

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

+HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY+ 04 JUNE 2023+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgsicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, 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:

Anne Krentz Organ is Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, Illinois. She is widely published by several publishers, including Concordia and Augsburg Fortress. She is also a past President of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. She gives us a very rhythmic setting of the Tanzanian hymn, with its call and response pattern intoned by the trumpet, answered by flutes.

“Bryn Calfaría” (Calvary Hill) is a Welsh hymn tune, which has been applied to a number of texts over the years. Although an attractive and powerful tune, some difficult passage work in the next to last line makes it a challenge to sing.

Vaughan Williams setting begins with a fantasia-like voice introduction, followed by a fughetto, then a return to the opening section. It is one of a very few organ works by RVW, even though he spent some time as an organist.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

507 Holy, Holy, Holy



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



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



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



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

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826
 Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–76
 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 8:1-2a, 3-5; antiphon: Liturgical Text

Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the undivided | Unity.*

Let us give glory to him because he has shown his mer- | cy to us.

O | LORD, our Lord,*

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

You have set your glory above the | heavens.*

Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have es- | tablished strength.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your | fingers,*

the moon and the stars, which you have | set in place,

what is man that you are mind- | ful of him,*

and the son of man that you | care for him?

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings*

and crowned him with glory and | honor.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



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



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

Kyrie

LSB 186



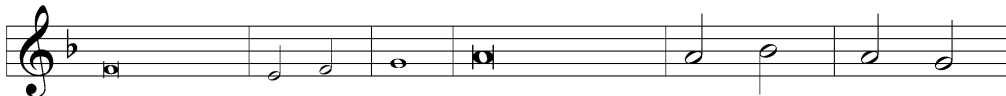
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

Gloria in Excelsis

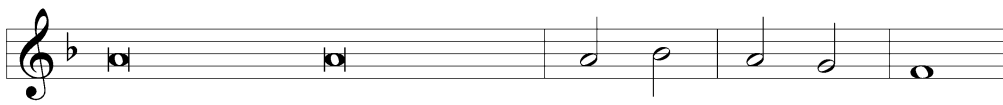
LSB 187



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



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



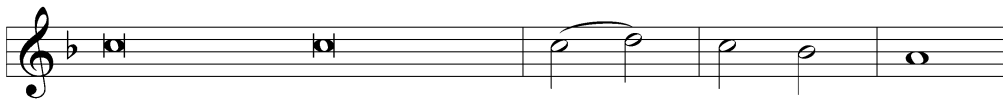
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



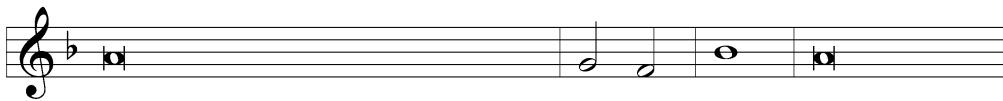
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



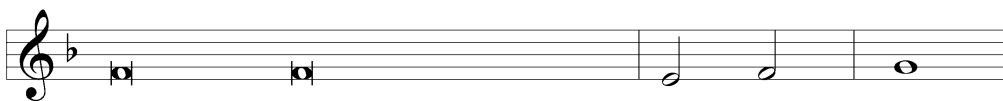
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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



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



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



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-2

The Beginning of Creation

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalms

Psalms 8

How Majestic Is Your Name

¹O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!*

You have set your glory above the | heavens.

²**Out of the mouth of babes and infants,**

**you have established strength because | of your foes,*
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.**

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your | fingers,*
the moon and the stars, which you have | set in place,

**⁴what is man that you are mind- | ful of him,*
and the son of man that you | care for him?**

⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings*
and crowned him with glory and | honor.

**⁶You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands;*
you have put all things under | his feet,**

⁷all sheep and | oxen,*
and also the beasts | of the field,

**⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish | of the sea,*
whatever passes along the paths | of the seas.**

⁹O | LORD, our Lord,*
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

Second Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22–36

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the

resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.’

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

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 28:16–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The Great Commission

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

**☩ 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

504 Father Most Holy



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
 2 Trin - i - ty bless - ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en, Good - ness un -
 3 Mak - er of all things, all Thy crea - tures praise Thee; All for Thy
 △ 4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to Thee be glo - ry, One in three



Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
 bound - ed, ver - y God of heav - en, Light of the an - gels,
 wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; Now, as we al - so
 per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,



ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, Light nev - er wan - ing;
 joy of those for - sak - en, Hope of all liv - ing,
 wor - ship Thee de - vout - ly, Hear Thou our voic - es.
 praise Thee and a - dore Thee, Now and for - ev - er.

