

+DIVINE SERVICE III+  
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
+TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY+ 13 NOVEMBER 2022+

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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

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

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# uuikoThe 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!**

### A Note From The Organist:

Jonathan Kors is a professor of music at Concordia University, Chicago. His setting of “Lamb of God” utilizes the Clarinet alternating with solo flutes against a background of strings.

“Now Thank We All Our God” is from Karg-Elert’s Opus 65, a collection of 66 chorale preludes. It was his first published organ work. He was best known as a pianist during his lifetime, and was said to have limited organ skills. Nevertheless, some of the Op. 65 pieces are incredibly difficult. Thankfully “Now Thank We All Our God” is only moderate in difficulty, and is probably the best-known piece of the collection. It is set as a triumphal march.

# Confession and Absolution

## Hymn of Invocation

## 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -  
 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your  
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly  
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall  
 dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His  
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is  
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has  
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -  
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.  
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.  
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund  
 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 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 130:1-2, 7-8; antiphon: vv. 3-4*

If you, O LORD, should mark in- | iquities,\*

O Lord, | who could stand?

**But with you there is for- | giveness,\***

**that you | may be feared.**

Out | of the depths\*

I cry to you, | O LORD!

**O Lord, | hear my voice!\***

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for | mercy!**

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,\*

and with him is plentiful re- | demption.

**And he will redeem | Israel\***

**from all his in- | iquities.**

## Gloria Patri

*LSB 186*



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Kyrie

*LSB 186*



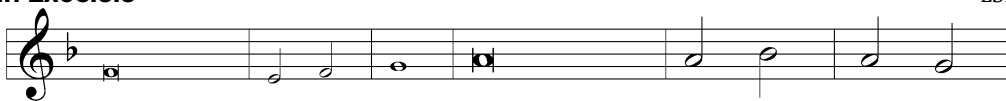
**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

## Gloria in Excelsis

*LSB 187*



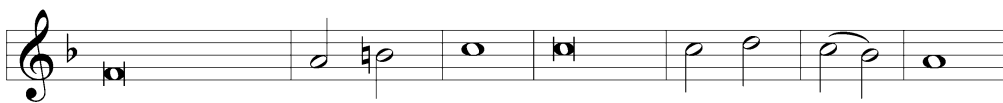
**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



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



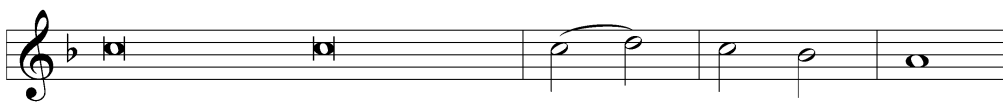
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



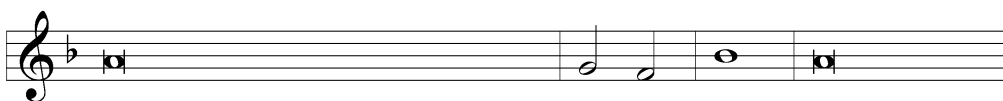
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



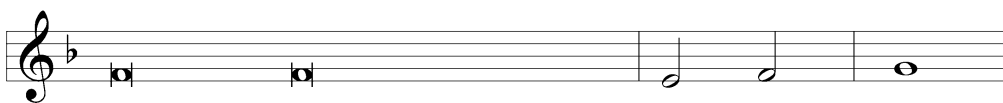
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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



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



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Let us pray.

**P** O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; 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

*Micah 6:6-8*

#### What Does the LORD Require?

- <sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”  
<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good;

and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 116:12–19; antiphon: v. 13*

<sup>12</sup>What shall I render | to the LORD\*  
for all his bene- | fits to me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation\***  
**and call on the name | of the LORD,**

<sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of all his | people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in the sight | of the LORD\***  
**is the death | of his saints.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, I am your | servant;\*  
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.  
You have | loosed my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\***  
**and call on the name | of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will pay my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of all his | people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the house | of the LORD,\***  
**in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the LORD!**

## Epistle

*Philippians 1:3–11*

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.



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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia

*LSB 190*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 18:21-35*

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



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

### The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup>"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

**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.

# Hymn of the Day

# 550 Lamb of God



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have  
 2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a  
 brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
 fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
 rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



*Refrain*

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text and tune: Twila Paris, 1958

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## Sermon

*Pastor Edward Killian*

*Stand*

## Offertory

LSB 192



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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

