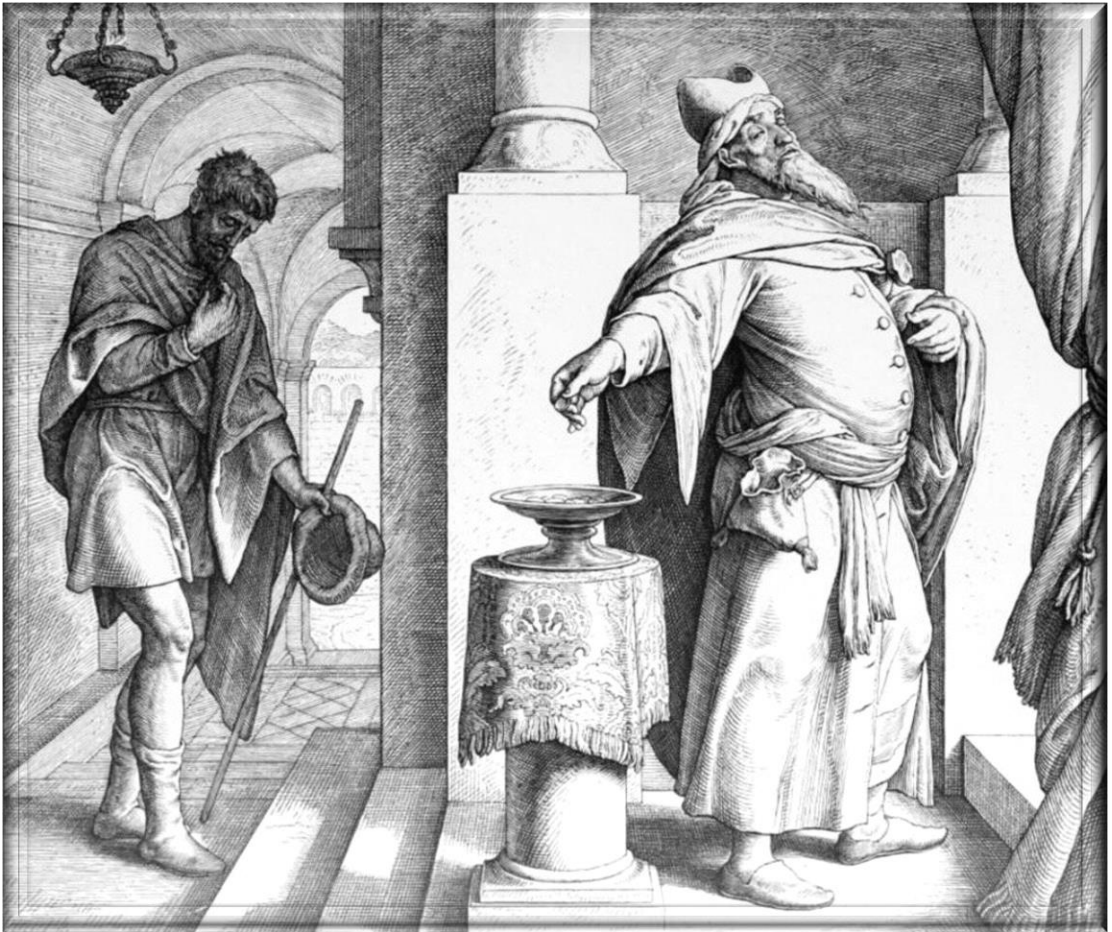


+DIVINE SERVICE III+  
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY + 15 AUGUST 2021

---



---

## The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

[tgsicms.org](http://tgsicms.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.

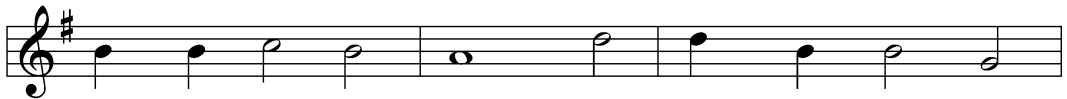
# Confession and Absolution

## Hymn of Invocation

## 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My  
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -  
 3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That  
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my  
 sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the  
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the  
 sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!  
 earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.  
 sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.  
 foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.


- 5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own  
 Your God, ye fallen race.  
 Look and be saved through faith alone,  
 Be justified by grace.
- 6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;  
 The Lamb of God was slain.  
 His soul was once an off'ring made  
 For ev'ry soul of man.
- 7 To God all glory, praise, and love  
 Be now and ever giv'n  
 By saints below and saints above,  
 The Church in earth and heav'n.

Tune and text: 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

*Psalms 68:1, 3, 7a, 10b, 19; antiphon: vv. 5b, 6a, 35b*

*God is in his holy habi- / tation;\*  
[he] settles the solitary / in a home.  
The God of Israel—he / is the one\*  
who gives power and strength to his / people.  
God shall arise, his enemies shall be / scattered;\*  
and those who hate him shall flee be- / fore him!  
But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult be- / fore God;\*  
they shall be jubilant / with joy!  
O God, when you went out before your / people,\*  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the / needy.  
Blessèd be the Lord, who daily / bears us up;\*  
God is our sal- / vation.*

## Gloria Patri

*LSB 186*



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



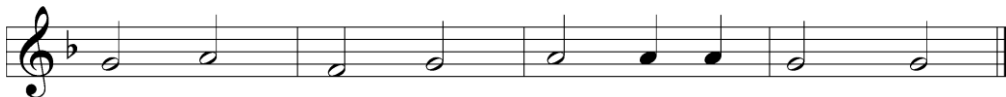
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## Kyrie

*LSB 186*



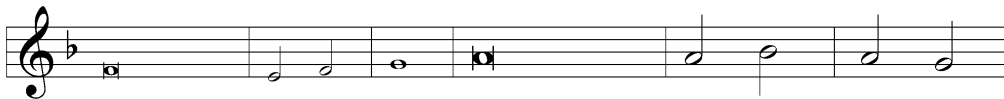
**☐** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



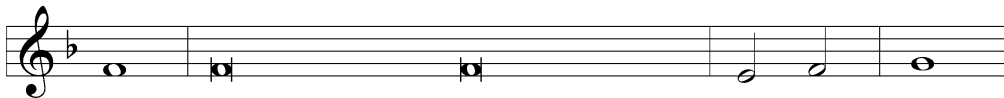
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

# Gloria in Excelsis

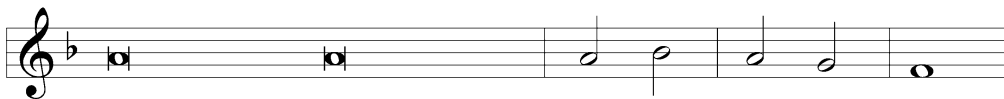
LSB 187



**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,



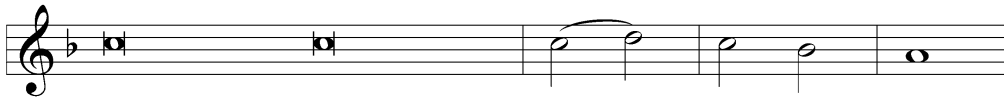
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



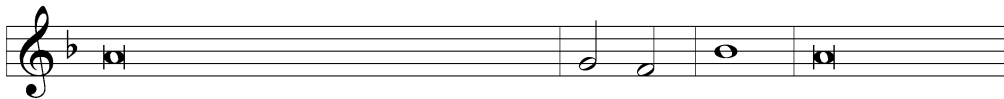
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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** Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

*Sit*

### Old Testament

*Genesis 4:1-15*

<sup>1</sup>After 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." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is

Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”<sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”<sup>5</sup> And 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 offspring be.”<sup>6</sup> And 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 50:7–23; antiphon: v. 14*

<sup>7</sup>*“Hear, O my people, and I will speak;  
O Israel, I will testify a- | gainst you.\*  
I am | God, your God.*

<sup>8</sup>**Not for your sacrifices do I re- | buke you;\***  
**your burnt offerings are continually be- | fore me.**

<sup>9</sup>*I will not accept a bull | from your house\*  
or goats | from your folds.*

<sup>10</sup>**For every beast of the for- | est is mine,\***  
**the cattle on a | thousand hills.**

<sup>11</sup>*I know all the birds | of the hills,\*  
and all that moves in the | field is mine.*

<sup>12</sup>**“If I were hungry, I would not | tell you,\***  
**for the world and its full- | ness are mine.**

<sup>13</sup>*Do I eat the | flesh of bulls\*  
or drink the | blood of goats?*

<sup>14</sup>**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanks- | giving,\***  
**and perform your vows to the | Most High,**

<sup>15</sup>*and call upon me in the day of | trouble,\*  
I will deliver you, and you shall glo- | rify me.”*

<sup>16</sup>**But to the wicked | God says:\***  
**“What right have you to recite my statutes  
or take my covenant | on your lips?**

<sup>17</sup>*For you hate | discipline,\*  
and you cast my words be- | hind you.*

<sup>18</sup>**If you see a thief, you are | pleased with him,\***  
**and you keep company with a- | dulterers.**



