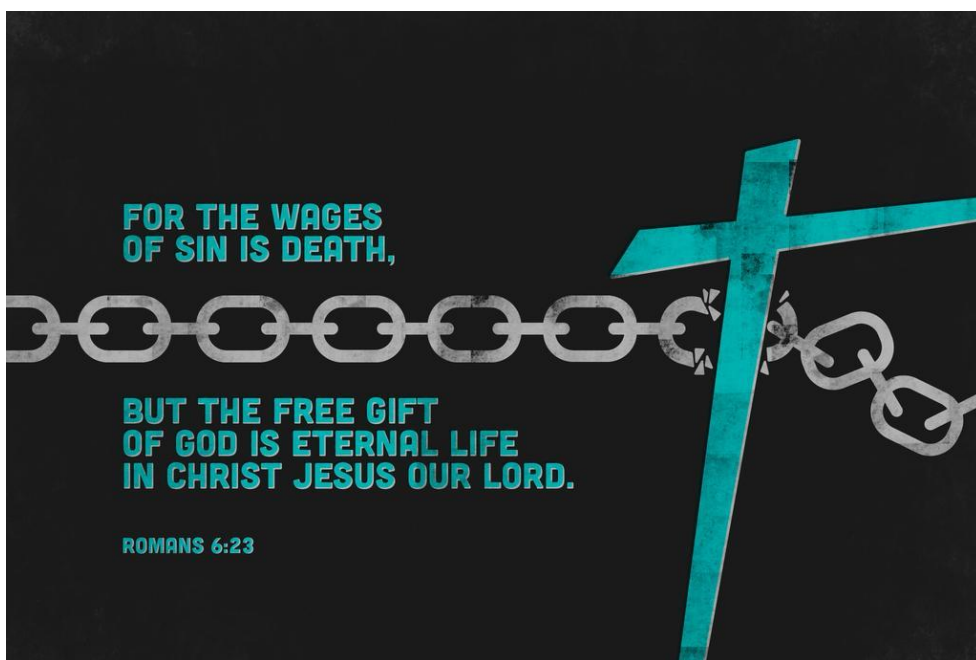


+DIVINE SERVICE IV+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST+ 25 JUNE 2023+



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:

John A. Behnke's setting of "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus" sets all three verses of the hymn, making use of the Cromorne, Cornet, and the full chorus.

Froberger was a pupil of Frescobaldi, and his music is a combination of Italian and German styles. He does not normally indicate use of the pedal, although it is frequently used for long bass notes. The Toccata in C Major is typical of his style with elaborate passage work and various meters.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

684 Come unto Me, Ye Weary



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
- 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
- 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
- 4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
 O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
 O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
 O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
 Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
 The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
 Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
 But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
 But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
 In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 56:3-4, 10-11; antiphon: v. 13

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from | falling,*
that I may walk before God in the | light of life.

When I | am afraid,*

I put my | trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not | be afraid.*

What can flesh | do to me?

In God, whose | word I praise,*

in the LORD, whose | word I praise,

in God I trust; I shall not | be afraid.*

What can man | do to me?

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from | falling,*
that I may walk before God in the | light of life.

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, multiply Your mercy on us that, with You as our ruler and

guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷O LORD, you have deceived me,
and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all the day;
everyone mocks me.
⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out,
I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
⁹If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
¹⁰For I hear many whispering.
Terror is on every side!
"Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
say all my close friends,
watching for my fall.
"Perhaps he will be deceived;
then we can overcome him
and take our revenge on him."
¹¹But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble;
they will not overcome me.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
¹²O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous,

who sees the heart and the mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you have I committed my cause.
¹³Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hand of evildoers.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 91:1-10

My Refuge and My Fortress

¹He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.

²**I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my | fortress,*
my God, in | whom I trust."**

³For he will deliver you from the snare of the | fowler*
and from the deadly | pestilence.

