

+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY + 12 SEPTEMBER 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 From The Organist:

Sam Batt Owens was a highly regarded composer and teacher, serving on the faculties of several universities, mostly in Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky. “Shall we Gather at the River” is from a set of five preludes on early American hymns published by Augsburg in 1984.

John Leavitt is also an active teacher and composer, on the faculty of several universities, including Concordia River Forest. “Lift High the Cross” is a dramatic setting of the tune, requiring the full resources of the organ.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

738 Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401
 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 86:4, 6, 15a, 16; antiphon: vv. 1a, 2b, 3

Incline your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,
save your servant, who trusts in you—you | are my God.
Be gracious to me, | O Lord,*
for to you do I cry | all the day.
Gladden the soul of your | servant,**


*for to you, O Lord, do I lift / up my soul.
 Give ear, O LORD, / to my prayer; *
 listen to my / plea for grace.
 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and / gracious; *
 turn to me and be gra- / cious to me;
 give your strength to your / servant, *
 and save the son of your maid- / servant.*

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



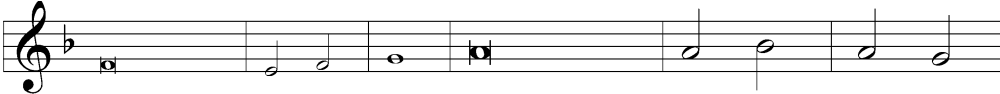
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



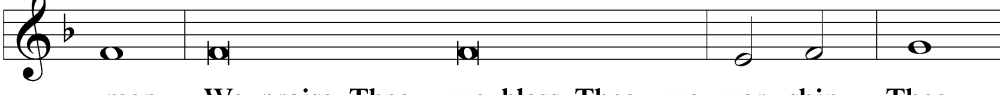
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

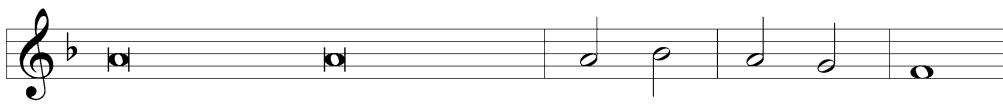
LSB 187



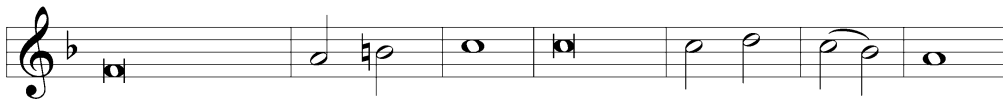
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



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;



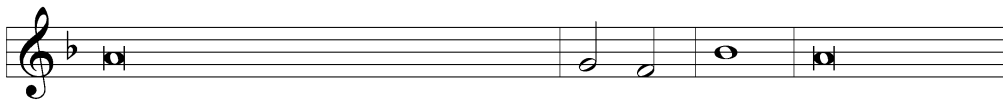
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



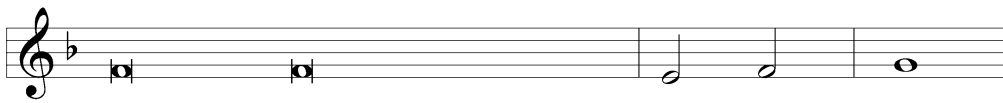
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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 O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; 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

1 Kings 17:8-16

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], ⁹"Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹²And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." ¹³And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.'" ¹⁵And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of flour was not spent, neither

did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 146; antiphon: v. 9a

Do Not Put Your Trust in Princes

*¹Praise | the LORD!**

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*

I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

*³Put not your trust in | princes,**

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

⁴When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;*

on that very day his plans | perish.

*⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,**

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is | in them,*

who keeps faith for- | ever;

*⁷who executes justice for | the oppressed,**

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the | righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;

*he upholds the widow and the | fatherless,**

but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign for- | ever,*

your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!

