.***

And then from Jude, Jude, verse 25, Jude, verse 25:

[25] ***To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.***

I don't know if you've noticed. In a sermon, Brother Branham refers to a vision, he saw someone beating a woman with a three-cornered club. Can you remember that? And he saw that this was not right, that this man was being so brutal and using a three-cornered club to beat this woman. And a voice spoke to him, saying: "This three-cornered club symbolizes the doctrine of the Trinity. And every time God grants a new beginning through revival and bestows new blessings, this doctrine is introduced anew only to strike down the church represented as a woman once again with this three-cornered club so that it cannot fully rise up and flourish."

I thought to myself, if the Pentecostals had not organized themselves like all the others, if they had not set up headquarters, if they had not formed a denomination, but had remained as they were in the beginning, at the turn of the century, and had not adopted the Roman teachings, things would have taken a completely different course. But look, even in this, Scripture must be fulfilled. The one is the great harlot who consorts with the kings of the earth, and the others are her daughters, and now they are all returning to the womb of the mother church. [Rev 17:1-2, 5] Now they all want to engage in evangelism, the Pope first and foremost, with Evangelization 2000, and everyone joins in, singing Hallelujah and glory to the Lord. God does not hear such songs at all.

God is not where gods are worshipped. God is where He is worshipped as the one true God, in spirit and in truth, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. [Joh 4:24]

And so we do indeed see that the genuine and the counterfeit lie so close together

that only the elect will discern the difference and see where all these paths lead. What have we said time and again? All those who since the Reformation have taken on teachings, passing them from revival to revival, teachings that have their origin in the Roman Church, will one day return to it, because they have carried with them kindred elements of faith, like old leaven, by which they have been thoroughly leavened.

Beloved, I would like to share just one more thought on this subject. If anyone thinks that this is merely a matter of doctrinal opinion, then we have been mistaken. When it comes to the Godhead and the fundamental teachings of Holy Scripture, it is not a matter of opinion, but rather a question of whether we stand firmly on the true ground of Scripture without deviating from it, or we stand on the ground of Rome, from which all false teachings have come, causing the whole world to be made drunk, because they have drunk from the cup of this fornication. [Rev 17:2; Rev 18:3] And it is simply essential that we understand this.

Brother Branham said back then, I'll go ahead and put it today, just as he put it. I winced at the time, perhaps we will too today. May it come as a shock to all who have not yet grasped the gravity of the matter. When Brother Branham spoke about these things, he said: **"All denominations are anti-Christian movements and bear the mark of the beast."**

A short pause, and then he added: **"Even the Pentecostal organization."**

And you know, back in the 1960s, I didn't know what I know today, nor had I yet seen what I see today, and I thought to myself: "Man of God, is the Pentecostal movement too, as an organization, as a denomination, supposed to be an anti-Christian movement? Isn't the Spirit of God at work within it?" But what is the situation today? Today only the form remains. A second generation has grown up. The original experiences are a thing of the past, and all that remains are the memories. Everything is now returning to the mother's womb.

In this too, as in all the other cases, the man of God was right. The prophetic eye looked into the future. He could see the course things would take. Yet the Church of the Lord has been called out, set apart, and has no part in what comes from Rome, but a full share in what went forth from Jerusalem as the Word of God. As it is written, "***the Word shall go forth from Jerusalem, and the Law from Mount Zion.***" [Isa 2:3; Mic 4:2]

Today, on this last Sunday of the year, let us truly and wholeheartedly give thanks to God for the end-time message, for the revealed Word, for all the manifestations of grace, for everything that God has bestowed upon us. I would just like to read a passage from the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 51. Isaiah 51, from verse 4, where it says, addressing us:

[4] ***Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a***

light of the people.

[5] ***My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.***

[6] ***Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.***

I was primarily concerned with the words, ***"Hearken unto me, my people, and give ear unto me, O my nation, for instruction shall proceed from me."*** [Isa 51:4] There are passages in the Old and New Testament, ***"Then shall they all be taught by God."*** [Isa 54:13; Joh 6:45] And I believe that we may rightly say that in these days, indeed in our own generation, we are permitted to be in God's school, to sit under His teaching, and to hear the sweet words from His mouth anew, time and again. And not only that, but to believe them, take them to heart, and act upon them.

We must also recognize the gravity of the matter at hand, namely the correction of all those things which were in need of correction. As I mentioned earlier, God has ensured that in our day pure Bible doctrine without any admixture has been proclaimed anew and placed upon the lampstand. Our task is not to mix things up again. We do not despise others. One cannot be angry with a physically blind person, nor can one scold them simply because they cannot see; they are already punished enough by the fact that they cannot see. And so let us not be angry with the spiritually blind, let alone set ourselves above them or scold them.