⁴**He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find | refuge;*
his faithfulness is a shield and | buckler.**

⁵You will not fear the terror | of the night,*
nor the arrow that | flies by day,

⁶**nor the pestilence that stalks in | darkness,*
nor the destruction that wastes at | noonday.**

⁷A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your | right hand,*
but it will not come | near you.

⁸**You will only look | with your eyes*
and see the recompense of the | wicked.**

⁹Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*
the Most High, who is my | refuge—

¹⁰**no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.**

Epistle

Romans 6:12–23

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .

²¹“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

Have No Fear

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, 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

687 Thine Forever, God of Love



- 1 Thine for - ev - er, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne a - bove;
- 2 Thine for - ev - er! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!
- 3 Thine for - ev - er, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earth - ly strife.
- 4 Thine for - ev - er! Shep-herd, keep These Thy frail and trem-bling sheep;
- 5 Thine for - ev - er! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee sup - plied,



Thine for - ev - er may we be Here and in e - ter - ni - ty!
Sav - ior, guard - ian, heav'n-ly friend, O de - fend us to the end!
Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.
Safe a - lone be - neath Thy care, Let us all Thy good-ness share.
All our sins by Thee for-giv'n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

Text: Mary F. Maude, 1819–1913
Tune: Justin H. Knecht, 1752–1817
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "Hear our prayer".

- P** God of all strength, You have brought us from death to life. Do not let sin reign in our mortal bodies and make us obey its passions. Turn our hearts continually to Christ, that we would present our bodies as instruments of righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** God of our salvation, Your Son warned that Your people would face opposition from the world. Give courage and fortitude to Your pastors and people, that they would boldly sing Your praises, gladly endure suffering for the name of Jesus, and continue by Your grace to the end. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Father in heaven, the curse of sin brings division within families. Grant unity of faith within the households of this congregation. Give wisdom and peace where there is anger and strife. Bless parents with faithfulness to teach their children Your ways. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** God of all creation, You appoint authorities to keep order for the good of Your people. Bless the authorities in our land with wisdom to seek the common good. Deliver them from temptations to promote evil and oppose Your will.

Give them penitent hearts, that they might be confident of Your grace for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Father in heaven, You bestow life and salvation by Your Holy Word. Though the world treats it with derision, strengthen us to hold fast to Your Word and declare Your praises. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Holy God, look with favor upon those who are persecuted for the name of Jesus. Be their dread warrior against the evil one. Strengthen them to endure and make known Your mercy through the witness of their suffering. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Almighty God, keep our feet from falling, and preserve us from fear. Make us confident that, since You have delivered our souls from death, You will deliver us to walk before You in the light of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord of life, grant that all who partake of the Holy Communion today would present themselves as those brought out of death into life, repenting of their transgressions and gratefully receiving Your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Be merciful to us, O Lord, and hear our prayers. Grant to us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and be steadfast in the confession of Christ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



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



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second

Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us ✝ from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

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

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

Pax Domini


P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei


LSB 210



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

634 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord



1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, We cel - e -
2 He blot - ted out with His own blood The judg - ment
3 That this for - ev - er true shall be He gives a
4 His Word pro - claims and we be - lieve That in this



brate with one ac - cord; It is our com - fort
that a - gainst us stood; For us He full a -
sol - emn guar - an - tee: In this His ho - ly
Sup - per we re - ceive His ver - y bod - y,



in dis - tress, Our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.
 tone - ment made, And all our debt He ful - ly paid.
 Sup - per here We taste His love so sweet, so near.
 as He said, His ver - y blood for sin - ners shed.

5 We dare not ask how this
 can be,
 But simply hold the mystery
 And trust this word where
 life begins:
 "Given and shed for all your
 sins."

7 But blest is each believing
 guest
 Who in these promises finds
 rest;
 For Jesus shall in love
 remain
 With all who here His grace
 obtain.

6 They who this word do not
 believe
 This food unworthily receive,
 Salvation here will never
 find—
 May we this warning keep in
 mind!

