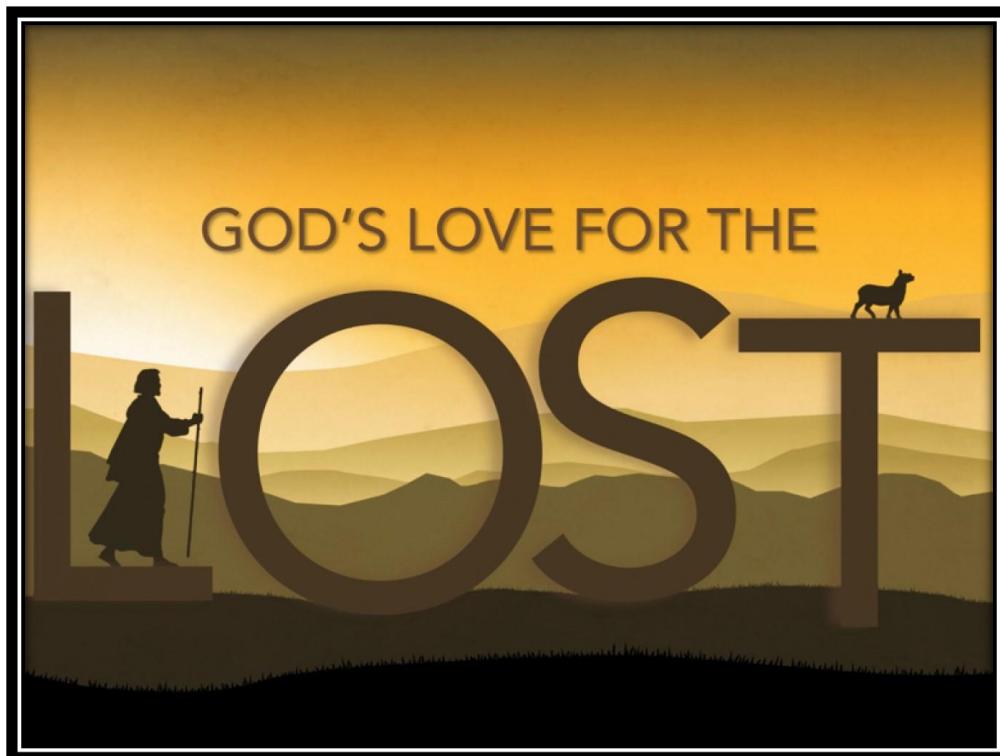


+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY+ 03 JULY 2022+



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.”

- ❖ 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 membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

During the week of June 26-July 1 the Long Beach Chapter of the American Guild of Organists hosted a Pipe Organ Encounter for high school students. Participants spent a week having instruction on the organ, visited many organs in the Long Beach area, concluding with a recital by the students. This event had to be delayed two years because of COVID-19, but has now been successfully held. Good Shepherd made a generous donation to support this program, and was recognized as a Silver Donor the program. The POE is held by different chapters each year, and rotates around the country. This program has done much to introduce young people to the organ.

Today we are joined by Organist Sarah Yun.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
2 Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.

- 5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet
And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet
And crown Him Lord of all.
- 6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of
- all.
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.
- 7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.

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 25:1-2a, 5b, 15, 20; antiphon: vv. 16, 18

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

**Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.**

To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.*

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame.

**You are the God of my sal- | vation;*
for you I wait all the | day long.**

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*

Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

**Glorify 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.**

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

**Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.**

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



G 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



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



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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



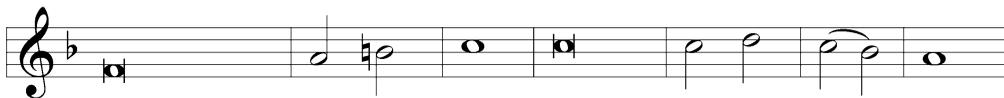
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



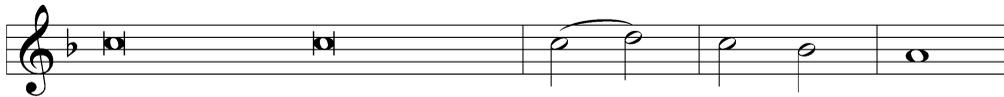
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



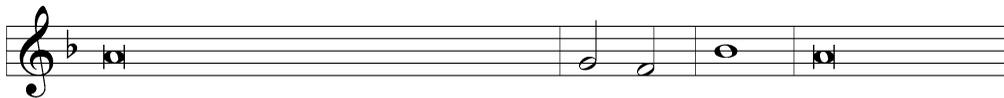
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



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



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P O God, the protector of all who trust in You, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, multiply Your mercy on us that, with You as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament

Micah 7:18-20

18Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.
19He will again have compassion on us;

he will tread our iniquities under foot.
You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.
20You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and steadfast love to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our fathers
from the days of old.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 103:1–13; antiphon: v. 8

Bless the LORD, O My Soul

¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me,
bless his | holy name!

