

+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST+ 18 JUNE 2023+



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. 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:

Max Drischner spent his career in Germany and Norway. His style is very conservative, with a harmonic language that is closer to the 18th Century than the 20th. Despite this, the music is very appealing. The prelude is taken from a collection titled “Choral Preludes for Village Organists,” which he collected and published in 1955. As the title suggests, these are smaller settings, composed over a period of years. Most of them have no or limited pedal parts and are relatively short.

About the same time, he published a larger collection of pieces called “Choral Preludes with Pedal,” consisting of somewhat larger compositions. “This is the Day the Lord has Made” is taken from this collection. The first part is a slight variation of the version in the smaller collection, then he adds a second movement for the full organ.

Lord Jesus Christ, Life-giving Bread

Max Drischner (1891-1971)

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

903 This Is the Day the Lord Has Made



1 This is the day the Lord has made; He calls the
2 To - day He rose and left the dead, And Sa - tan's
3 Ho - san - na to the a - noint - ed King, To Da - vid's
4 Bless - ed is He who comes to us With mes - sag -
5 Ho - san - na in the high - est strains The Church on



hours His own. Let heav'n re - jice, let
em - pire fell; To - day the saints His
ho - ly Son! Help us, O Lord; de -
es of grace; He, in the Lord's name,
earth can raise. The high - est heav'ns, in



earth be glad And praise sur - round the throne.
tri - umphs spread And all His won - ders tell.
scend and bring Sal - va - tion from Your throne.
comes to us To save our fall - en race.
which He reigns, Shall give Him no - bler praise.

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

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.

- 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.
- 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 67:4-7; antiphon: v. 3

Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*
let all the peoples | praise you!
Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,*
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations up- | on earth.
Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*
let all the peoples | praise you!
The earth has yielded its | increase;*
God, our God, shall | bless us.
God shall | bless us;*
let all the ends of the earth | fear him!



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

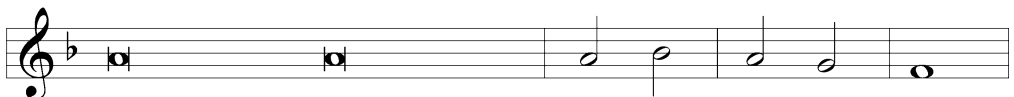
LSB 187



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;



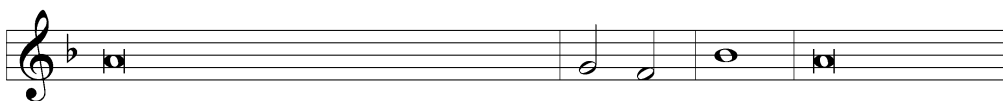
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



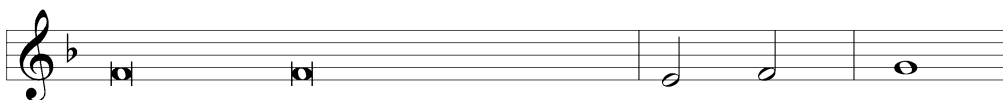
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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 Lord, since You never fail to help and govern those whom You nurture in Your steadfast fear and love, work in us a perpetual fear and love of Your holy

name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 19:2-8

²[The people of Israel] set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

⁷So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 100

His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth!*

²Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with | singing!

³**Know that the LORD, | he is God!***

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his | pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his | courts with praise!*

Give thanks to him; | bless his name!

⁵**For the LORD is good;**

his steadfast love endures for- | ever,*

and his faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

Epistle

Romans 5:6–15

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.



Death in Adam, Life in Christ

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

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 9:35—10:8

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Laborers Few

³⁵Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

The Twelve Apostles

¹And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ²The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

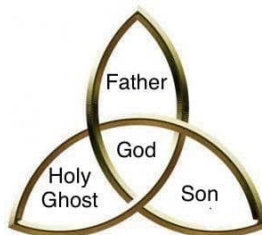
Nicene Creed

**☐ 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.**

Sit



Hymn of the Day

829 Christ the Eternal Lord



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
 2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
 3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,
 4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,
 5 Christ the as - cend - ed King Ex - alt - ed high a - bove,



Whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured On all who name Your name;
 Whose time - less teach - ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip - ture's page;
 And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;
 Our Morn - ing Star in splen - dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
 Whose praise un - end - ing a - ges sing, Whom yet un - seen we love;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
 Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
 In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,
 That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,
 When mor - tal life is past Your voice from heav - en's throne



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
 With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
 That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.
 Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour - ney ends.
 Shall call Your chil - dren home at last To know as we are known.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

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

Proper response is "Lord, have mercy."