**Prayer of the Church**

*The proper response is "Lord, have mercy."*

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
  
- P** That we may forgive our brother from the heart, living in joyful fear and gratitude toward God for the great mercy shown to us in Christ, who has canceled the debts of our sin, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the pastors of the Church, that they would be strengthened in faithfulness, knowledge, discernment and love as they proclaim God's Word of judgment and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all God's people, that His Word may accomplish its work within us and bear abundant fruit to the glory and praise of God, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For husbands and wives, parents and children, and all brothers and sisters in Christ, that they may dwell together in forgiveness, love and purity, walking blamelessly before their heavenly Father in the guidance of His Word, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the leaders of the nations, that they would be given wisdom to govern among us in justice, impartiality and humility according to God's will; and for the blessing of those under their authority, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** For those suffering affliction, especially *Alice, Carmen, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gloria, Helen, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marie, Marion and her family, Megan, Royce, Sabrina, and Timothy* that God would strengthen their hope, show them His steadfast love, redeem them from all their iniquities, and grant healing and relief according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** That as we are forgiven, so we would forgive those who sin against us; and for those who come to the Lord's holy table, that none would come bearing bitterness or a grudge, but that they would come in repentance, desiring the forgiveness of sins, and in the unity of a true confession, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** O almighty God, we confess that we are poor sinners and could not give an answer if You should contend with us. Yet do we thank You with all our hearts that You have taken our guilt from us and laid it upon Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, who has atoned for it. Graciously sustain us in this faith. Govern us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may live according to Your will in love and service to our neighbors. Do not let us give way to wrath or revenge, and so incur Your wrath, but let us always find in You a gracious Father; through 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



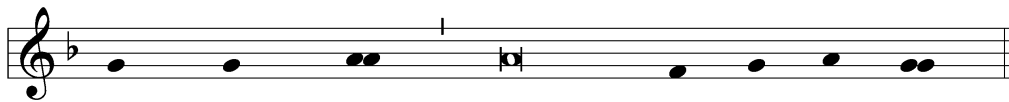
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



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.



**☐** 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  $\text{✠}$  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

### 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.

**Distribution Hymn**

**597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying**



1 Wa - ter, blood, and Spir - it cry - ing, By their wit - ness  
 2 In a wa - t'ry grave are bur - ied All our sins that  
 3 Dark the way, yet Christ pre - cedes us, Past the scowl of  
 4 Though a - round us death is seeth - ing, God, His two - edged  
 5 Spir - it, wa - ter, blood en - treat - ing, Work - ing faith and



tes - ti - fy - ing To the One whose death - de - fy - ing  
 Je - sus car - ried; Christ, the Ark of Life, has fer - ried  
 death He leads us; Spreads a ta - ble where He feeds us  
 sword un - sheath - ing, By His Spir - it life is breath - ing  
 its com - plet - ing In the One whose death - de - feat - ing



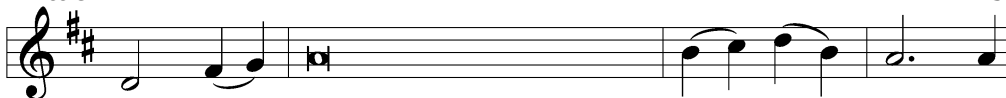
Life has come, with life for all.  
 Us a - cross death's rag - ing flood.  
 With His bod - y and His blood.  
 Through the liv - ing, ac - tive Word.  
 Life has come, with life for all.

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 Tune: Jeffrey N. Blerch, 1967  
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*Stand*

**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,

**B** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

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



**C** A - men.

## Salutation

*LSB 201*



**P** The Lord be with you.



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

## Benedicamus

*LSB 202*



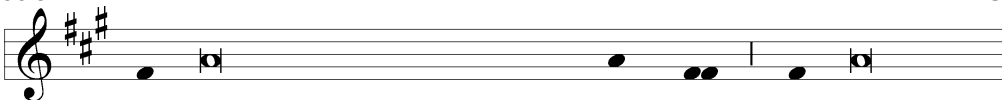
**A** Bless we the Lord.



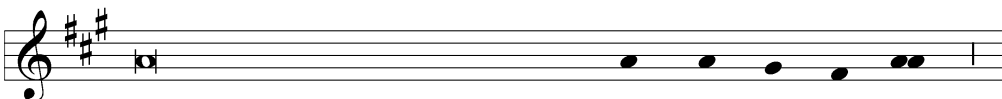
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

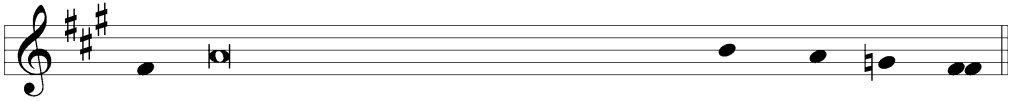
*LSB 202*



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



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



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



■ A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Hymn to Depart

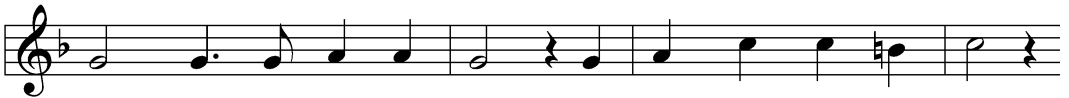
## 794 The Lord, My God, Be Praised



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: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

**Acknowledgments**

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**✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠**

**Announcements**

**+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 35**

**+ Altar Guild Set Up:** November 13<sup>th</sup> Maurine  
November 20<sup>th</sup> Susie  
**Cleanup for November:** Gayle and Royce

**+ Church Council Meeting today after service at 11:30am.**

**+ Sunday, November 20th @ 11:30am is the Congregational Voter's Meeting! It is strongly encouraged for all who can attend! In the November's Voter's Meeting, we vote together on the election of Church Officers and approve the budget. Please prayerfully consider adding your name to the ballot. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Killian or Leon Tarr. Nominations can be submitted now and up to the time of voting. Thank you!**

**+ Join us on Wednesday evening, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm for a Thanksgiving Vespers Service.**

**November Birthdays**

Barbara Hurd 20<sup>th</sup>  
Clinton Galloway 30<sup>th</sup>  
Gayle Tarr 30<sup>th</sup>

## **An Excerpt from Luther's Writings**

"The aim of this Gospel is to describe to us forgiveness for both parties. First, the Lord forgives the servant all his debt. Then He demands of him that he also in like manner forgive his fellow-servant and pardon his debt. This God demands, and thus His kingdom shall stand. Hence no one should be so wicked and allow himself to be so angry, as to be unable to forgive his neighbor. And, as is written, if he would even offend you seventy times seven times, that is, as often as he is able to offend you, you are to let your right and claim go, and freely give him everything. Why so? Because Christ has also done the same for you, in that He began and, established a kingdom in which there is nothing but grace, that is to endure forever, that everything, as often as you sin, may be forgiven; because He has sent forth His Gospel, not to proclaim punishment, but grace alone." *From the Church Postil for the TwentySecond Sunday after Trinity Sunday*

## **A Snippet From 1517**

### ***Unsavory Grace From and Unsavory Lord***

*The cross presents us a radically different standard.*

*In God's justice executed in the cross of Christ, nobody gets what they deserve.*

The parable begins with a report to a master that his steward has mismanaged his money. Being summarily fired, the steward uses his brains. He calls in his master's debtors and reduces their debts one by one. The unjust steward managed the owner's assets in a way that patently was neither just nor fair. And as noted, he had been doing this all along. His entire business dealings with the master's assets were unscrupulous. But, despite his unsavory actions, the steward is commended by his master. Go think... Is there any way to see in this guy a likeness of Jesus? Perhaps. Was Jesus not also seen as a man of questionable character? Note how unsavory Jesus was seen throughout His public ministry. He healed on the Sabbath, He fraternized and ate with sinners, He thought it was just fine that His disciples ate with dirty hands, and He tossed out the monetary exchange entrepreneurs who were providing a needed service in the temple. In the end, He was pronounced a criminal sentenced to die with other criminals. If the measure of doing everything by the book is the mark of respectability, both the steward in our parable and Jesus have much in common. Both sought to advance their cause by doing things that went against accepted decency and common respectable standards.

### **Outrageous Unfairness**

The *moral of the story* comes with Jesus' evaluation that *the children of this world are shrewder in their generation than the children of light* ([Luke 16:8](#)). How does this observation get us anywhere in understanding of grace of Christ? How about this connection? The children of this world are convinced that if they end up getting what is coming to them, they lose.

What about you? If the final outcome of your life is ultimately tied to receiving your just deserts for what you have done and left undone—would you be confident of a favorable outcome? While it is true that life goes better in this world if you follow the rules; do you think you can count on your performance to get you where you want to end up? The unjust steward didn't think so and his master agreed with him.

The cross presents us a radically different standard. In God's justice executed in the cross of Christ, nobody gets what they deserve.

I would like to suggest that this point in the parable is the same for us. If you play by the rules of fairness, will they serve you in the end to get you where you want to be? Will living according to the standards of worldly virtue, or even God's divine precepts, get you to heavenly habitations? Will our Father in Heaven find your accounts in sufficient order to give you the Kingdom because He thinks your stewardship has been up to snuff? Not! This parable encourages you to start thinking like *the Unjust Steward*. At the same time, it invites you to see in him a Christ-figure who will, with great unfairness, put your accounts in such an order that you can get what you do not deserve—a happy, secure forever.

This parable is indeed outrageous. It connects unsavory business dealings with the work that Jesus accomplishes for our salvation. The world of finance and proper methods of accounting, however, are not what this parable is about. Fairness in the accounting of debits and credits is not the standard for favorable outcomes in the Kingdom of God. The cross presents us a radically different standard. In God's justice executed in the cross of Christ, nobody gets what they deserve.

Like with the actions of *the Unjust Steward*, getting what you do not deserve reigns in the cross. Jesus is innocent, but He is punished. And when we join Him on the cross through baptism, we get what we do not deserve as well. We are guilty as hell, but we are spared our just deserts and receive commendation by our Heavenly Master. But unlike the parable, our debts are not simply reduced, they are canceled completely. And this means that we recognize something that *the Unjust Steward* recognized: A good outcome for our future cannot be secured by fair and scrupulous living. Gaining eternal dwellings requires being dealt with by the outrageous unfairness of the grace of Christ.

Seen in this way, Jesus is also *the Unjust Steward* who has been a *stumbling block to the Jews and folly to the Gentiles* ([1 Cor 1:23](#)). He is the weird wisdom of God by which grace, not fairness, will secure a place for you in the Mansions of the Lord. So, when it comes to settling your dealings with your Heavenly Father—go see *the Unjust Steward*. He won't just cut you a deal, He will cancel your account entirely! Oh, the unfairness of it all! *Dr. Steven A. Hein, 2017*