<sup>19</sup>*"You give your mouth free rein for / evil,\*  
and your tongue / frames deceit.*

<sup>20</sup>**You sit and speak against your | brother,\*  
you slander your own | mother's son.**

<sup>21</sup>*These things you have done, and I have been silent;  
you thought that I was one / like yourself.\*  
But now I rebuke you and lay the charge be- / fore you.*

<sup>22</sup>**Mark this, then, you who for- | get God,\*  
lest I tear you apart, and there be none to de- | liver!**

<sup>23</sup>*The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glo- / rifies me;\*  
to one who orders his way rightly  
I will show the salva- / tion of God!"*

## Epistle Reading

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*



## Alleluia

LSB 190



☐ Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 18:9-14

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.



<sup>9</sup>[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**☐** 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

## 542 When I Behold Jesus Christ



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,  
 2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-ered pain;  
 3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;  
 4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.



I won - der much at His love As He hung on the tree.  
 I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.  
 On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.  
 My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

Tune and text: © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401  
 Text (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

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 "Hear our prayer."*

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Be merciful to us, heavenly Father, for daily we are tempted by Satan, and daily we sin and transgress Your will. For the sake of Christ Jesus and His bitter suffering and death upon the cross, forgive us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Be merciful to our neighbors, especially those who have sinned against us and done us harm. Give us patience and strength, that we would deal with them

gently and humbly, readily forgiving as we have been forgiven. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Be merciful to Your Church here and in every place. Defend our pastors from arrogance and pride, and strengthen them in the faithful preaching of Your Word, that both Your holy Law and Your precious Gospel would be proclaimed and Your children be united in saving faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Be merciful to all in need, especially children who lack food, clothing and shelter, and all orphans who are in need of parents to care for them. Heavenly Father, provide earthly fathers and mothers and friends and neighbors to care for them. Give us generosity to serve as agents of Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Be merciful to our land, that those with any authority would exercise it with wisdom and righteousness, and that we would have peaceful days. Be merciful to the nations of the world, that wars would cease and harmony be restored. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Be merciful to the sick and the sorrowing, *Alice, Carmen, Charlotte, Cynthia, the Conrad's, Dalton, David, Debra, Faith, Gloria, James, Jamsetta, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Sabrina, Sophia, Stephen, Susie, the Krogen Family* that as they are burdened by the difficulties and hardships of life in this fallen world, they would receive not only temporal relief but know the forgiveness of their sins and have the constant hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** O most merciful Lord, in Your great mercy You sent Your Son, Christ Jesus, to the cross, that by His death and resurrection we would receive full pardon for our sins and everlasting peace and resurrection through Him. Grant that we who receive this mercy at Your altar this day would do so in faith, that His body and blood would be for our highest good. Lord, in Your mercy,
- 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

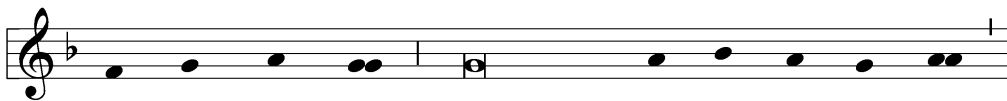
*LSB 196*



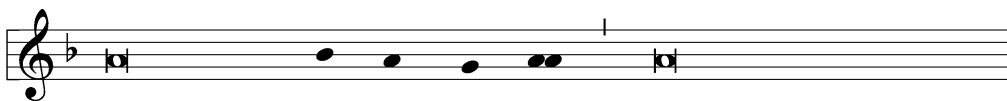
**P** Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



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



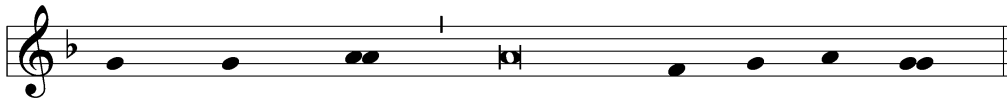
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



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



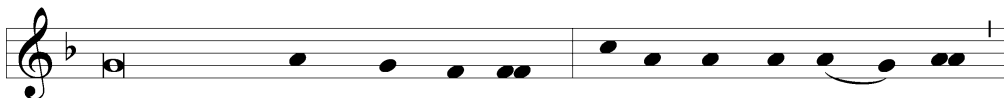
**P** Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



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  $\text{✠}$  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



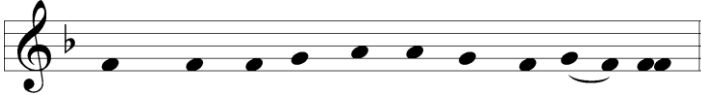
My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