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

- P** For the Holy Spirit, that we may receive with thanksgiving the Word, which calls us to God's great banquet; and that our hearts would be enlivened so that we hear the Word with fruitfulness and prepare ourselves rightly for God's kingdom, unhindered by any worldly care, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For Matthew, our Synod president; *Mike*, our district president; *Edward*, our circuit visitor; and our pastor, who are sent in the footsteps of Christ, that they may faithfully and boldly proclaim peace to those near and far, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the gracious gift of our earthly fathers, that they would care for their families, lead their children to Jesus and reflect the love of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For tongues free from evil and lips devoid of deceit, that we may be turned in repentance from evil to do good and to seek and pursue peace, as He grants us many good days according to His promise, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all Christians, that none would be surprised or dismayed when the world hates us for Christ's sake, nor turn from His love to embrace another way, but

love not only in word or talk but in deed and truth, according to God's Word, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** For those who suffer from mental illness, that they may know that God is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit; and that our Lord would uphold them in hope until He delivers them out of all their afflictions, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the sick and lonely, those who mourn and all who are in need, *especially Alice, the family of Carmen Miller, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gene, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Naomi, Sabrina, Steven, Suzanne, and Timothy*, that the Lord would turn us to Himself in faith to find every need satisfied in His gracious favor, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who commune with Christ and with one another today, that brought near through His blood and released from hostility in His own flesh, His peace would be upon us and between us, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For constancy in the hope of eternal life, that we may acknowledge how God has multiplied our days and added eternal years to our lives in Christ's death and resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, 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.

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



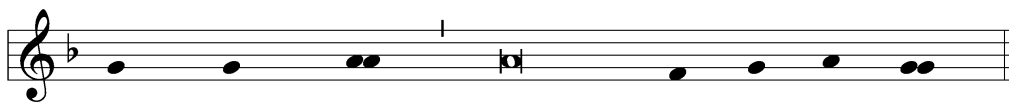
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



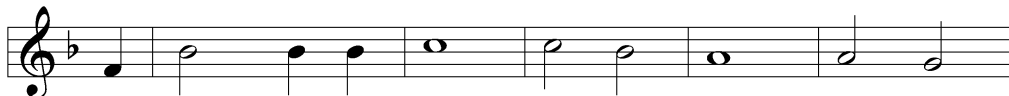
and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



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



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

627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way God's
 2 As His pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre - cious
 3 Je - sus here Him - self is shar - ing; Heed then how you
 4 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en To His own this
 wrath for - ev - er; By His bit - ter grief and woe
 food sup - ply - ing, Gives His bod - y with the bread,
 are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,
 food has giv - en, Who, to mend what we have done,
 He saved us from the e - vil foe.
 And with the wine the blood He shed.
 His judg - ment then you shall re - ceive.
 Gave in - to death His on - ly Son.

5 Firmly hold with faith
unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are
distressed,
By hearts that long for
peace and rest.

6 Agony and bitter labor
Were the cost of God's high
favor;
Do not come if you suppose
You need not Him who died
and rose.

7 Christ says: "Come, all you
that labor,
And receive My grace and
favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or
skill.

8 "For what purpose was My
dying

If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious
food
If you yourself were pure
and good?"

9 If your heart this truth
professes
And your mouth your sin
confesses,
You will be your Savior's
guest,
Be at His banquet truly
blest.

10 Let this food your faith so
nourish
That its fruit of love may
flourish
And your neighbor learn
from you
How much God's wondrous
love can do.

Distribution Hymn

628 Your Table I Approach



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.