But then the Word is also written, ***"Cursed be anyone who leads a blind person astray."*** [Deu 27:18] A blind person should no longer be led astray; a blind person should be led to the Lord, so that his eyes may be opened, may the Lord touch them. And back then, when Jesus was on earth, He spoke to the scribes. And suddenly they said: "***He means us, He says we are blind.***" And then He said to them: ***"If you were blind, you would have no sin. But since you think you can see, your sin remains."*** [Joh 9:40-41] You can read about it for yourselves.

The religious leaders have always believed themselves to be those who see, oh, they have always seen so clearly. No, it was the prophets who saw, the apostles saw, the servants and messengers sent by God, who proclaimed His Word in His name. And so, we are grateful that we can place our full faith in this testimony confirmed by God.

Even in the age in which we live, we have been given the opportunity to see the light shining in the darkness. We have been given the opportunity to choose between right and wrong, now that the truth and what is genuine have been proclaimed to us. If however we then continue to walk in the darkness, the Scripture applies: "***and***

the darkness comprehended it not." [Joh 1:5] God sends His light and His truth to guide us to Him, so that we may be enlightened and in the midst of the darkness see the bright light of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ. [2Cor 4:6]

Here we are addressed in the plural, ***"Hearken unto me, my people, and give ear unto me, O my nation."*** [Isa 51:4] By grace we may regard ourselves as the church of the living God. Through Jesus Christ God has brought a church into being, a church that belongs to Him, that is His possession, a church which, according to 1 Timothy 3, verse 15, is the pillar and foundation of the truth.

And you will find that everything so-called men, theologians and professors have done to undermine the Bible, to portray the creation account as untrue—I am thinking of Bultmann, I am thinking of some who have been taught in your country, in this country, whether in Marburg or Basel, and who have preached the theory of evolution. Let me give you just two or three examples today as to why it cannot be true. If God had set out to create ever larger, better and more capable beings from the smallest living creatures, then I ask you today why the smallest living creatures still exist.

If there had been an evolution from apes to humans, then I ask quite naively, why do apes still exist today? If the ape had become a human, well, then it wouldn't exist at all anymore. Then it wouldn't be walking around on all fours today, but on two feet. Is that true or not? The wise men of this world have become fools, have you realized that?

If tadpoles have turned into fish, why are there still vast numbers of them in still waters? Surely they should all be fish by now and no longer just tadpoles swimming about in the pond. I come from the countryside, I know my way about these things. If the grass had grown into taller trees, why is there still grass today?

Forget all the theories these wise men have put forward and remember the Word of our Creator. Hallelujah! Praise be to the name of the Lord! You all know the wise men of this world who think the whole world looks up to them because they have brought new theories into being.

You will see, in the very end, the wisdom of the wise will have been revealed as folly and the all-wise God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who in the beginning said, ***"Let everything bring forth after its own kind,"*** and so it remains from the beginning to the end, what was wheat in the beginning is wheat today, what was barley back then is barley today, the fish was a fish, the monkey was one and remains one until the end. [Gen 1:11-12, 21, 24] In any case, the theory of these wise men has not been confirmed. In my case, I was born a human being and am grateful to God for having been created in His image. [Gen 1:26-27] We are created in the image of God, and in His image we shall be again.

The monkeys may well climb up and down the trees, we shall remain on this earth. Do you see what I mean?

Everything that the human mind has devised in this regard was after all directed against God, against God's Word, against Him as Creator and against the account of creation, so that God and God's Word might be made to appear untrustworthy in the eyes of people. We who believe God are only all the more convinced by all these arguments of the truth of what God has told us in His Word. Is that right? All their arguments… By the way, on a flight, it must have been one of the most recent ones, I read in a German weekly magazine, probably the largest in the German-speaking world, all the things they write about Jesus Christ, our Lord, how they make fun of Him and mock the Gospels, the crucifixion and the resurrection. One cannot repeat what is written there.

In any case, whenever such things happen to fall into my hands, I am grateful to God anew that we have found grace in His sight, the Almighty, that we are allowed to believe, as the Scripture says, without any ifs or buts, for us Jesus Christ was born into this world, the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and as it is written, "***the child to be born of you will be called the Son of the Most High***", God has brought about a new beginning in Jesus Christ our Lord. [Luk 1:35] He is the beginning of the new creation. [Col 1:18; Rev 3:14]

Let others mock it all. I thought to myself, Brother Branham did after all preach on the Lord's second crucifixion, how our Lord is so mocked, scorned, beaten, tortured, they make a mockery of Him and we who love Him suffer with Him so that we may then share in His glory. [Rom 8:17]

One thing is certain, the mockery will come to an end and all the theories put forward by these godless people will come to an end, but the Word of God remains forever and we who have received God's Word into our hearts, as we considered last time, we have thereby confirmed that God is true. [Joh 3:33] We have received and accepted what He has graciously given us. We believe it all.

