

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY + 01 AUGUST 2021



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

- ❖ The Rev. Edward Killian, Pastor (mobile) 424.293.6588
- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

*The entire service, including the **rubrics** of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.*

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you. **To all of you who are visiting** our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. **If you are looking for a church home** and would like to know about our beliefs and practice, please see the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience.

PLEASE: Upon entering the nave, **silence** should be observed in order to allow all to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the LORD and the reception of His gifts.

A Note on the Recessional Piece

Charles Ore is Professor Emeritus at Concordia University Seward. He has many publications to his credit. This interesting setting of “How Firm a Foundation” was played by Dr. Ore at the opening worship service of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians convention in Portland in 2019.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

905 Come, Thou Almighty King



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
 2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
 △ 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
 might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy
 wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
 prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,
 might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
 maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
 And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins


LSB 184

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 54:1–3, 7; antiphon: vv. 4–5

*Behold, God is my | helper;**
the Lord is the upholder | of my life.
*He will return the evil to my | enemies;**
in your faithfulness put an | end to them.

O God, save me, | by your name,*
 and vindicate me | by your might.
 O God, | hear my prayer;*
 give ear to the words | of my mouth.
 For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men | seek my life;*
 they do not set God be- | fore themselves.
 For he has delivered me from every | trouble,*
 and my eye has looked in triumph on my | enemies.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



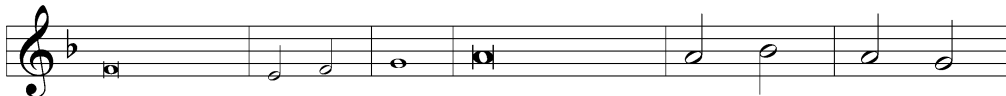
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

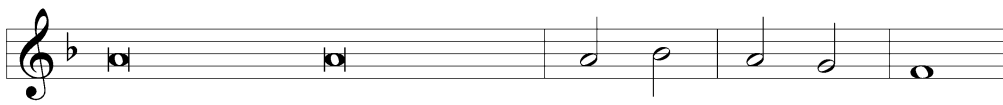
LSB 187



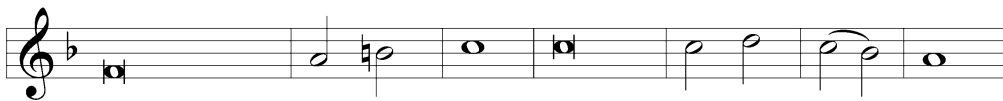
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



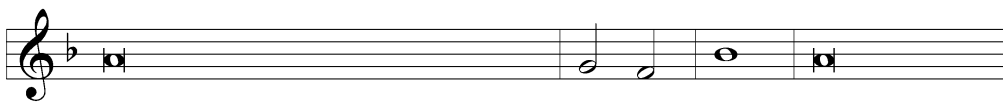
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



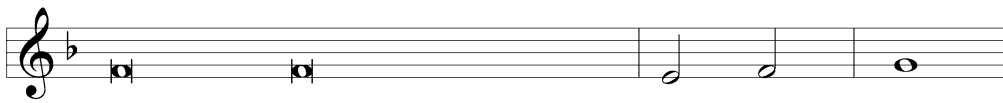
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord

GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said,

"Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your

heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵And he brought him outside and said,

"Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your

**"ABRAM BELIEVED
THE LORD, AND HE
CREDITED IT TO HIM
AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."**

GENESIS 15:6

offspring be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 51:1–12; antiphon: v. 18

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

¹*Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.*

²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

³*For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.*

⁴**Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.**

⁵*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

⁶**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

⁷*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

⁹*Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.*

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹*Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 10:6-13

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 16:1-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He said, 'A

hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Stand

Prayer of the Church

The proper response is "Lord, have mercy."

P As God is our good and gracious Master, let us offer up prayers for ourselves, for the Church, for the world at-large and for all people in need.

For mercy, that in turn we would be quick to show mercy to others, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For a right understanding of our own weakness and frailty, that we would not become proud but cling always to Christ and His forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord:

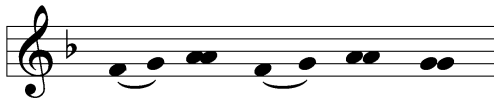
P For this congregation, that we would not fall prey to grumbling, adultery, idolatry, disbelief, and other great shame and vice, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** For those called to preach throughout the world, especially the pastors of our sister synods, that they would not be lured away into false doctrine or lead anyone else astray, but that they would be preserved in the truth of God's Word, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For a right fear of the Lord, that we would not abandon His truth, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For a right love of the Lord, that we would fervently show mercy and thereby cover a multitude of sins, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For a right trust of the Lord, that in repentance we would return to our Baptism daily, and that in faith we would receive His body and blood in the Supper, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For our government, that those with authority would not only be shrewd in their dealings, but that they would act with love, righteousness and devotion to the common good, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who are sick or otherwise suffering, *Alice, Carmen, Charlotte, Cynthia, the Conrad's, Dalton, David, Debra, Faith, Gloria, James, Jamesetta, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Sabrina, Stephen, Susie, the Krogen Family* that they would be given strength to endure their trials until God removes them, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who commune, that they would come to the Lord's Supper in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sins and in the unity of a true confession, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 194

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196



P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



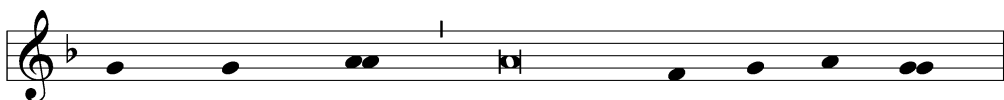
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197



P Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis - ci - ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \dagger bod - y, which is giv - en for you.



This do in re - mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv - en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



My \dagger blood, which is shed for you for the for - give - ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re - mem - brance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution



Distribution Hymn

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying



1 Wa - ter, blood, and Spir - it cry - ing, By their wit - ness
 2 In a wa - t'ry grave are bur - ied All our sins that
 3 Dark the way, yet Christ pre - cedes us, Past the scowl of
 4 Though a - round us death is seeth - ing, God, His two - edged
 5 Spir - it, wa - ter, blood en - treat - ing, Work - ing faith and



tes - ti - fy - ing To the One whose death - de - fy - ing
 Je - sus car - ried; Christ, the Ark of Life, has fer - ried
 death He leads us; Spreads a ta - ble where He feeds us
 sword un - sheath - ing, By His Spir - it life is breath - ing
 its com - plet - ing In the One whose death - de - feat - ing



Life has come, with life for all.
 Us a - cross death's rag - ing flood.
 With His bod - y and His blood.
 Through the liv - ing, ac - tive Word.
 Life has come, with life for all.

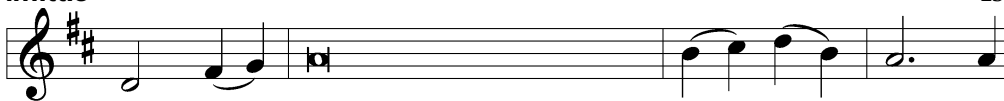
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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201



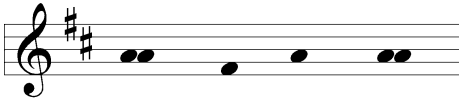
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



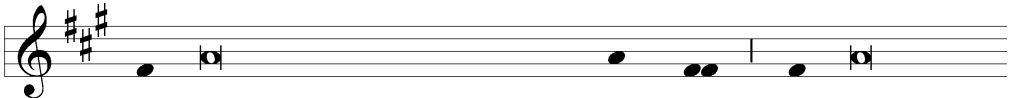
A Bless we the Lord.



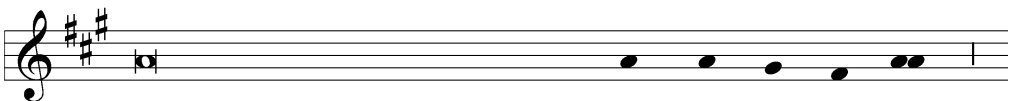
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

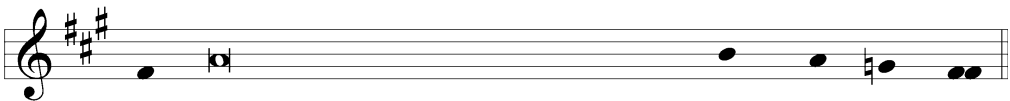
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart

728 How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text and tune: Public domain

How Firm a Foundation

Charles Ore (b. 1938)

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✚ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✚

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 39

+Please send in your information in for the Church Directory.