Epistle

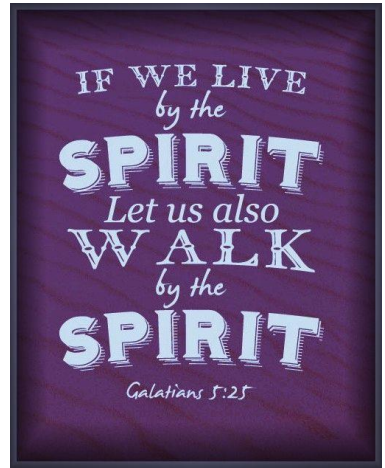
Galatians 5:25—6:10

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too

be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load.

⁶One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.



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

Matthew 6:24-34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus said:] "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and



yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or

‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

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

752 Be Still, My Soul



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa - tient-
 2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take To guide the
 3 Be still, my soul; though dear - est friends de - part And all is
 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or - der
 fu - ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con - fi - dence let
 dark - ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet - ter know His
 be for - ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; In ev - 'ry change He faith - ful will re -
 noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
 love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your
 fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly Friend
 last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
 fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay
 stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
 From His own full - ness all He takes a - way.
 All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



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.

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

Prayer of the Church

The proper response is "Lord, have mercy."

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For faith to seek Christ Jesus, who is the kingdom of God and His righteousness, above all things, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all pastors and missionaries, that by the Holy Spirit the Gospel of God's kingdom would be heard and believed throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For help in every anxiety and worry, that our loving Father, who clothed creation in glorious dress and all the more provides for our every need of body and soul, would lead us to look to Him for every good thing, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all good works, which God prepared beforehand for us to do in Christ's name; for workers, that they would work hard for the blessing of their employers and customers; for employers, that they would pay honest wages; and for the unemployed, that they would entrust their days and burdens to their Father's hand, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For Joseph, our president; Gavin, our governor; and all leaders in our land, that they would rule according to Your will and righteous decrees; for soldiers and servants in our armed forces, that God would protect them and send faithful chaplains to comfort them with Christ's forgiveness; and for our nation, that God would lead it to repent of everything it celebrates contrary to His will, especially the scourge of abortion and the destruction of marriage, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the sick and afflicted and those in need of our prayers, especially *Alice, Carmen, Charlotte, Cynthia, the Conrad's, Dalton, David, Debra, Faith, Gloria, James, Jason and all California Fire Fighters, Jamsetta, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Sabrina, Susie*, that our merciful

Father would give His power to the faint and increase their strength, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** For all communicants, that they may come to the Lord's Supper in repentance and faith, seeking Christ's forgiveness 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



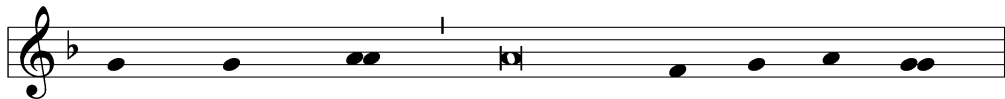
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



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



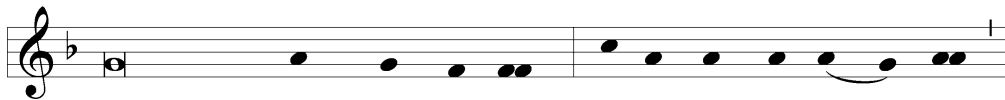
P Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,



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 † 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 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.
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

608 Lord, to You I Make Confession

1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to
4 Lord, on You I cast my bur - den— Sink it in the
gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - ges - sion,
seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,
res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,
deep - est sea! Let me know Your gra - cious par - don,
Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to
Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my
Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
Cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let Your Spir - it
see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.
sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.
I can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
leave me nev - er; Make me on - ly Yours for - ev - er.

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

638 Eat This Bread



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev-er be hun - gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst.



1 This is His bod-y giv-en for you; this is His blood that was shed for you.



2 As of-ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un-til He comes a-gain.



3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.



4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.



5 If we be-lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

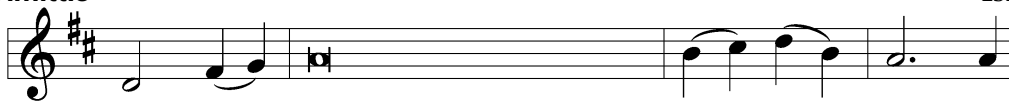
Tune and text: © 1984 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Text (sts. 1-2): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

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,

B 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



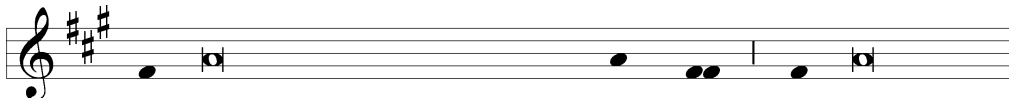
A Bless we the Lord.