²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and forget not all his | benefits,**

³who forgives all your in- | iquity,*
who heals all your dis- | eases,

⁴**who redeems your life | from the pit,*
who crowns you with steadfast love and | mercy,**

⁵who satisfies | you with good*
so that your youth is renewed like the | eagle's.

⁶**The LORD works | righteousness*
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

⁷He made known his ways to | Moses,*
his acts to the people of | Israel.

⁸**The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

⁹He will not | always chide,*
nor will he keep his anger for- | ever.

¹⁰**He does not deal with us according | to our sins,*
nor repay us according to our in- | iquities.**

¹¹For as high as the heavens are a- | bove the earth,*
so great is his steadfast love toward those who | fear him;

¹²**as far as the east is | from the west,*
so far does he remove our transgres- | sions from us.**

¹³As a father shows compassion to his | children,*
so the LORD shows compassion to those who | fear him.

Epistle

1 Timothy 1:12–17

¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 15:1–10

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends

and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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.

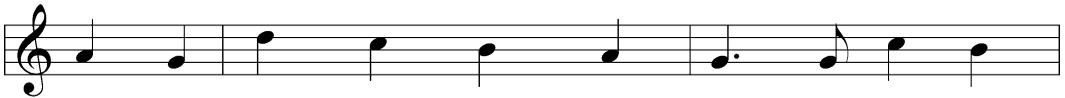
Sit

Hymn of the Day

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly -
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
 Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901
 Text and tune: 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 "Lord, have mercy."

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

- P** For the Spirit's help to humble ourselves under God's mighty hand in times of trial, that at the proper time He may exalt us, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For pastors, that they may faithfully lead their flocks, proclaim the Law and Gospel for the good of God's people, and be shielded from the assaults of the devil, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For our brothers and sisters who have left our Father's house and squandered their inheritance in Christ, that the Holy Spirit would call them to repentance and draw them home so that they may be once again embraced in Christ's forgiving love, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For this land, its government and all nations, that we may be preserved from war, bloodshed and rebellion, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all pregnant mothers and their unborn children, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** For good weather, and for those caught in storms or fires, that they may be preserved, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who suffer in body or mind in our midst, especially *Alice, Beth, Carmen, Cynthia, Dalton, Debra, Deneice and her family, Gary, Gloria, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marie, Marion and her family, Royce, Sabrina, Timothy, and William* that they would be comforted by God, who cares for us in our anxieties; and that, at the proper time, they would be granted health and healing in accord with His will, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** In thanksgiving for the grace and love of Christ who sought us lost and dead sinners and made us alive through His Word, and in joyful anticipation of the celebration of all the heavenly host as we feast on Christ's body and blood at His table this day, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we all like sheep have gone astray and allowed ourselves to be led from the right path by Satan and our sinful flesh. We implore You, graciously forgive us our sins for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Enliven our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may abide in Your Word in true repentance and in steadfast faith, and so continue in Your Church to the end and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



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



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 194

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

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



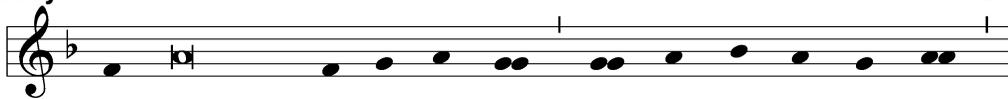
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196



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



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



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



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197



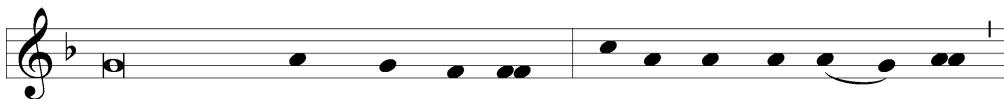
P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



My † blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197



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



☐ A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I	come, O	Sav - ior,	to Thy	ta - ble,	For weak and
2 Thy	heart is	filled with	fer - vent	yearn - ing	That sin - ners
3 Un -	wor - thy	though I	am, O	Sav - ior,	Be - cause I
4 Wea -	ry am	I and	heav - y	lad - en;	With sin my
5 What	high - er	gift can	we in -	her - it?	It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Distribution Hymn

605 Father Welcomes



Fa - ther wel - comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly



through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,



Life for - ev - er has been won.