Stand

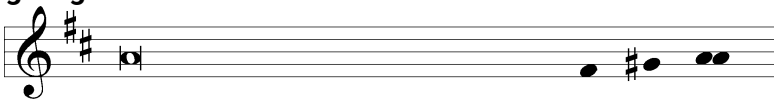
Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

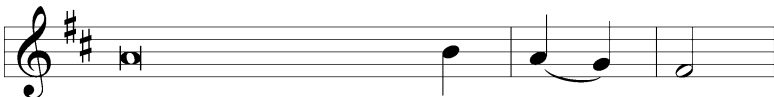
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to 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.

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.



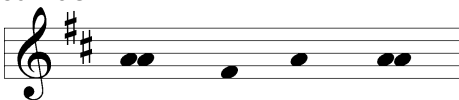
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



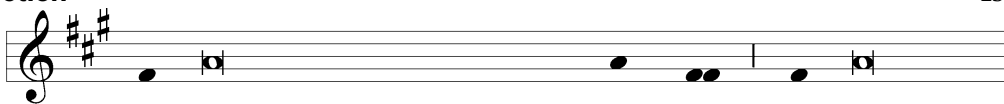
A Bless we the Lord.



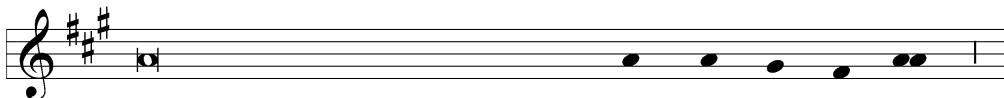
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

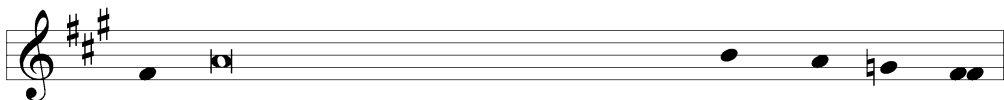
LSB 202



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.



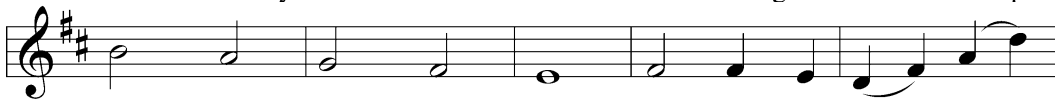
C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart

832 Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es
leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -
cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 29**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** June 18th Jill
June 25th Maurine

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.**

Jung Birthdays

Onja Davidson 27th

Digging Deeper into Romans 5:5-15

....In Romans chapter five, Paul states that "sin came into the world through one man." The scoffer claims, "No fair! I didn't choose to be born and inherit my parents' sinful nature. It's not my fault that Adam and Eve sinned!" Aside from the issue of passive heredity, fair or not, all men have sinned in their own right. Further, the sinful nature is in one respect an illness of heredity, like a predisposition to cancer or schizophrenia. I don't choose to inherit schizophrenia, but it is mine, nonetheless. I need a solution.

The Gospel presents this same issue of heredity through Christ. All humans have inherited the [sinful nature](#) through Adam's flesh. Jesus is the Second Adam who comes in the same flesh, but without sin. Where the first Adam failed to keep the Law, Jesus kept is perfectly. He then shed His blood in that flesh to make us "righteous" and "good" through faith. In Holy Baptism, we are connected to Christ's flesh. In flesh, Jesus died and rose from the grave. In Him, we died to sin and rise from the waters of [Holy Baptism](#). We inherit sin through Adam's flesh. We inherit forgiveness and life through Christ's. This issue of flesh also ties in naturally to [Holy Communion](#). *CPH.org, Phil Rigdon, June 17, 2020*

A Snippet From 1517

Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8

Before the sending is the gathering. Before the gathering is the compassion.

Before the compassion is the seeing. And it all starts with a gracious God.

Vision, Compassion, Gathering, Sending, that is the movement in the Gospel reading for this Sunday. It is also the movement of Jesus' response to those who are harassed and helpless, of God's interaction with His fractured and fallen creation, and of the sanctified Christian life as it lives by the Spirit of Jesus. It may also be the movement for your sermon this Sunday.

Vision

As He went throughout the cities and villages, Jesus saw. This is not a minor detail. Many people go through life wondering if anyone sees, if anyone notices. The crowds Jesus saw were "helpless and harassed" (v. 36; these verbs could be translated more literally "whipped/flayed" and "thrown down"). He noted they were like sheep without a shepherd, which meant they had neither protector nor provider.

Jesus does not name the source of their harassment, but it is not hard to imagine. Simply look around today. Some are tossed about by injustice, grief, and abuse of authority. Others are flayed by disease, economic strain, and isolation. Everyone is harassed by a sinful inclination to respond with (un)righteous anger^[1], fear, and self-righteousness.

The problem, in part, is many people do not see. Perhaps they cannot, having never put themselves in the position to see. Perhaps they will not, refusing to look outside their own lives and their own bubbles. Contrast them (us) with Jesus. Jesus sees. He sees the crowds in the text. He sees their helplessness. He sees those who are harassing them, and He does not look away. This is not surprising, for He is the Son of the One who sees all things—good, bad, and ugly (cf. [Proverbs 15:3](#); [Psalm 139:1-3](#); [Jeremiah 23:24](#)).

Compassion

Truly seeing others and their plight is a necessary beginning. But if being seen is not accompanied by being helped, it does not do much. This is the second movement in the text. Having seen the crowds, Jesus has compassion. That is, He suffers with them (from the Latin, *com-passio*). In this sense, the suffering of Jesus is not limited to the events of Holy Week. It encompasses His entire ministry (even His entire incarnation). Jesus came among us to suffer *with* us before He suffered on Golgotha *for* us.

+Jesus came among us to suffer with us before He suffered on Golgotha for us.

We are not as good at suffering with others. Luther's explanations to the fifth and eighth commandments come to mind. We are to fear and love God by helping and supporting our neighbors in every bodily need. We are to defend them, speak well of them, and put the best construction on everything they do. We fall short, which must not be easily excused even though it is true. But Jesus does not. He protects and provides for His people as the Good Shepherd they have been missing.

Gathering

The compassion of Jesus, which arises from seeing the suffering of the crowds, leads Him to gather. He begins by gathering the twelve (they are first listed in Matthew's Gospel here at the beginning of chapter ten). But He does not stop there. As Robert Kolb likes to say, we worship a God of conversation and community. That is, God continually speaks and continually gathers.

It is still a little odd to speak of gathering these days. Some congregations remain unable to gather in groups larger than nine. Others have resumed gathering, but not within six feet and not without facemasks. This points to an important aspect of the gathering Jesus does in this text. He does not gather the disciples for their own edification; not primarily, at least. He gathers them so He might send them.

Sending

[Matthew 10:2](#) is the only time in Matthew's Gospel where the twelve are called "apostles" (τῶν δώδεκα ἀποστόλων). In this instance, Jesus sends them to cast out demons and heal diseases (this is a related, but different mission than His sending in [John 20](#) where the resurrected Lord sends them and His Church to forgive sins). Homiletically, you might recall the movement of the text. It is not a stretch to say Jesus sent the Apostles to do what he had come to do: To see, to have compassion, to gather, and to send.

+It is not a stretch to say Jesus sent the Apostles to do what he had come to do: To see, to have compassion, to gather, and to send.

That is the continuing movement. Jesus continues to send His people to **see** others (especially the widow, the orphan, and all who suffer injustice) as human beings and fellow creatures of a loving God. He continues to send His people to have **compassion** on those who are helpless and harassed; to suffer with them and help them bear their burdens. He continues to send His people to speak words of life and forgiveness that not only create saving faith in the hearts of individuals, but also **gather** them together for life as His body. And He continues to send His people to continue **sending** others until all have heard and believed and come together in His name. [Romans 10:14-17](#) comes to mind here.

Last week the Gospel reading came from [Matthew 28](#). We call it the Great Commission or Sending. In a sense, this week's reading gives us the background. Before the sending is the gathering. Before the gathering is the compassion. Before the compassion is the seeing. And it all starts with a gracious God.

Vision, Compassion, Gathering, Sending, that is what God does through Jesus. He does it for you, for your hearers, and for all creation. *Peter Nafzger, June 17th, 2020*