

# +DIVINE SERVICE II+

OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY + 14 NOVEMBER 2021

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## The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

[tgslcms.org](http://tgslcms.org)

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# 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.

### ¶ Note From the Organist:

Walter Pelz is among the most honored church musicians of all time. He is still very active as a composer and clinician. This wonderful setting of "Wachet Auf" was newly composed and published in 2018.

David N. Johnson was on the faculty of several universities, including St. Olaf and Arizona State. He wrote many organ pieces and a teaching method which is still in use. "At the Name of Jesus" is a set of variations mostly in trio form.

# Confession and Absolution

## Hymn of Invocation

## 794 The Lord, My God, Be Praised



1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;  
 2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,  
 3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,  
 △ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;  
 The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,  
 The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.  
 To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day  
 Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood  
 His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,  
 The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo - ment yield New bless - ings on my way.  
 And gives to me by faith The high - est heav'n - ly good.  
 Help, com - fort, and sup - port In sor - row's gloom - y hour.  
 God Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Ho - ly Ghost.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Stand

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

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Kneel/Stand*

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

## Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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

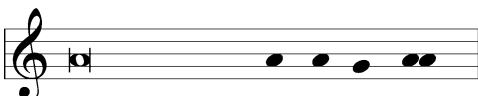
*Psalm 95:1-4; antiphon: vv. 6-7a*

Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;\*  
let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!  
**For he | is our God,\***  
**and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep | of his hand.**  
Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;\*  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!  
**Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;\***  
**let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!**  
For the LORD is a | great God,\*

and a great King a- | bove all gods.  
**In his hand are the depths | of the earth;\***  
**the heights of the mountains are his | also.**  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
 Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;\*  
 let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!  
**For he | is our God,\***  
**and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep | of his hand.**

**Kyrie**

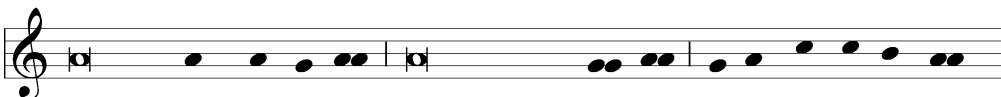
*LSB 168*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

**C** A - men.

### This Is the Feast

LSB 171

**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



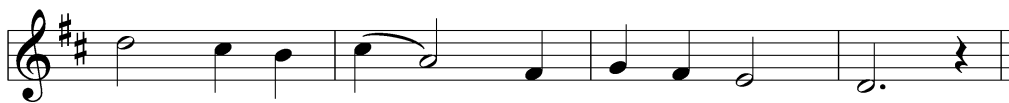
lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



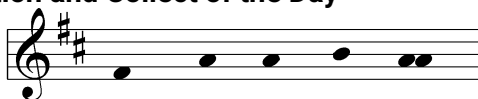
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.



## Salutation and Collect of the Day



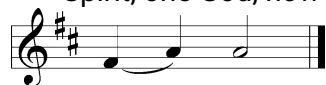
**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by You be plenteously rewarded; 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 Reading

*Isaiah 51:9-16*

<sup>9</sup>Awake, awake, put on strength,  
O arm of the LORD;  
awake, as in days of old,  
the generations of long ago.  
Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces,  
that pierced the dragon?  
<sup>10</sup>Was it not you who dried up the sea,  
the waters of the great deep,  
who made the depths of the sea a way  
for the redeemed to pass over?  
<sup>11</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,



and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.  
<sup>12</sup>"I, I am he who comforts you;  
 who are you that you are afraid of man who dies,  
 of the son of man who is made like grass,  
<sup>13</sup>and have forgotten the LORD, your Maker,  
 who stretched out the heavens  
 and laid the foundations of the earth,  
 and you fear continually all the day  
 because of the wrath of the oppressor,  
 when he sets himself to destroy?  
 And where is the wrath of the oppressor?  
<sup>14</sup>He who is bowed down shall speedily be released;  
 he shall not die and go down to the pit,  
 neither shall his bread be lacking.  
<sup>15</sup>I am the LORD your God,  
 who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—  
 the LORD of hosts is his name.  
<sup>16</sup>And I have put my words in your mouth  
 and covered you in the shadow of my hand,  
 establishing the heavens  
 and laying the foundations of the earth,  
 and saying to Zion, 'You are my people.'"

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 116:8, 1*

**You have delivered my | soul from death,\*  
 my eyes from tears, my feet from | stumbling.  
 I love the LORD, because | he has heard\*  
 my voice and my pleas for | mercy.**

## Epistle

*Colossians 1:9–14*

<sup>9</sup>And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.  
<sup>11</sup>May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified

you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.


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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 173*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 9:18-26*

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>While [Jesus] was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup>And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup>And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, <sup>21</sup>for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." <sup>22</sup>Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "**Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.**" And instantly the woman was made well. <sup>23</sup>And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup>he said, "**Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.**" And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup>But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. <sup>26</sup>And the report of this went through all that district.