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

### 628 Your Table I Approach



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.  
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;  
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.  
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.  
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.  
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,  
That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail  
To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
O God, my peace and light.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Distribution Hymn

### 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at  
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my  
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,  
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,  
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry  
 In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He  
 By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



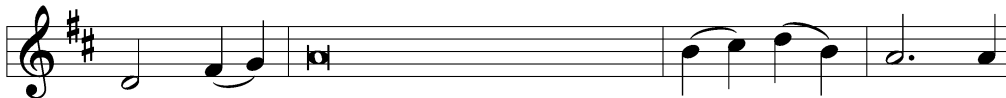
day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.  
 bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.  
 to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text and tune: Public domain

*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*



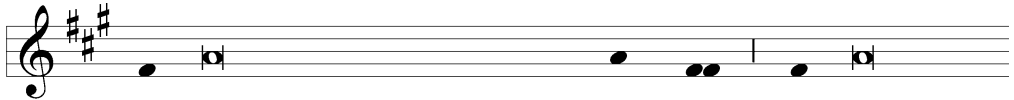
**A** Bless we the Lord.



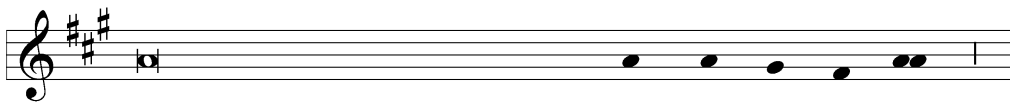
**C** Thanks be to God.

**Benediction**

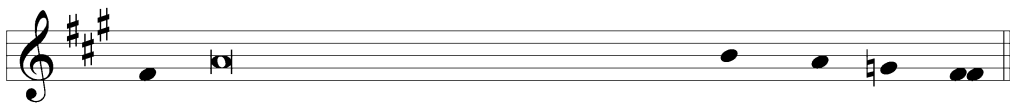
*LSB 202*



**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

## 919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
- 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
- 3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
- 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.  
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.  
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.  
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

- 5 Abide with Your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.

Tune and text: Public domain

## O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

*Barbara Harbach (b. 1946)*

### Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

## ✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

### Announcements

- + Last Sunday's Attendance: 40**
- +Council Meeting today after service.**
- +Please send in your information in for the Church Directory.**

### 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 Eleventh Sunday After Trinity**

### ***The Lord Lifts Up the Lowly***

*"And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard" (Gen. 4:1–15). For unlike Abel, Cain's offering did not proceed from a heart that revered and trusted in the Lord. Thus, the lowly tax collector who prayed, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" was the one who went down to his house justified before God, not the respectable, outwardly righteous Pharisee who trusted in himself and his own good living (Luke 18:9–14). "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:1–10). The one who penitently despairs of his own righteousness and relies completely on the atoning mercy of God in Christ is the one who is declared righteous. For Christ died for our sins and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:1–10). Therefore, "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

### **Lutherans For Life Thoughts for the Eleventh Sunday After Trinity**

Heaven and earth grieve every life ended by another (Genesis 4:10). Worse yet is believing ourselves any better than murderers (Luke 18:11-14). Lord God regards all as precious as little babies, and His Son's forgiving Word and works of faith rescue from death's mouth when tempted (Genesis 4:7) and from hell's mouth when guilty (Genesis 4:15).

*Prayer: Merciful Father, intervene that we may be saved and safe from death and hell. Amen.*

### **A Prayer For The Week**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we beseech You so to guide and direct us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may not forget our sins and be filled with pride, but continue in daily repentance and renewal, seeking comfort only in the blessed knowledge that You will be merciful to us, forgive us our sins, and grant us eternal life; through Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

### **An Excerpt from Luther's Writings**

*"Hence the beginning of goodness or godliness is not in us, but in the Word of God. God must first let His Word sound in our hearts by which we learn to know and to believe Him, and afterwards do good works. "So, we must believe from this that the publican had learned God's Word. If not, it would certainly have been impossible for him to acknowledge himself to be a poor sinner, as this Gospel reports. Indeed, it has a different appearance here, because St. Luke seems to insist more strongly on external works and appearances than on faith, and lays the emphasis more on the outward character and conduct than on the root and on the faith of the heart within. Nevertheless, we must conclude that the publican had previously heard the Gospel. Otherwise his smiting his breast and his humble confession would not have occurred, had he not previously had faith in his heart." This is from a sermon from the Church Postil of Martin Luther for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Sunday.*