1 Lit - tle chil - dren, come to Me, For My king - dom
2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,
3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; Let us dai - ly



is of these. Life and love I have to give,
be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve
rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,

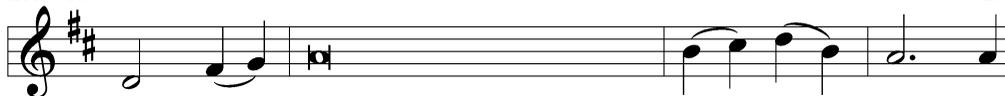


Mer - cy for your sin.
Shall be born a - gain.
Live in the peace of God.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

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

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

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



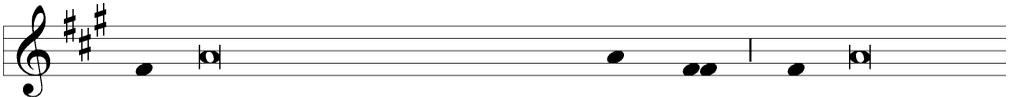
A Bless we the Lord.



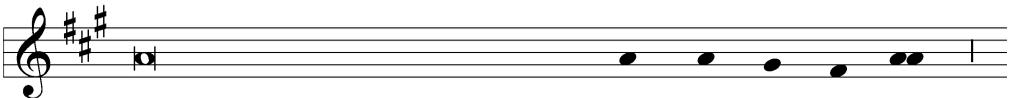
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

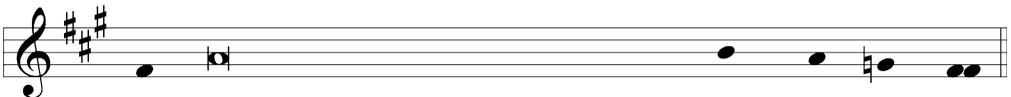
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart

644 The Church's One Foundation



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.

Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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✚ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✚

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 33**

+ **This Sunday's Greeters:** Norm & Royce Morton

Next Sunday's Greeters: Stephanie Cram & Marlene Wood

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** July 3rd Mary July 10th Susie

Cleanup for June: Mary & Royce

+ **Today is Mite Sunday!** The collection box will be located in the Narthex.

LWML 80th Anniversary Thank You - Many thanks for all who participated in bringing hygiene articles and/or helping make the 80 bags for our sisters in need at Santa Monica's Harvest Home and also Hawthorne's Patterns Women & Child Recovery. Your love and joy in service to others was evident. Our LWML hopes you enjoyed the ice cream, too!

LWML Summer Meeting - Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 24, to hear about our Pacific SW District Convention in pictures and stories! More info in the next few weeks. Election for officers will occur also.

July Birthday Celebration

Carmen Miller July 3rd

Robert Knox July 8th

Mary Flett July 10th

Brent Tilley July 18th

Ed Griffin July 28th

A Prayer For The Week

Lord God, heavenly Father, we all like sheep have gone astray, having allowed ourselves to be led away from the right path by Satan and our own sinful flesh. We beseech You graciously to forgive us all our sins for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ; and enliven our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that we may abide in Your Word, and in true repentance and a steadfast faith continue in Your Church unto the end, and obtain eternal 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.

Synod Sentences for the Third Sunday After Trinity

Jesus Receives Sinners

“This man receives sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:2). The Pharisees’ statement of judgment against Jesus is in fact a proclamation of Gospel truth. For our God is one who delights in mercy, who casts all our sins into the depths of the sea through the cross (Micah 7:18–20). *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”* (1 Tim. 1:15). Those who refuse to be counted as sinners also refuse Jesus who came only for sinners. Those like the older son (Luke 15:11–32), who think they are righteous of themselves, will not join in the heavenly celebration over the sinner who repents and so remain outside of the Father’s house. Let us therefore be on guard against self-righteously trusting in our own merits. *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you”* (1 Peter 5:6). Rejoice that Jesus receives sinners like us and that He still sits at table with us in the Holy Supper, bestowing His forgiveness and life.

An Excerpt from Martin Luther’s Sermons

“Christ was filled with all righteousness, and might justly have condemned us all as sinners. But He did not do so. What did He do, then? He gave himself to be our Servant. His righteousness has served for our sins, His fulness for our feebleness, His life for our death. This we find illustrated, for our example, in the Gospel before us,... The Lord...sets before them the following parables in order to teach how they are to receive sinners and be of service to them, saying: ‘What man of you, having a hundred sheep, and having lost one of them, doth not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it, etc. Or what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a lamp, and sweep the house, and seek diligently until she find it?’ Christ is both the shepherd and the woman; for He has lighted the lamp, that is, the Gospel, and He goes about in the desert, that is, the world. He sweeps the house, and seeks the lost sheep and lost piece of silver, when He comes with His Word and proclaims to us, first our sins, and then His grace and mercy. Christ’s declaration, that He is the shepherd and has laid our sins upon His back or shoulders, makes us trust in Him fully, and makes publicans and other sinners run after Him. ...for they had previously acknowledged themselves to be sinners and in need of His grace. And so they were drawn to Him when they heard His loving doctrine.” *From the Church Postil for the Third Sunday after Trinity Sunday.*