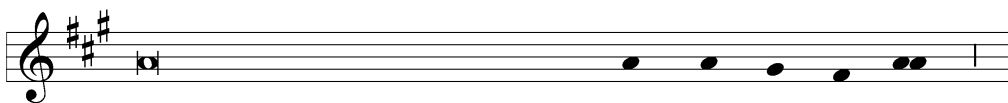
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

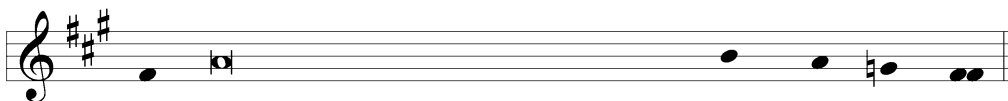
LSB 202



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.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart

837 Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



- 1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
- 2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
- 3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
- 4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
 As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
 Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Tune and text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Lift High The Cross

John Leavitt (b.1956)

✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 42

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, deodorant, hand towels. 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 Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

Anxious Bondage vs. Confident Trust

"You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24–34), for they require two contrary forms of service. Worry is the worship given to the false god of mammon, an unbelieving anxiousness and focus on the things of this world. Faith is the worship of the true God, a confident trust that He is a loving Father who will care for all of our needs in both body and soul. The widow of Zarephath served God— that is, she believed the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah that the bin of flour would not be used up nor would the jar of oil run dry (1 Kings 17:8–16). He who feeds the birds and clothes the flowers will certainly provide for our daily needs. For He has already provided for our eternal needs, clothing us with Christ's righteousness in Baptism and feeding us His body and blood for our forgiveness. With such confidence we are liberated from worry and freed to do good with our material resources, especially to those who are of the household of faith (Gal. 5:25–6:10).

Lutherans For Life Thoughts for the Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

Our God Jesus has set us free from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He also gives us the gift of dependence, to depend upon Him in faith and on one another in love and service (Galatians 6:2). Rather than diminishing our humanity, mutual dependence dignifies it.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, help me to depend upon You with Your people and defend those who depend upon me. Amen.*

Stewardship Thought for the Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

Matthew 6:24b – “**You cannot serve God and money.**” In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives the first and last word about our stewardship. Well, you have to go back to verse 21 to get the whole thing: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Read Matthew 5:19-34 again this week at home and consider your generosity to the Lord’s work in light of what Jesus says.

A Prayer For The Week

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You for all Your benefits. that You have given us life and graciously sustained us to this day: We beseech You, do not take Your blessing from us; preserve us from covetousness, that we may serve You only, love and abide in You, and not defile ourselves by idolatrous love of wealth, but hope and trust only in Your grace; through 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

“Now the world cannot conceal its unbelief in its coarse, outward sins, for I see it loves a dollar more than Christ; more than all the Apostles, even if they themselves were present and preached to it. I can hear the Gospel daily, but it does not profit me every day; it may indeed happen, if I have heard it a whole year, the Holy Spirit may have been given to me only one hour. Now when I enjoyed this hour I obtained not only five hundred dollars, but also the riches of the whole world; for what have I not, when I have the Gospel? I received God, Who made the silver and the gold, and all that is upon the Earth; for I acquired the Spirit by which I know that I will be kept by Him forever; that is much more than if I had the church full of money. Examine now and see, if our heart is not a rogue, full of wickedness and unbelief. If I were a true Christian, I would say: The hour the Gospel is received, there comes to me a hundred thousand dollars, and much more. For if I possess this treasure, I have all that is in Heaven and upon Earth. But one must serve this treasure only, for no man can serve God and mammon. Either you must love God and hate money; or you must hate God and love money; this and nothing more.”
Excerpted from a sermon in the Church Postil of Martin Luther for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday.