

**+DIVINE SERVICE III+**  
**OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  

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**REFORMATION SUNDAY + 31 OCTOBER 2021**



**The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

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

### A Note From the Organist:

Scott M. Hyslop is Director of Music Ministries at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth, Michigan. His setting of “Lord Keep Us Steadfast” has a dance-like quality to it.

Bach's prelude in G is an early work, filled with youthful exuberance, perfect for Reformation. If it ever had a fugue attached, it has been lost.



# Confession and Absolution

## Hymn of Invocation

## 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above



1 Our Fa - ther, who from heav'n a - bove Bids all of us to  
 2 Your name be hal - lowed. Help us, Lord, In pu - ri - ty to  
 3 Your king - dom come. Guard Your do - main And Your e - ter - nal  
 4 Your gra - cious will on earth be done As it is done be -



live in love As mem - bers of one fam - i - ly And  
 keep Your Word, That to the glo - ry of Your name We  
 righ - teous reign. The Ho - ly Ghost en - rich our day With  
 fore Your throne, That pa - tient - ly we may o - bey Through -



pray to You in u - ni - ty, Teach us no thought - less words to  
 walk be - fore You free from blame. Let no false teach - ing us per -  
 gifts at - ten - dant on our way. Break Sa - tan's pow'r, de - feat his  
 out our lives all that You say. Curb flesh and blood and ev - 'ry



say But from our in - most hearts to pray.  
 vert; All poor de - lud - ed souls con - vert.  
 rage; Pre - serve Your Church from age to age.  
 ill That sets it - self a - gainst Your will.

- 5 Give us this day our daily bread,  
 And let us all be clothed and fed.  
 Save us from hardship, war, and strife;  
 In plague and famine, spare our life,  
 That we in honest peace may live,  
 To care and greed no entrance give.

- 6 Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,  
That they may trouble us no more;  
We, too, will gladly those forgive  
Who hurt us by the way they live.  
Help us in our community  
To serve each other willingly.
- 7 Lead not into temptation, Lord,  
Where our grim foe and all his horde  
Would vex our souls on ev'ry hand.  
Help us resist, help us to stand  
Firm in the faith, a mighty host,  
Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.
- 8 From evil, Lord, deliver us;  
The times and days are perilous.  
Redeem us from eternal death,  
And, when we yield our dying breath,  
Console us, grant us calm release,  
And take our souls to You in peace.
- 9 Amen, that is, so shall it be.  
Make strong our faith in You, that we  
May doubt not but with trust believe  
That what we ask we shall receive.  
Thus in Your name and at Your Word  
We say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"

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*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

**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.

*LSB 184*

- 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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46*

*I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]\*  
and shall not be | put to shame.  
I will bless the LORD at | all times; \*  
his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast | in the LORD; \*  
let the humble hear | and be glad.  
Come, O children, lis- | ten to me; \*  
I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.  
The LORD redeems the life of his | servants; \*  
none of those who take refuge in him will | be condemned.*

## 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



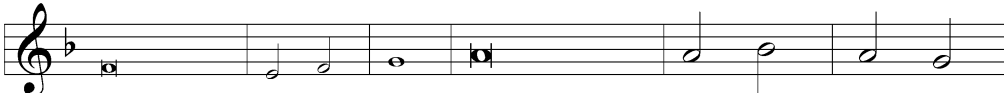
**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

## Gloria in Excelsis

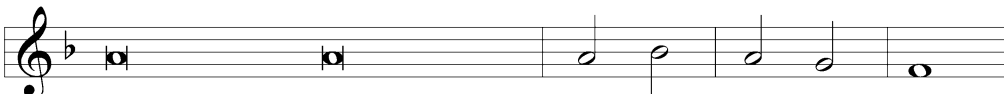
LSB 187




**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.

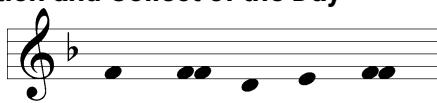


O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



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.

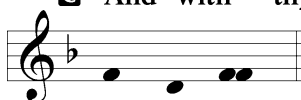
### Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Sit*

## Old Testament

*Revelation 14:6-7*

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup>And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

*Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7*

### God Is Our Fortress

<sup>1</sup>God is our ref- | uge and strength,\*  
a very present help in | trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way,\***  
**though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters | roar and foam,\*  
though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,\***  
**the holy habitation of the | Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved;\*  
God will help her when | morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter;\***  
**he utters his voice, the | earth melts.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*  
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

<sup>8</sup>**Come, behold the works | of the LORD,\***  
**how he has brought desolations | on the earth.**



<sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end | of the earth;\*  
 he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
 he burns the chariots | with fire.  
<sup>10</sup>“Be still, and know that | I am God.\*  
 I will be exalted among the nations,  
 I will be exalted | in the earth!”  
<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*  
 the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

**Epistle**

*Romans 3:19–28*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

- 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**

*John 8:31–36*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

### The Truth Will Set You Free

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free?'"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

**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

822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! To God the Fa -  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Lamb  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Ho -  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to our tri -



ther let us bring Our songs of ad - o - ra - tion.  
of God we sing, In whom we are e - lect - ed.  
ly Ghost we sing For our re - gen - er - a - tion.  
une God we sing; Blest be His name for - ev - er!



To Him through ev - er - last - ing days Be wor - ship, hon -  
He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in  
The sav - ing faith in us He wrought And us un - to  
With an - gel hosts let us a - dore And sing His prais -



or, pow'r, and praise, Whose hand sus - tains cre - a - tion.  
 that bless - ed flood, And as His bride se - lect - ed.  
 the Bride-groom brought, Made us His cho - sen na - tion.  
 es ev - er - more For all His grace and fa - vor!



Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly Is our u - nion And com - mu - nion.  
 Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Joy e - ter - nal, Bliss su - per - nal;  
 Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;



Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry.  
 His be - friend - ing Gives us joy and peace un - end - ing.  
 There is man - na And an end - less, glad ho - san - na.  
 Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry!

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.

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

### Prayer of the Church

*The proper response is "Hear our prayer."*

- P** Gracious heavenly Father, we thank You for the comfort of the Gospel restored to Your Church on earth through the work of Martin Luther and other faithful pastors and leaders during the Reformation. We praise You that by Your rich grace we have come to the sure knowledge that we stand justified before You, not by what we have done, but rather by faith in what Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, has done on our behalf. We implore You, defend Your Church from all enemies of Your saving Word. Cause Your eternal Gospel to be proclaimed in our time to every nation, tribe, language and people on earth, and graciously preserve Your truth for generations to come. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, make us truly Your disciples. Keep us in Your Word, free us from all errors, and make our homes and families peaceful. Preserve all fathers and encourage them for their godly task, that children would be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Be with our catechumens. Teach us also to hear and learn Your Word anew as disciples with them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Have mercy on our nation. Give us good and faithful rulers who will govern after Your good pleasure. Give us comfort and a right understanding of Your rule in this world, that we would not be deceived to think earthly powers will last forever, but have confidence in You alone. Your kingdom come! Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Hear our prayers for the sick, the joyful and those in any need 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*, Answer their prayers, preserve them by Your promises and bring them safely through this world to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** You have given us the certainty of sins forgiven in Your Son, set forth as the propitiation for our sins by His blood to be received by faith. So lead us to eat and drink Your holy body and precious blood in repentance and faith, now and always. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that You have brought us by Your Word out of the darkness of error and into the light of Your grace. Mercifully help us to walk in that light. Guard us from error and false doctrine, and grant that we do not become ungrateful and despise Your Word, but receive it with all our heart, conduct our lives according to it and put our trust in Your grace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 194



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**G** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



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



**G** 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



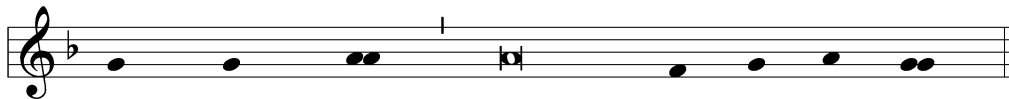
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



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 † 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.



**G** 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**

**617 O Lord, We Praise Thee**

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,  
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,  
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor

In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy  
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er  
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -

bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that  
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -  
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this

they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!  
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our  
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy  
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead  
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;  
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

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## Distribution Hymn

## 588 Jesus Loves Me



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.  
 2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be - long; They are weak, but He is strong.  
 He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

### *Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

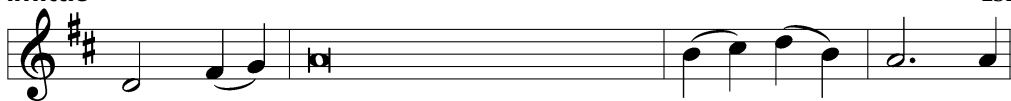


Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

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# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



**C** 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



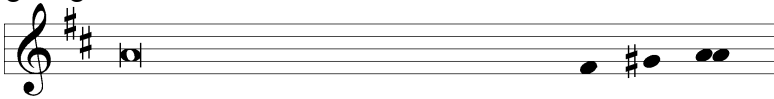
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



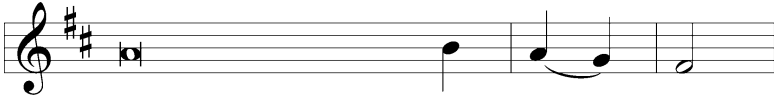
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## 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



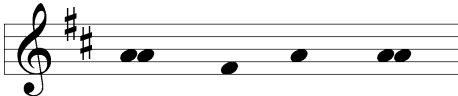
**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

LSB 202

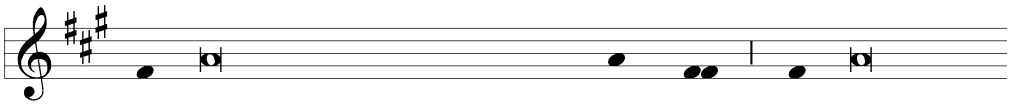


**A** Bless we the Lord.

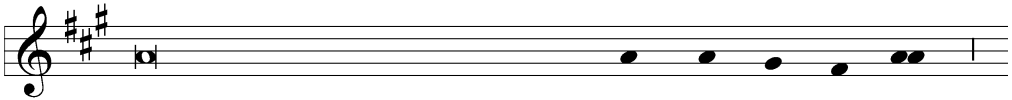


**C** Thanks be to God.

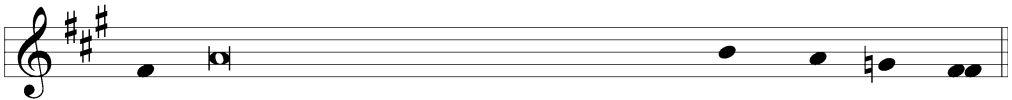
**Benediction**



**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**

**656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
2 With might of ours can naught be done,  
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,  
4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;  
Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;  
All ea - ger to de - vour us,  
Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
But for us fights the val - iant One,  
We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
He's by our side up - on the plain



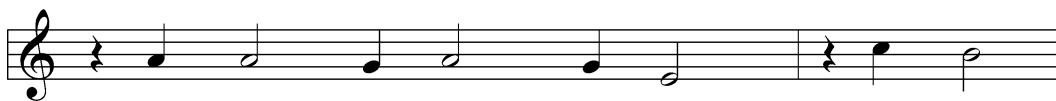
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.  
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means  
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus  
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce  
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might  
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,  
 as he will, He can harm us none.  
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth  
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds  
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -  
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.  
 the field for - ev - er.  
 tle word can fell him.  
 dom ours re - main - eth.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Praeludium in G Major BWV 568

*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

### Acknowledgments

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# ✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

## Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 35

**+ The Veteran's Day Celebration is November 14<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP by October 31<sup>st</sup> to the Church Office at 310-671-7644 or [goodshepherdlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:goodshepherdlc@sbcglobal.net) or see an Evangelism Committee member. -Jocella, Mary, Royce, Norm, Nannette, Jill**

### **LWML Message**

**+ OKTOBERFEST ON REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31** - Our LWML has hosted an Oktoberfest meal for several years after our Reformation service. Join together after service for bratwurst, potato salad, and other dishes!

### **A Snippet From 1517**

You might say the major Reformation, and all mini-reformations, happen for a long list of reasons. People grow sick of the church's theological trash stinking to high heaven and decide to wheel it to the curb. They abhor the cancers of corruption worming their way through the soul of the ecclesial hierarchy. They are dismayed over closeted creeds mildewing, muscular singing atrophying into the blubber of emotionalism, and want to vomit every time they catch a whiff from a pulpit exhaling the halitosis of moralism or legalism or self-helpism.

All these may have a part to play. But ultimately all reformations happen not because people react but because God acts. He reforms. He looks down from heaven, has mercy upon his starving children, and ends the famine of the Word by sending the rain of the Gospel. The good news, and that good news alone, is the catalyst behind any true reforming work in the church.

Mere moral reform has the shelf life of a beach sandcastle right before high tide. Mere political reform is like vacuuming the house while the roof is on fire. But Gospel reform is God's lasting and liberating labor.

Only the Gospel will reform the church because only the Gospel is LIFE. And that life is Jesus. Not Jesus *and* your-pet-project, not Jesus *and* your-moral-crusade, not Jesus *and* your-plan-to-improve-society. "Jesus, Jesus, only Jesus," as the old hymn insists.

This life of God in Christ is for a dead world full of dead people mimicking life badly. The life of God in Christ seeping into every pore of the church and vivifying all it touches. The life of God in Christ which breathes vitality into the church's worship once more; raises up preachers who are electrified by a proclamation that determines to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified; gathers young people who are sick of cotton candy spiritualism and starving for the meat and drink of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

This life of God in Christ, this Gospel, will be the only reason a tiny rural parish, a whole denominational body, or vast swaths of the church are reformed. Because the church is once more nailed to the Godman who is nailed to the cross. United with Jesus in his death that we might share in his life. And, sharing in his life, become once more a bright and beaming light in this world instead of one more flickering neon bulb in the marketplace of helping institutions.

Oh, dear God, fill our lips, and fill your church, with this Gospel. Make it the blood in our veins, the breath of our lungs, the light of our eyes, the totality of our being. Make this Gospel gush from our pulpits and stream into the dead seas of shame and guilt to desalinate them and fill them with life and hope again. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and make your church a temple of mercy, a sanctuary of grace, a spring of life that wets all sin-parched lips with the dew of heaven's love found solely and fully in Christ. *Chad Bird, 2019*