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



## 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.

# Hymn of the Day

# 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with  
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in  
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.  
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,  
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall  
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."  
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.  
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

*Proper response is "Lord, have mercy."*

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
  
- P** By His Word and promise, through which God has made us His people, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** Praising Christ's death and resurrection, by which He has forgiven our sin and brought us to Himself, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the gift of faith which clings to the Lord Jesus and for joy in the reconciliation between God and all people in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For strength in the Holy Spirit to resist temptation and walk in the good works He has prepared for us beforehand, that believing His Holy Word, we may lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For faithful pastors who preach the whole counsel of God's Word; for Matthew, our Synod president; Mike, our district president; *Edward*, our circuit visitor; and all who serve in the Office of the Holy Ministry, that they may proclaim the saving Gospel with boldness and joy, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the weak among us, the sick or injured, the lonely and all in need, especially *Alice, Carmen, Cynthia, the Conrad's, Dalton, David, Debra, Faith, Gloria, James, Jamsetta, Jod, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Philip, Sabrina, Susie* that God would protect and relieve them, teaching us to cast every care on Him, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For daily bread, for contentment in His gifts and for thankful hearts to serve our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who commune, that God would give us a heart without deceit, a right confession of our sins and peace in the forgiveness of sins; and that we may come worthily to His table with the eyes of faith, seeing that He is good, forgives our iniquity and shows us His tender pity, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

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

## Offertory

LSB 176



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 177



**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al-so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

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

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

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

### Sanctus

LSB 178

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My **✝** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My **✝** blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### Lord's Prayer

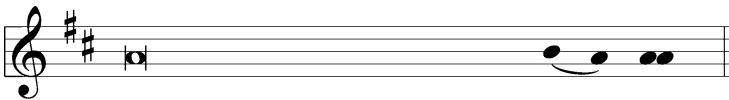
**C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses**



as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us ✝ from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom  
 and the power and the glory  
 forever and ever. Amen.

**Pax Domini**

*LSB 180*



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



**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei**

*LSB 180*



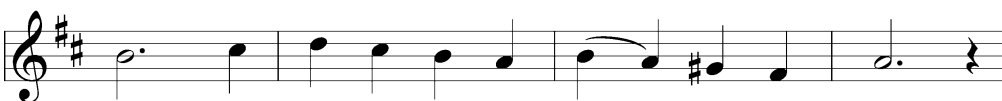
**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## 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

## 606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;  
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;  
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.  
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.  
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains  
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;  
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.  
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.  
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## Thank the Lord

LSB 181



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls His prom - is -

es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**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.

**Benediction**

LSB 183

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you  
 and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C** A - men.

GIVE THANKS  
 to the LORD,  
 FOR HE IS GOOD

# Hymn to Depart

# 512 At the Name of Jesus



1 At the name of Je - sus Ev - 'ry knee shall bow,  
 2 At His voice cre - a - tion Sprang at once to sight,  
 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, To re - ceive a name  
 4 Bore it up tri - um - phant With its hu - man light,



Ev - 'ry tongue con - fess Him King of glo - ry now.  
 All the an - gel fac - es, All the hosts of light,  
 From the lips of sin - ners Un - to whom He came,  
 Through all ranks of crea - tures To the cen - tral height,



'Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure We should call Him Lord,  
 Thrones and bright do - min - ions, Stars up - on their way,  
 Faith - ful - ly He bore it Spot - less to the last,  
 To the throne of God - head, To the Fa - ther's breast,



Who from the be - gin - ning Was the might - y Word.  
 All the heav'n - ly or - ders In their great ar - ray.  
 Brought it back vic - to - rious When from death He passed;  
 Filled it with the glo - ry Of that per - fect rest.

5 In your hearts enthrone Him;  
 There let Him subdue  
 All that is not holy,  
 All that is not true:  
 Crown Him as your captain  
 In temptation's hour;  
 Let His will enfold you  
 In its light and pow'r.

For all wreaths of empire  
 Meet upon His brow,  
 And our hearts confess Him  
 King of glory now.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus  
 Shall return again  
 In His Father's glory,  
 With His angel train;

△ 7 Glory then to Jesus,  
 Who, the Prince of light,  
 To a world in darkness  
 Brought the gift of sight;  
 Praise to God the Father;  
 In the Spirit's love  
 Praise we all together  
 Him who reigns above.

**Acknowledgments**

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✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

**Announcements**

**+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 40**

**+ Voter's Assembly on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. All members are encouraged to come and have a voice in the church!**

**+ Home of the Free, Because of the Brave**

Join us for lunch and fellowship to ***Celebrate Our Veterans*** after church today in the assembly room.

-The Evangelism Committee

**LWML Message**

**+ Food Ingathering for LSS: The Good Shepherd LWML would like to invite the congregation to share their blessings this month of Thanksgiving** by bringing nonperishable food for Lutheran Social Services of So. Calif. Please put your food items in the box labeled "LSS Food Ingathering" in the narthex. Thank you for helping those in need.