Text: Latin, c. 10th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
 Tune: Antiphoner, 1681, Paris
 Text and tune: Public domain

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 "Hear our prayer."

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord of hosts, Your ways are inscrutable and Your judgments unsearchable. Through Your Word, give us an ever-growing understanding of the depths of Your riches, wisdom and knowledge, that we may glorify You forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord of hosts, You gave Your only Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Bless the work of missionaries as they carry this Gospel to the ends of the earth, that many may hear of Your love in Christ Jesus and be saved through Him. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord of hosts, You have given us a new birth through Holy Baptism, making us Your true children. Preserve us in this faith, knowing that You will not abandon us to hades but will bring us to eternal life in Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord of hosts, You sit enthroned as king forever. Bless all who rule us in Your stead with wisdom and understanding, that truth and justice may prevail in our land and lawlessness may be kept at bay. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord of hosts, uphold *Alice, Carmen, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gene, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Naomi, Sabrina, Steven, Suzanne, Timothy* and all who suffer in our midst by the truth, that since You are at their right hand, they cannot be shaken. Gladden their hearts, cause their tongues to rejoice and make their flesh dwell in hope. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord of hosts, all things are from You, through You and to You. Though there is no gift we could give You by which You might be repaid, accept the humble

offerings we lay on Your altar in thanks for all Your benefits. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Lord of hosts, take away our guilt and atone for our sin by touching our unclean lips with Christ's cleansing body and blood, that we may not be lost but abide in Your holy presence forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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



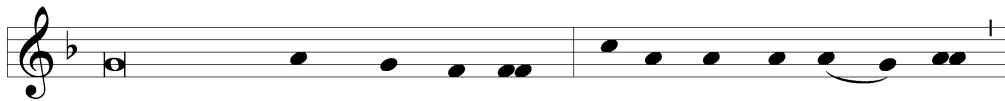
P Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,



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.
G A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,
The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.
The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,
The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.
The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us
 Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing

To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.
 Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.
 Tune: Welsh
 Text: © 1964 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401
 Tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

953 We All Believe in One True God

1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
 2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,
 3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,

Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;
 Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;
 Who sus - tains and com - forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.

All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.
 By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.
 Bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen
 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
 2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
 3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



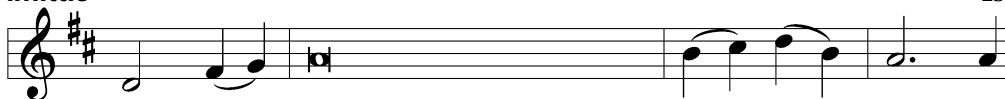
day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, 1784, Leipzig
Text and tune: Public domain

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



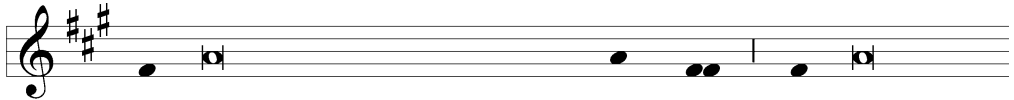
A Bless we the Lord.



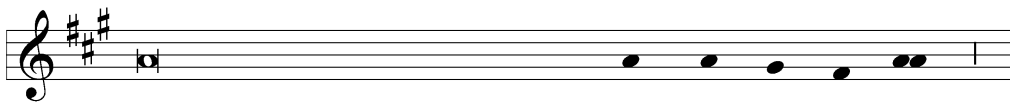
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

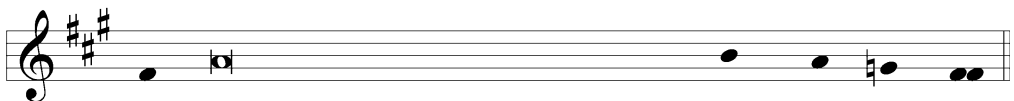
LSB 202



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



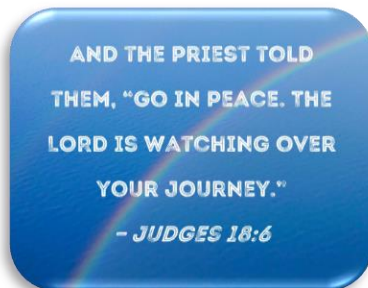
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



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



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



Hymn to Depart

506 Glory Be to God the Father



1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to
 2 Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each
 3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, Glo - ry to the
 4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal! Thus the choir of



God the Son, Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:
 spot and stain; Glo - ry be to Him who bought us,
 Church's King, Glo - ry to the King of na - tions;
 an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!



Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,
 Made us kings with Him to reign! Glo - ry,
 Heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,
 Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,



glo - ry While e - ter - nal a - ges run!
 glo - ry To the Lamb that once was slain!
 glo - ry To the King of glo - ry sing!
 glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89
 Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865–1919
 Text and tune: Public domain

Music

Composer

Acknowledgments

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✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

- + **Last Sunday's Attendance: 35**
- + **Altar Guild Set Up:** June 4th Susie
June 11th Marie
- + **Cleanup for June:** Marie and Susie
- + **Ushers for June:** Jose Lopez and Johnathan Raelison
- + **Join us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.**

June Birthdays

Nannette Griffin 12th

Onja Davidson 27th

A Snippet From 1517

...The answers to our questions must come from a transcendent source, from something beyond us. We need something testable, something that is based on more than just opinions, desires and speculations. The Bible provides us with this source. It is the most widely attested collection of documents in historical antiquity, and it holds fast under the scrutiny of historical, legal and scientific inquiry. The Bible makes a historic and exclusive truth claim about who God is, and what he says about our lives and what they mean. It is prudent for us then to investigate these claims as we seek answers to the fundamental questions of our existence.

The first of God's commandments as recorded in the Book of Exodus tell us that "You shall have no other gods." If we are to follow this command, we must first understand who this God is. The good news is that he has revealed himself to us clearly and concisely in his word: he is one God made up of three distinct persons. He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is a profound mystery, and beyond our comprehension as many of God's attributes are. He is eternal, without beginning or end. He is in all places, and knows all things past, present and future. He is all powerful and cannot be defeated by any person or any force. He is truth and speaks truth. He created the universe, the world and everything in it by speaking. No one has ever looked upon the Father, except for when they looked into the face of Jesus Christ his Son ([John 14:9](#)), and no one has believed in the Father or the Son except by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what God has revealed to us about himself. The Bible makes a historic and exclusive truth claim about who God is, and what he says about our lives and what they mean.

Perhaps the most shocking and incomprehensible thing about God is not that he is eternal, or all-powerful, or all knowing, or everywhere at all times. The most astonishing thing about God is his love for people who hate him. God created mankind in his own image, and gave us the world for us to thrive in and enjoy. There was no hardship, no labor, no disease, no natural disaster, no loneliness, no violence and no death. All things were more perfect than we can imagine. Adam and Eve's rebellion broke the world and everything in it. It separated God's most beloved children from him, and set them on a course to the eternal torment of hell. Everyone born of Eve would now surely face present and eternal punishment.

God in his shocking mercy did not surrender us rebels to the fires of hell. He did not give us what we most certainly deserved. Instead he promised that a Savior would come to reconcile his broken children to him, as they could not reconcile themselves. He promised that this Savior would crush their enemies, and lead them to a land of unending abundance, void of all those horrific things that came from the world and everything in it being broken. He promised that this Messiah would make right all the things mankind had made wrong.

At just the right time, God became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, and he lived a life that was blameless and perfectly in accordance with his Father's will. His sinless nature made him the only fitting blood sacrifice that could substitute for our sin. In his death and resurrection, he has defeated death and hell for us. We are reconciled to the Father by Jesus Christ the Son, and kept in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit.

What is our life to look like in light of this revelation? Theologian Johann Gerhard gives us a formula we can rely on to help our understanding: "The very foundation and principle of a holy life is godly sorrow for sin. For where there is true penitence, there is the forgiveness of sin; where there is the forgiveness of sin, there is the grace of God; where the grace of God is, there is Christ; where Christ is there is Christ's merit; where Christ's merit is there is satisfaction for sin; where there is satisfaction, there is justification; where there is justification there is a glad end and a quiet conscience; where there is peace of conscience, there is the Holy Spirit; where the Holy Spirit is present, there is the ever blessed Trinity; where the Holy Trinity is there is life eternal. Therefore, where there is true penitence, there is life eternal."

Who is God? He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Who are we? His broken but beloved children, whom he created, redeemed with his blood, and whom he loves in spite of our weaknesses and failures. Why are we here? To love and to serve God and neighbor, to live in repentance and trust in the mercy of God alone for our salvation. The one true God has revealed himself as the answer to the longings of every human heart. The search has ended. He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Holy, Holy, Holy. *"The Answer to Our Longings: The Holy Trinity", Pastor Edward Killian, 2021*