8 Help us sincerely to believe
 That we may worthily
 receive
 Your Supper and in You find
 rest.
 Amen! They who believe are
 blest.

Distribution Hymn

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
 come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
 in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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** Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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

Hymn to Depart

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



- 1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
- 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
- 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
- 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain

Toccata in C Major

Johann Jakob Froberger (1616-1667)

Acknowledgments

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✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 26**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** June 25th Maurine
July 2nd Susie

Cleanup for June: Marie and Susie

+ **Ushers for June:** Jose Lopez and Johnathan Raelison
Ushers for July: Dick Huhn and Clinton Galloway

+ **Join us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.**

Carmen Miller

Died June 30th

**Funeral service will be held on June 20th, 2023
in the Memorial Chapel at Green Hills Mortuary
She now resides in the house of the Lord forever.**

A Snippet From 1517 ***Slavery, Freedom, and Bondage***

In spiritual matters, the Scriptures teach us that freedom is tied to slavery and bondage.

...First, it must be noted that the Apostle is not discussing the civil dimension of life but instead what Luther called *things above us*. These are the spiritual matters of the human condition where the Scriptures know nothing of human autonomy. Concerning *things below us*, the affairs of ordinary temporal living, there is much we can decide, do, and accomplish according to our own will and work. When it comes to the civil dimensions of life, freedom, and autonomy go together. In spiritual matters, however, the Scriptures (including [Romans 6](#)) teach us that freedom is tied to slavery and bondage. One is either bound to Christ or bound to sin. Before our baptism, we were slaves to sin ([Rom 6:6](#), [Rom 6:17](#)) marked by impurity and lawlessness ([Rom 6:19](#)), and free from righteousness ([Rom 6:20](#)). Then, baptism united us to the crucified, dead, and buried Christ ([Rom 6:3-6](#)). Our union with Christ has set us free from the slavery of sin ([Rom 6:6-7, 22](#)) and made us slaves of righteousness and God ([Rom 6:18-19, 22](#)). The freedom of the Christian is the result of being bound to Christ, where, as slaves of righteousness, we do as we are. One is either ruled by the powers and principalities of evil or ruled by our Lord and his righteousness. In our baptism, these saving realities flow from our Lord's will and work, not from deliberated decisions on our part. Concerning *things above us*, before our baptism and after, there is no such thing as human autonomy.

The freedom here is first to be as God has designed us to be, and then to do as we are. It has nothing to do with self-determination or voluntary commitments.

The sense of bondage in [Romans 6](#) involves an important connection between being and doing. When it comes to spiritual things, we do as we are. Slaves of righteousness are righteous, and therefore, they render righteous service. In the Kingdom of God, only laborers who are already righteous work in the Lord's vineyard. They labor because they are righteous, not in order to become so, much to the surprise of some ([Matt 20](#): 1-16). The Scriptures often use a botanical model to help us understand this connection. Good fruit only comes from a good tree and bad fruit only from a bad tree ([Matt 7:18](#)). Moreover, grapevines yield grapes because that is how God has made them. Using this imagery, Jesus declared that he is the vine and we the branches. Abiding in him, we can produce some pretty good vintage ([John 15](#): 4-5). What we produce flows from what we are. It is God who has so connected our being and doing. The freedom here is first to be as God has designed us to be, and then to do as we are. It has nothing to do with self-determination or voluntary commitments.

In spiritual matters, freedom is tied to God's purposes in creation and redemption, not individual whims or religious proclivities. Notice how Paul explained this connection: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" ([Eph 2:10](#))." We carry out righteous labor in God's vineyard, only because we first arrived there as righteous laborers. From the righteousness of being, we engage in righteous works of doing. As righteous slaves bound to the righteousness of Christ in our baptism, our obedience of faith is active in righteous works that serve our Lord and Master in the needs of our neighbor. Slavery, freedom, and bondage; they all go together in the Kingdom of God. So says the Apostle Paul... *Steven A. Hein, October 1, 2020*