

+DIVINE SERVICE III+

OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY + 26 SEPTEMBER 2021



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ 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.

A Note From the Organist:

Today's theme for the service is "humility and exaltation." "O man, bewail thy grievous Sin" is not found in any current American Lutheran Hymnal (probably because it's rather long and hard to sing) but was common in Bach's time. The text reminds us of our need for grace, and of God's sacrifice for us. Bach's setting reflects the text by presenting the melody in a richly ornamented form, marked "Adagio assai" (very slow) and, at the end, "Adagissimo."

Few pieces in the literature convey a greater sense of exaltation than this sonata movement by Mendelssohn. Cast in the sunny key of C Major, and played throughout on the full organ with reeds, the mood is always cheerful. Pairing Mendelssohn with Bach is very appropriate, since Mendelssohn was largely responsible for the revival of interest in Bach during the Nineteenth Century

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
 △ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
 Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

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

Psalm 119:1-2, 5-6; antiphon: vv. 137, 124

Righteous are you, | O LORD,
and right are your | just decrees.
Deal with your servant according to your | steadfast love,*
and teach me your | statutes.*


Blessèd are those whose way is | blameless,*
 who walk in the law | of the LORD!
 Blessèd are those who keep his testi- | monies,*
 who seek him with their | whole heart.
 Oh that my ways may be | steadfast*
 in keeping your | statutes!
 Then I shall not be | put to shame,*
 having my eyes fixed on all your com- | mandments.

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

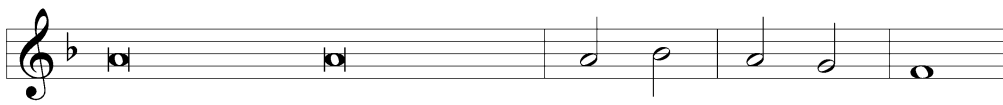
LSB 187



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,



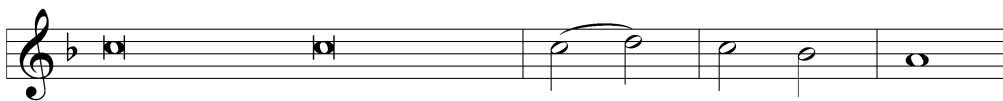
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



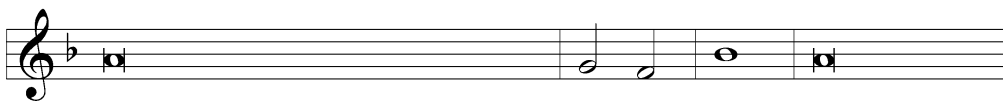
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



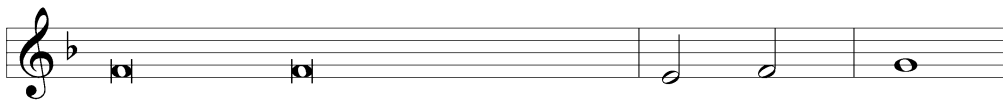
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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 Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; 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

Proverbs 25:6-14

- ⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen
⁸do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.
¹¹A word fitly spoken

- is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.
¹²Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold
 is a wise reprover to a listening ear.
¹³Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest
 is a faithful messenger to those who send him;
 he refreshes the soul of his masters.
¹⁴Like clouds and wind without rain
 is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 2

The Reign of the LORD's Anointed

- ¹Why do the | nations rage*
 and the peoples | plot in vain?
²**The kings of the earth set themselves,
 and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
 against the LORD and against his anointed, | saying,**
³"Let us burst their | bonds apart*
 and cast away their | cords from us."
⁴**He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
 the Lord holds them in de- | rision.**
⁵Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*
 and terrify them in his fury, | saying,
⁶**"As for me, I have | set my King*
 on Zion, my | holy hill."**
⁷I will tell of | the decree:*
 The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
 today I have be- | gotten you.
⁸**Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,*
 and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.**
⁹You shall break them with a | rod of iron*
 and dash them in pieces like a potter's | vessel."
¹⁰**Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*
 be warned, O rulers | of the earth.**
¹¹Serve the | LORD with fear,*
 and rejoice with | trembling.

¹²**Kiss the Son,**
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly | kindled.*
Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

Epistle

Ephesians 4:1–6

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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 14:1–11

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, **“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?”** ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, **“Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?”** ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, **“When you are invited by someone to**

a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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

507 Holy, Holy, Holy



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide Thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

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

Almighty Father, unite Your Church in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. Lead Christians who are at odds with one another to seek reconciliation in Christ and, as brothers, to bear with each other in love. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Preserve and give success to the preaching of Your Holy Word. Through pastors, missionaries, church workers and the priesthood of all believers,

send forth Your Son's gracious invitation to repent and believe and cause it to be received with joyful faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Holy Lord, You have given Your gift of holy marriage, and You preserve this estate against the forces of sin and Satan. Bless all married couples. Keep them faithful to each other in their vows and ready to welcome Your gift of children in their union, according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Blessed Father, strengthen fathers to devote their households to Your Word and prayer, to bring their children faithfully to Christ's font, and faithfully to instruct their children in regular attendance at the Divine Service. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Almighty God, uphold Joseph, our president; Gavin, our governor; and all our leaders. Direct their work toward the common good of all people, which is found in God's Law written on our hearts and in Your righteous decrees — especially for the protection of the unborn and those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Merciful Father, spare those who are ill, suffering or in sorrow 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*, Comfort them with Your promise of constant care and mercy. Show compassion also to the bereaved. Comfort them with Your promise of a joyful reunion with Christ and their loved ones who have died in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Bless all who will receive the Lord's Supper today to eat and drink in repentance and faith. Strengthen all believers through the forgiveness of sins promised in the Holy Scriptures, until at last we are welcomed together at Your eternal marriage feast. 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



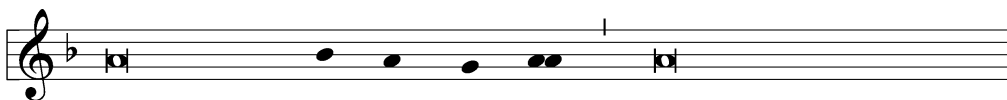
P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



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



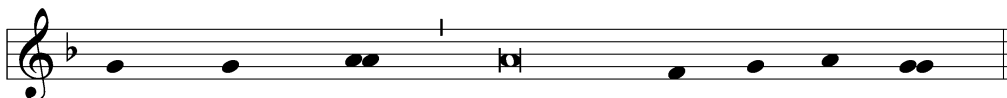
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



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



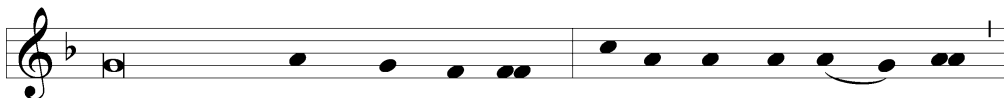
P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



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 ✠ 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.



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.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

642 O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You
2 My Lord, You here have led - me To this most
3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can
4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly



feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en
ho - ly place! And with Your - self have fed - me
death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed
food, while here My course on earth is length - ened,



Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, won - drous food of
The trea - sures of Your grace; For You have free - ly
The cup of end - less joy. My Lord, I do not
To serve with ho - ly fear. And when You call my



bles - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this
giv - en What earth could nev - er buy, The bread of
mer - it The fa - vor You have shown, And all my
spir - it To leave this world be - low, I en - ter,



gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows.
life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.
soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore Your throne.
through Your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

Tune and text: Public domain



Distribution Hymn

616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -
 2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y
 3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing
 4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd
 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy
 bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him
 to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can
 speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now
 hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



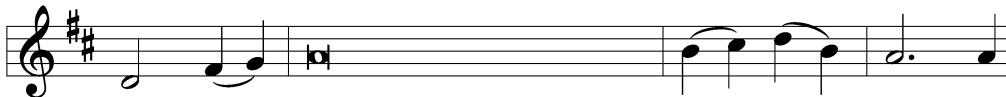
here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
 all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
 form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.
 stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
 strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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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,

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



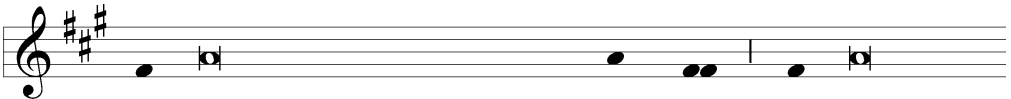
A Bless we the Lord.



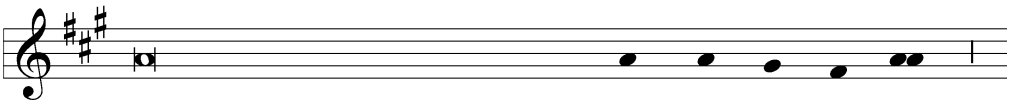
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

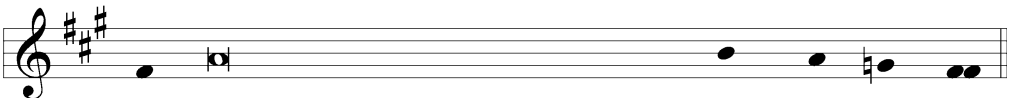
LSB 202



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

493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



1	A	hymn	of	glo - ry	let	us	sing!	New
2	The	ho - ly	ap - os - tol - ic	band				Up -
3	To	them	the	shin - ing	an - gels	cry,		“Why
4	“You	see	Him	now,	as - cend - ing	high		Up



hymns	through - out	the	world	shall	ring:	Al - le - lu - ia,
on	the	Mount	of	Ol - ives	stand.	Al - le - lu - ia,
stand	and	gaze	up - on	the	sky?”	Al - le - lu - ia,
to	the	por - tals	of	the	sky.”	Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia!	Christ,	by	a	road	be - fore	un -
al - le - lu - ia!	And	with	His	faith - ful	fol - l’wers	
al - le - lu - ia!	“This	is	the	Sav - ior,”	thus	they
al - le - lu - ia!	“Here	- af - ter	Je - sus	you	shall	



trod,	As -	cends	un - to	the	throne	of
see	Their	Lord	as - cend	in	maj - es -	
say;	“This	is	His	glo - rious	tri - umph	
see	Re -	turn - ing	in	great	maj - es -	



God.	Al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le -
ty.	Al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le -
day!”	Al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le -
ty.”	Al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Be now our joy on earth, O
Lord,
And be our future great
reward.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Then, throned with You
forever, we
Shall praise Your name
eternally.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ 6 O risen Christ, ascended
Lord,
All praise to You let earth
accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages
run,
With Father and with Spirit
one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Allegro Maestoso From Sonata No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Acknowledgments

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✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 38

+ Happy Birthday to Jocella Collins!

LWML Message

LWML Hygiene Kit Assembly for LSS

+ TODAY - LWML Hygiene Kit Assembly for LSS

Four Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) from The Good Shepherd will be attending the Pacific Southwest District Women's Retreat Oct. 1-3 in Las Vegas. They are Stephanie Cram, Onja Davidson, Sydney Teitell, and Gayle Tarr. Please pray for their safe travel.

Thank you!

Gayle

Synod Sentences for the Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity

Whoever Humbles Himself Will Be Exalted

“Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence” (Prov. 25:6–14). Rather, take the lowest position at the table. Humble yourself before Him. For your place is not for you to take but for Him to give. Conduct yourself with all lowliness and gentleness, bearing with one another in love (Eph. 4:1–6), that the King may give you glory in the presence of those at the table with you. *“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted”* (Luke 14:1–11). Is this not the way of Christ? He is the one who took the lowest place, who humbled Himself even to the point of death for us. He is now exalted to the highest place at the right hand of the Father that penitent believers may be exalted together with Him in the resurrection. To the humble at His Supper He says, *“Friend, move up higher,”* giving you His very body and blood for your forgiveness that you may ascend to take part in the great wedding feast which has no end.

An Excerpt from Luther’s Writings

“Since then all law exists to promote love, law must soon cease where it is in conflict with love. Therefore, everything depends upon a good leader or ruler to direct and interpret the law in accordance with love. Take the example of the priests and monks. They have drawn up laws that they will say mass and do their praying and juggle with God in other ways at given hours according to the clock. If now a poor man should call and ask for a service at an hour when they were to hold mass or repeat their prayers, they might say: “Go your way; I must now read mass, must attend to my prayers,” and thus they would fail to serve the poor man, even if he should die. In this manner the most sanctimonious monks and Carthusians act; they observe their rules and statutes so rigorously that, although they saw a poor man breathing his last breath and could help him so easily, yet they will not do it. But the good people, if they were Christians, ought to explain the laws and statutes in harmony with love, and say: Let the mass go, let the sacraments, prayers, and the ordinances all go; I will dispense with works, I will serve my neighbor; love put in practice in serving my neighbor is golden in comparison with such human works.” *This sermon is from the Church Postil of Martin Luther for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday*

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 exalt ourselves, but humbly fear You, with our whole hearts hear and keep Your Word, and keep the day of rest holy, that we also may be sanctified by Your Word; help us, first, to place our hope and confidence in Your Son, Jesus Christ, who alone is our righteousness and Redeemer, and, then, so to amend and better our lives in accordance with Your Word, that we may avoid all offenses and finally obtain eternal salvation; through Your grace in Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

Lutherans For Life Thoughts for the Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity

– In Christ God embraced and befriended hearts and bodies ruined by sin. He allowed neither disabilities nor disobedience to separate anyone from His love (Luke 14:1-4). This forgiveness heals us to share the same gracious kingdom with the ones right in front of us who struggle with impairment and iniquity (Luke 14:12-14). *Prayer: Extend Your kingdom, Lord Jesus, through me to those who are broken like I am. Amen.*