Hymn #439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken v. 8-11
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3PVIj3rT_E) sorry this version is only intro and 2 verses.

8. O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer?
What dare I offer?

9. For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder—
Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.
Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee!
Can I requite Thee?

10. Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;
I would renounce whate’er doth vex or grieve Thee
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly
All fires unholy.

Opening Versicles

L This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
C From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.
L Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
C slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.
L Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,
C let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
L Christ was wounded for our transgressions.
C From the rising of the sun to its setting,
L The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.
C let this be made known in all the earth.

C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:
“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name,
make known His deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that His name is exalted.”

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;

Readings From Holy Scripture

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Luke 2:41-52

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but suspecting him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents[a] saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” 49 And he said to them, “Why were you
looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"[b] 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature[c] and in favor with God and man.

L This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Responsory

L 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.
L Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
L 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.

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.
You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Lord’s Prayer

Hymn #581 These Are the Holy Ten Commands v.1-2,5,12 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-JmC1ZgKy8) sorry, this YouTube version is all 12 verses.

1. These are the holy Ten Commands
God gave to us by Moses’ hands
When high on Sinai’s mount he stood,
Receiving them for our good.
Have mercy, Lord!

2. “I am alone your God, the Lord;
No other gods shall be adored.
But you shall fully trust in Me
And love Me wholeheartedly.”
Have mercy, Lord!

5. You are to honor and obey
Your father, mother, ev’ry day,
Serve them each way that comes to hand;
You’ll then live long in the land.”
Have mercy, Lord!

12. Our works cannot salvation gain;
They merit only endless pain.
Forgive us, Lord! To Christ we flee,
Who pleads for us endlessly.
Have mercy, Lord!

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Sermon

Grace Mercy and Peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

This evening, we consider the 4th Commandment, Honor your Father and your Mother. The 4th Commandment teaches us that God protects and cares for us using people. Early in our lives, we are dependent on our parents for every aspect of our life. As a baby, our parents fed, nurtured and protected us. Unable to fend for ourselves, God provides parents for us. Sinful just as we are sinful, our parents normally do their best to care for their children. Not always right. Not always perfect. But called by God to protect and nurture us. Parents are a gift of God, bearing His authority to watch-over and protect us. And because they are God’s gift to us, we should love, honor and obey our parents. Our Gospel reading this evening is the story of Mary and Joseph finding Jesus in the temple and his submission to them afterwards. Jesus humbled himself to become human, born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus was like us in all things but sin. As a baby, Jesus depended on His parents just like
every other baby ever born. Jesus depended on Mary for nourishment and nurture. Jesus depended on Joseph for protection and safety, taking Mary and Jesus to Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod after the visit of the Magi. As a child, Jesus, by whom all things were made, was dependent on his earthly parents for all his earthly needs.

Consider for a moment the challenge that Mary and Joseph faced. Those of us who are parents face the challenge of being imperfect parents raising imperfect children. Imagine, for just a moment, what it must have been like to be an imperfect parent raising the perfect child. Imagine being Mary and Joseph’s other children, dealing with a sibling who was perfect and without sin.

As sinful parents, we sin against our children and our children sin against us. Parents don’t always do as God would have us do. Sometimes, parents provoke a child to anger. Sometimes, Parents say and do things in anger or frustration, especially as a child grows and matures, moving towards independence and responsibility. And children, for their part, say and do things in anger and frustration. Children sometimes despise and anger their parents. And parents sometimes despise and anger their children.

Despite each parties’ best efforts, sin reigns. Sin separates us from those we love. Sin divides parents and children. Sin divides brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors and when it is fully grown brings forth death. (James 1:15), dividing body and soul. Throughout our lives, we are called to love, honor and obey our parents. Not just when we are babies. Not just while we live at home. Throughout our lives. And when death separates us from our parents, we can no longer call to share news. We can no longer ask for advice. We can no longer ask for or to speak forgiveness

God also places people and governments in authority over us. If we are working, we have a manager, a boss, who makes decisions for the good of the company. God gives us government for the common good, to prevent unrestrained evil and to promote good among those governed. Luther explains that we are not to despise or anger anyone in authority over us. God is a God of order. God spoke the world into existence and sustains it by His Word. God’s creation shows us the beauty and order of creation with its established order and rhythm in the created world. The reading from Romans this evening spells out the need for us to submit to those in authority over us. God places authorities over us for the common good, to prevent gross immorality, to encourage good and thwart evil. Because God uses people to govern, God uses sinners to govern. The 20th century proves that as much as or more than any other century in history. Consider the atrocities of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. Consider the legalization of abortion.

While we are to honor, respect and obey those in authority, in the words of Peter “We must obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5) also ring true. Especially in a democracy, we are to participate in our government to bring the laws of the land into agreement with God’s Law. When the government contradicts God’s Word, we are to resist and work to bring the government back into alignment. We are to resist to the point of death if necessary, to obey God rather than man.

The world around us has little or no respect for authority. A short journey on I55 shows that speed limits are generally regarded as suggestions, not laws to be obeyed. For some, executive orders from the Governor regarding Coronavirus don’t apply to them. For some, the pleasure of the moment far exceeds the long-term benefits of “flattening the curve”, using social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19 so that hospitals have enough capacity to treat those requiring hospitalization. If the US exceeds the capacity to treat, decisions about who will be treated will become necessary. As we believe in the sanctity of human life, we truly must avoid that situation. Sadly, we are often like the rest of the world, obeying speed limits only when convenient, failing to honor and obey those in authority, failing to put the best construction on the actions of our governmental leaders.

The fourth commandment shows us our sin and shows us that we need a savior. We need the forgiveness of sin. The Holy Spirit calls us to repent, to turn from our sinful way. Both parents and children need forgiveness. As we pray in the Lord’s Prayer “... and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,” In order to reconcile God to us, Jesus came and was obedient to death, death on the cross to atone for our disobedience. On the cross, Jesus who knew no sin became sin and suffered the punishment for our sins. In Jesus, and Jesus alone, we are given forgiveness, life and salvation. His perfect obedience to God our Heavenly Father, shown in his submission to Mary and Joseph becomes our obedience, reconciling God to us, so that we can be reconciled to each other, parent to child, child to parent, brother to sister, neighbor to neighbor, speaking forgiveness to one another.

Jesus modeled submission to authority for us. By His submission to both His Heavenly Father, and Pontius Pilate, he willingly died for our sins on the cross. Jesus took our sins of disobedience of our parents and those in authority over us upon Himself and suffered our punishment to atone for all our sins, not just our sins against the fourth commandment. Jesus, the perfect human, the perfect earthly and heavenly son, fulfills His Father’s will that God has reconciled himself to us through Jesus Christ. Your sins of disobedience have been forgiven. Now, go and share that forgiveness with your family and friends, to the praise and honor of God. Amen.

And now may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord: C Lord, have mercy.

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel, IL 3 Vicar Joe Nehring
For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:  C Lord, have mercy.

For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For all those suffering because of Covid-19, those who have contracted this virus, for those who are suffering financially and with increased stress and depression, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for the Word

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Evening Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

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12 I’ll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,
That earth’s vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor
Henceforth forever.

Whate’er of earthly good this life may grant me,
I’ll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.
I shall not fear what foes can do to harm me
Nor death alarm me.

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Acknowledgments

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