We believe that He is the Creator, who through His almighty Word spoke all things into existence. The earth was without form and void, God spoke and it came to be, He commanded and it stood fast. [Gen 1:2; Psa 33:9] To this day everything still proceeds according to the divine order and everything brings forth after its own kind.

It is exactly the same with salvation. What happened on Golgotha remains valid, as it is written in Hebrews: "***He has obtained an eternal redemption.***" [Heb 9:12] What happened on Golgotha applies to the redeemed for all eternity.

Of course, it began here, and we who have become believers may rejoice in the Scripture that states that we have passed from death into life. [Joh 5:24; 1Joh 3:14] We were dead in our sins and transgressions, but at the same time we were made alive with Christ, and as far as the divine aspect is concerned, everything has already been accomplished in Him.

He was able to have recorded as a completed fact what still lay a thousand or two

thousand years ahead of us. Indeed, He even had the new heavens and the new earth recorded. [Isa 65:17; Rev 21:1] His entire plan of salvation has been determined in Him. Nothing will change this. Everything is unfolding exactly as He has planned it according to His eternal counsel and will, and as He is bringing it to pass

Let us summarize briefly before we turn to the Lord's Supper and celebrate the memorial meal today with our Lord and Savior and also with one another, in remembrance of what happened for us on the cross of Calvary. We believe that we are truly living at the end of the end times. We believe, as it is written in Luke 21, that the fig tree and all the other trees will put forth leaves, which in plain terms means that Israel as a nation and all other nations will attain their independence. [Luk 21:29-30] We have already considered this here several times in the light of the Word of God.

The collapse of the great empires—the Third Reich, the British Empire, and the Russian Empire—the collapse of all these empires must come to pass so that the restoration of the Roman Empire can make headway. And you have seen it for yourselves, Yeltsin paid his respects to the Pope before taking over the reins of government; that is simply part and parcel of things today. In any case, we see that things are drawing to a close at great speed.

We as the Church of the Lord have but one request: that we should not be left out, but that we too may soon receive the portion promised to us and experience that it may be said of us as well: Now the promises that God has given are being fulfilled, even in, through, and by the Church of the Lord. That is what we are all waiting for. And just as every promise to Israel is certainly being fulfilled, so too—and God has indeed sworn an oath—every promise given to the Church will inevitably be fulfilled. And as we have said often enough, the best is yet to come.

It cannot be otherwise. The Church, which the Lord will bring home as the Bridegroom, will be without spot or wrinkle. [Eph 5:27] She will stand there, fully equipped with the power from on high, ready to go out to meet the Bridegroom; and as it is written: ***"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come."*** [Rev 22:17] We hear this divine call with a clear voice in our own day: ***"Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."*** [Mat 25:6]

I did not actually want to say this, but after receiving a letter from the brothers representing the Seven Thunders, who demanded of me that only the spoken word of William Branham should form the basis of the discussion, I must point out that everything he said must be checked against Holy Scripture; and only then, when we find it here—at least two or three scriptures must confirm what we preach—can we proclaim it from Scripture. I do not yet know what the reaction will be, but I felt I had to set the matter out plainly in writing, for I also want to tell you what this is all about. One person takes this statement, another that one, and yet another a different one, and in the end everyone goes off in many different directions, with

many different quotations and statements of Brother Branham, at odds with one another, and they all march off in the most diverse directions; that is why it is necessary to return to the Word that came from this Scripture and was preached to us, to that Word in which God definitely tells us what we are to say to His people in the sermon.

I felt very at ease making this clarification, because I simply know—and I am not referring to myself as a person, but to the divine calling—I am bound to God. And I said it just today, at Kloten Airport, in a moment of silence, I said: "Lord, I am ready to die, if only I knew Your will, then I would do it." And I mean that with all my heart. We are on this earth to do the will of God. We are here not to live our own lives. We are here to live for the One who gave His life for us and has saved us by His grace.

So when we sum up what God has given us, we can only give thanks and say: "The Lord has looked upon His people with favour and has visited us in a most marvellous way; and what is yet to come, He will do according to the Scripture: "***If the prophecy tarries, wait for it; it will surely come to pass.***" [Hab 2:3] And as has already been said, the Lord declared: "***Since He could swear by no one else, He swore by Himself.***" [Heb 6:13] He has bound Himself by an oath to fulfil every word. God's certainty of faith must fill our hearts, knowing God has said it, it is irreversible.

By the way, after the summit in Maastricht, I even read the word in German: irreversible, unchangeable. And there the politicians proclaimed loudly: "The course we have now set is irreversible." There is no turning back now. The Iron Lady would have liked to get off, but her Major could no longer get off. He cannot; anyone who wants any share of the pie at all must get on board. There will be no more freeriders, everyone must get on.

Beloved, believe me, I am no prophet, you all know that, but the prophetic Word has become dear to me, has become precious to me, has become a light to me in these dark times, and we really do not need to seek out a professor, nor anyone who ought to or could enlighten us. We have come to the Lord, who sent His servant and prophet in our generation. I say this with gratitude, I would not have seen the developments taking place today in the religious sphere, in political terms, in every respect, in this way, had God not sent His servant and placed the relevant scriptures upon the lampstand, so that the prophetic Word might shine upon us like a bright light in a dark place. [2Pet 1:19]

We do not glorify a human being. We glorify God through Jesus Christ and thank Him that, true to His Word, He sent His servant and prophet, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord comes, to bring our hearts back to the word of the fathers, to the Word of God, and thus to plant biblical faith in our hearts and restore all things before the return of our Lord. [Mal 3:23-24; Mat 17:11] To Him, the living God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who through Jesus Christ has become our

Redeemer, and in Him has reconciled us all to Himself, to Him be much honor given today on this day. [2Cor 5:18-19]

And I would like to say this right now, as we offer our praise to God today, let us not do so in single file, one after the other, but as one heart and one soul, today, at this closing service for the year 1991, in which God has blessed us, and as I may say in faith, nourished us spiritually, brought us forward and led us deeper into His Word and into His plan of salvation, we wish to thank Him today from the bottom of our hearts.

We shall now turn briefly to the second part. To this end, I shall read from 1 Corinthians chapter 10, 1 Corinthians chapter 10, and then also from chapter 11, 1 Corinthians 10, from verse 11:

[11] ***Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.***

[12] ***Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.***

[13] ***There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.***

Particularly in recent times, I have heard from brothers and sisters of so many trials, as have not been seen for years on end, here and there and everywhere,

Particularly in recent times, I have heard from brothers and sisters of so many trials, as have not been seen for years on end, here and there and everywhere, hardships of all kinds, heavy trials. And yet we are told here, that we shall not be tested or tempted beyond our strength, but that God will bring the temptation and trial to an end, so that we may all endure it, and with his help pass the test truly and rightly before God. Then we read on:

[14] ***Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.***

[15] ***I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.***

[16] ***The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?***

[17] ***For we, being many, are one bread, and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread.***

What a wonderful scripture! We, as the redeemed Church, have been baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit, as the redeemed, as those born again, as living members, joined together into the living body of our Lord. [1Kor 12:13] Just as there is one loaf, so there is one body, one Church, the Church of the living God; and just as the

one bread is broken into many individual pieces, so the body of the Lord consists of many individual members, who in turn make up the whole body of the Lord, as it is written in chapter 12, verse 12:

[12] ***For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.***

Beloved, if we may consider this from this perspective, Christ is the head of the body, we are the body, we are the members, his life, his being, his spirit flows through us, he is the vine, we are the branches, he is the head, we are the members, he is the firstborn, we are the firstborn, he is the Son of God, we are the sons and daughters of God, we form God's offspring. And I know that when we look at our earthly shell, whether at ourselves or at others, we perceive only what the eyes can see, but everyone, and I have yet to meet a child of God who is completely content with themselves here in this state. On the contrary, particularly of late, I have heard not only those growing older, but also others say: "If only the time had come for us to leave this world, we do not belong here, we have no place here."

Jesus said: ***"Ye are not of this world, just as I am not of this world."*** [Joh 17:14] That is why the world does not accept you.

Then in 1 Corinthians 11 we find the well-known words of institution for the Lord's Supper from verse 23:

[23] ***For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:***

[24] ***And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you...***

Have we all been listening carefully?

[24] ***... this is my body for you; this do in remembrance of me.***

[25] ***After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.***

[26] ***For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.***

I have also written about this in the letter in question, which some of you may receive in a month's time, if you know people, brothers or sisters, who need correction. It says here: ***"Until he comes."*** And if he had already come, as some teach and claim, why are we still here then? And why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper? I say today, as I have said often enough, when the Lord returns to fetch his bride, the bride will leave this earth, be caught up, meet him in the air, and will then be with the Lord forever. [1The 4:17] So it is written, and so we believe it.

Here we are told, that "***whoever eats the bread and drinks the blood, does so in remembrance of me***". For some newcomers, the Lord's Supper is not for the forgiveness of sins. The Lord's Supper is a memorial meal commemorating that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shed his holy, divine blood on the cross of Calvary, for the forgiveness of our sins. Forgiveness is not found in the wine we drink. And there is no one here, who could or would have to turn wine into blood. Zwingli explained this so beautifully, there is no one who could do that, nor is there any need for such a person.

What use is the doctrine to us, the Catholic doctrine, that the priest, through his fiddling about, he isn't actually doing anything at all, he does not transform anything at all. After this ritual, the wine is still the same wine as before. No one has ever tasted anything other than the flavor of wine, when they have taken it. And even if the audience in the Roman church could not fully taste this, because the cup was not passed to them, right, so they couldn't really taste it, because the cup wasn't handed to them at all, but the priest already knew that absolutely nothing had been transformed. He may well have had a drink before and after, and lo and behold, it always tasted the same. Nothing had been transformed, yes, that's how it is, and that's how it will remain.

It is not what is in the cup that is to be transformed, but those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and transformed into new people by the power of God, they are to proclaim the death of the Lord, through which they have been redeemed to eternal life. And so, today too, we partake of the Lord's Supper in the certainty that our Redeemer suffered and died there on the cross, having given his blood and life for us. We remember this, "***this do in remembrance of me.***" [1Cor 11:24-25] We commemorate what the Lord has done for us, beaten and martyred in the flesh and then shedding his blood for our redemption and forgiveness. I hope that this has been properly understood by everyone.

Here we have an open gathering, there are no memberships, there are only members of the Lord's body, who together form the Church of God. And we address only one request to everyone, as it is written: ***"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat."*** [1Cor 11:28] If you, if we have forgiveness of sins, if this assurance has been granted to us, and we have a day in our lives, on which this assurance was given to us, that we have been transformed from children of men into children of God, the assurance that our guilt has been atoned for, and our sin forgiven, I remember that day very well, and with great fondness. I wept very much before the Lord. I felt my separation from God right down to the depth of my soul.

I knew: I am lost, I am condemned, I am on the broad way to destruction. [Mat 7:13] And then I called upon the Lord and prayed persistently until this certainty of faith came, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding of man, filled my heart. [Phi 4:7] And I was simply able to experience, quite spontaneously, how a spring burst forth in my heart, and I could offer my praise to God. I could have cried out as surely as the sun shines in the sky: "*I, a sinner, have received forgiveness*,"

as the song goes. It was so beautiful.

May God grant every single person today, now, at this very hour, the certainty of faith by his grace. It happened on the cross. It happened for you. Accept it today, and it will be yours. Thank him for it, and if you can believe it, dear heart, then partake of the Lord's Supper and remember what happened for us on Golgotha. It happened for you and for me. Our Lord cried out: ***"It is finished!"*** [Joh 19:30] And with that, the following was fulfilled: "***I have loved you from everlasting to everlasting. I have redeemed you and called you by name. You are mine.***" [Isa 43:1; Jer 31:3] At that very moment, the price was paid, and we became the Lord's possession. We belong to him for time and eternity. Hallelujah! Amen.

Heavenly Father, we come before you in humility and gratitude. You have done us much good. You have redeemed our souls from destruction. You have crowned us with mercy and loving-kindness.

You have forgiven all our sins and brought about complete reconciliation. You cried out: ***"It is finished!"*** [Joh 19:30]

We thank You that on the Day of Salvation we were able to experience Your help and deliverance. We thank You for the supper we were able to celebrate with You and with one another today. You longed for this with all Your heart and for us too, so that we might in turn confirm that we believe, have received and accepted from the heart what was accomplished for us through Your death. Yes, we have received it and have been allowed to experience it.

Beloved Lord, there is so much for which we can thank You. Now accept from us all this praise, this worship, this thanksgiving which we offer to You from the bottom of our hearts.

Beloved Lord, we also thank You for this service and ask You, bless all of Europe. Bless everywhere, turn Your countenance fully towards us and begin to shake heaven and earth and do great things amongst Your people in the Church, just as You have promised.

We thank You for You are trustworthy and Your Word is trustworthy. We stand at Your disposal, may You have Your way with us. May Your will be done in our lives, may it be done in Your Church, to the glory and praise of Your wonderful and holy Name of Jesus. Hallelujah. Amen.