**Synod Sentences for the Twenty-fourth Sunday After Trinity**

***The Strength of the Lord Is Our Salvation from Sin, Death, and Darkness***

A shroud of darkness engulfs us. Sin, death, and disease threaten to sever us from life's fullest measure. Without new life in Christ Jesus, there would be no light to dissipate, dispel, or curb grief and sadness. But Jesus has qualified us *"to share in the inheritance of the saints of light"* delivering us from the dark domain (Col. 1:9-14). *"I have put my words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of my hand,...You are my people"* (Is. 51:9-16). The presence of Christ, in word, wine, bread, and water, confronts our sinful nature with forgiveness. In the sacraments, God claims us to be His very own children, creating, and sustaining our faith. So in Christ, we humbly receive the words, *"your faith has made you well"* (Matt. 9:18-26). On the last day God will surely awaken us also from slumber in resurrection glory.

**A Prayer For The Week**

O almighty and everlasting God, by Your dear Son You have promised us forgiveness of our sins and deliverance from eternal death: We pray that by Your Holy Spirit You will daily

increase our faith in Your grace through Christ, and establish in us the certain hope that we shall not die, but peacefully sleep, and be raised on the last day to eternal life and salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

### **A Snippet From 1517**

#### ***"Your Sins Are Forgiven" Is Christianity***

The kingdom of Christ is realized where nothing but comfort and the forgiveness of sins reign not only in words to proclaim it, which is also necessary; but also in deed.

Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven." (Matthew 9:2)

These words show and contain in brief what the kingdom of Christ is, namely, this sweet voice, these motherly and fatherly words penetrating our inmost soul: "Your sins are forgiven." In no other sense are we to view the kingdom of Christ, so far as it is understood, then how we are to live before God. As you, beloved, well know that our highest duty is rightly to establish the conscience that we may know how we stand before God and our neighbor. Therefore, we must also hold fast to these words and become accustomed to the expression: "Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven", and like sayings of which the Gospel is full.

From this it follows that the kingdom of Christ is realized where nothing but comfort and the forgiveness of sins reign not only in words to proclaim it, which is also necessary; but also in deed, as we shall see in this example. For he did not only speak these words into the ear of this sick man; but he also forgave his sins and comforted him. This knowledge is proper for us Christians to know. It is indeed easily and quickly said and heard; but when it comes to the test the light is early extinguished, and Satan soon leads us astray; as you here observe that the scribes undertake to destroy this knowledge.

I have before often said and will always say, that you should beware and properly learn the character and nature of the kingdom of Christ. For you know how reason is inclined in its every movement to fall from faith and from this knowledge to works. But here you see no works at all, no merit, here there is neither command nor law; there is nothing more than the offering of Christ's assistance, his comfort and his grace, only kindness meets the man sick of the palsy.

Therefore, if the kingdom of Christ is to grow, we must keep the law out of it, and not be busy with works; for it is not in harmony with it to say: Go out and run hither and thither and atone for your sins; you must observe and do this and that, if you will be free from sin; but directly without any work and law, out of pure grace, your sins are forgiven. Therefore, it is beyond the sphere of the kingdom of Christ to urge the people with the law.

But we receive such things only with the ear and on the tongue, and it enters not into the depth of the heart; for sin at all times still hangs about our necks, it clings firmly to us, as St. Paul speaks of this in Romans 7:18-19. But in death we will experience it. Of this class

are at present our fanatics who boast of the Holy Spirit, and pretend they would do better, some of whom are also in our midst, listen to us and contend that it is not enough for us to preach only faith and love. They say, you must do better and climb much higher. How high then must I climb?

Thus I say, my friends, and would beseech you not to esteem that spirit great who proposes to you any kind of work, call it what you may, even if it would raise the dead, which they have not yet been able to do. But by this you shall truly experience which spirits are of God. and which are not. For if you give me a work to do, it is not the Holy Spirit who does it; but he goes and first brings me the grace of Christ, and then leads me to works. For thus he speaks: Thy sins are forgiven, be of good cheer, and the like. He does not first insist on works, but first leads up to God through his sweet Word and grace, and does not immediately refer you to do some work; later you will find works enough to do unto your neighbor.

But the fanatics soon torment us with works, and profess to have a nobler spirit; they urge and insist upon our doing something first of all, and permit faith and love to be overlooked. This of course is not of the Holy Spirit. Christ first takes possession of the conscience, and when it is right in faith toward God, then he also directs us to do works toward our neighbor. But he first highly extols faith and keeps works in the background.

I say this: Even if it were a work which God at this present hour commanded, I would not so insist upon it and condemn those who do not immediately obey it; and would find him some kind of protection, as that he is yet perhaps weak, and thus spread over him the kingdom of grace. Let us be conscious of the fact that the work among them is directed to God, and not toward our neighbor. They make their works a necessity and say: If you do this, then you are a Christian; if you will not do it, you are no Christian. Where this or that is done there are Christians. And the fame follows their work, that they want to be esteemed better than others.

Now you have the true light, therefore be warned. Prove the spirits. We do not wish to prefer ourselves, as these persons do; but we boast in this, that we hear the Word, "Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven." I know that I have a gracious God; but these spirits cannot do this. Even if the works were good, the forcing and compelling must remain in the background. Let them then keep quiet about setting us an example by their crazy works. The kingdom of Christ consists in finding all our praise and boast in grace.

*This is an excerpt from a collection of public domain sermons given by Martin Luther, 2019*

