

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book, Augsburg Fortress: italic lines written by Rev. Dr. Kimberlynn McNabb

The bid is: you have prepared a cross for your Saviour

Response: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Oh my people, O my church, what have I done to you?

How have I offended you? Answer me.

I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth,

Yet, you participate in the exploitation of people for your own needs, wants, and luxuries.

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way;

I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,

Yet, you try to sell salvation and keep it from others.

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate;

I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit,

Yet, you lead others down your path, and yours alone, eradicating others traditions and cultures.

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit;

I made you branches of the vine and never left your side,

Yet, you desecrate the environment and continue to pollute

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink;

I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood,

Yet, you turn your heads and do nothing to bring potable water to Northern communities

but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns;

I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life,

Yet, you defer the responsibility of bringing justice to those affected by decisions of your forebearers

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed;

I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name,

Yet, you monger fear and practice racial profiling

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear;

I washed your feet as a sign of my love,

Yet, you take land from indigenous peoples and push poor to the margins – gentrifying their neighbourhoods

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross;

I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life,

Yet, you kill the Tree of Life through the irresponsible extraction of natural resources

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,

Yet, you ignore, and worse, quiet the voices that sound different from your own

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?

Answer me.

I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters,
but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,
*Yet, all these ills are alive and well inside and outside the doors of your church,
In mission for others – but you have forgotten that my salvation is for all*
You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.