+Today is Mite Sunday! The Mite Collection Box is located in the Narthex.

LWML Message

WE NEED YOUR HELP! An ongoing service project by our LWML is making much needed hygiene kits for Lutheran Social Services, Long Beach. **If you are able to donate some hygiene supplies, items most needed are shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hand towels and washcloths. These items can be placed in a marked box on the bookshelf in the narthex.** A date to help make these kits for the needy will be forthcoming. Thank you for your support! - Gayle Tarr & Royce Morton, LWML Co-Chairs

Synod Sentences for the Ninth Sunday After Trinity

The Steward's Shrewdness Sanctified

"The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness" (Luke 16:1–9). The steward's shrewdness is praiseworthy for two reasons. First, he knew the master would be merciful. He trusted that the master would honor the debts he forgave in the master's name. In the same way, though we have squandered our heavenly Father's possessions in selfishness and sin, Jesus is the Steward who has canceled our debt, knowing that His forgiveness will be honored by the Father because of the holy cross. Secondly, the steward was shrewd in using oil and wheat to provide for his earthly welfare. So also do these earthly elements aid us when pressed into heavenly use in the anointing of baptism and the wheat of the Lord's Supper. Those who have the Sacraments will have an eternal home when their earthly home fails. These provide us aid in times of temptation (1 Cor. 10:6–13). For the Lord is our strength and a shield to all who trust in Him (2 Sam. 22:26–34).

Lutherans For Life Thoughts for the Ninth Sunday After Trinity

Temptations to idolatry exist today as they did in biblical times. The great idol "Death" draws many to its altar. They look to death for rescue from a crisis pregnancy or chronic disease or pain. Death's allure is so great it even tempts Christians to bow before it. But we have a way out of such temptations to faithlessness: "God is faithful" (1 Corinthians 10:1-13). Christ our "Rock" never leaves us (10:4). We can trust in Him.

Prayer: *Rock of our salvation, may Your faithful service to us through Your cross and resurrection move us to be faithful to You. Amen.*

A Prayer For The Week

Lord God, heavenly Father, You have bountifully given us Your blessing and our daily bread: We beseech You, preserve us from covetousness, and so enliven our hearts that we willingly share Your blessed gifts with our needy brethren; that we may be found faithful stewards of Your gifts, and abide in Your grace when we shall be removed from our

stewardship, and shall come before Your judgment, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

"Thus He compares here the unjust to the just. As the unjust man acts shrewdly, though wrongly and like a rogue, so we also should act shrewdly but righteously in godliness. This is the proper understanding of this parable. For the Lord says: 'The children of this world are wiser than the children of light.' So that the children of light should learn wisdom from the children of darkness or the world. Just as they are wise in their transactions, so should also the children of light be wise in their transactions. Therefore he adds, 'in their generation.' Here are truly three great questions, in which our adversaries quote this Gospel against us, when the Lord says: 'Make to yourselves friends by means of the mammon of unrighteousness, that, when it shall fail, they may receive you into the eternal tabernacles.'... "If they thus attack us we must answer. Above all things it must be remembered that there is indeed no doubt whatever, that faith and love are the only source, as you have ever learned, that through faith we become inwardly pious, and we outwardly prove our faith by our works of love. For I have often said, that the Scriptures speak of man in a twofold manner. At one time of the inner man, and then again of the outer man. For the Scriptures properly make distinctions, just as when I speak of a foot, I do not mean a nose. So the Scriptures at one time speak of us as of the Spirit, spiritual, how we must stand before God by faith, for this purpose He sends forth His Word to which we hold, and afterwards He follows or endows with His Spirit. Thus the tree must be good beforehand, as you have recently heard." *From Martin Luther's sermon from the Church Postil for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity Sunday.*

Bulletin Blurb for the Ninth Sunday After Trinity

Luke 16:8-9 – "... For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings." The things of this world, including wealth, are merely tools. They can be used for good or ill. They can be squandered or used efficiently. How we use them will be determined by what is most important to us. What is most important to you in your life? Does the way you use the things of this world reflect that?

