

+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST+ 09 JULY 2023+

Come to Me,
all who are
weary and
heavy-laden,
and I will
give you rest

Matthew 11:28



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:

Guest Organist Pat Johnston

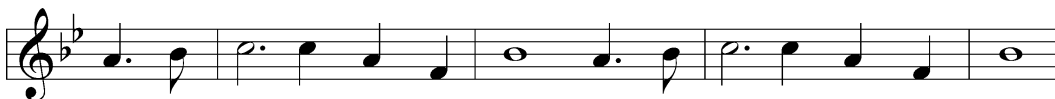
Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78
Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872
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 91:2, 9–10; antiphon: v. 1

He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.
**I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my | fortress,*
my God, in | whom I trust."**
Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*
the Most High, who is my | refuge—
**no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.**

Gloria Patri

LSB 186




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




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

Kyrie

LSB 186



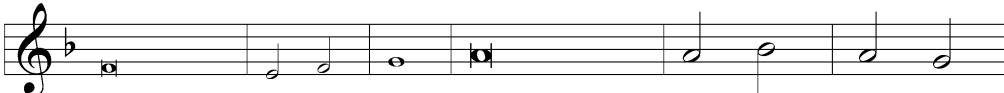
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

Gloria in Excelsis

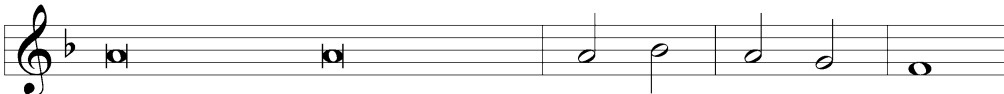
LSB 187



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



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



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



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



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

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P O God, You have prepared for those who love You good things that surpass all understanding. Pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament

Zechariah 9:9-12

The Coming King of Zion

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-14; antiphon: v. 19

Great Is the LORD

¹I will extol you, my | God and King,*
and bless your name forever and | ever.

²**Every day I will | bless you***
and praise your name forever and | ever.

- ³Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,*
and his greatness is un- | searchable.
- ⁴**One generation shall commend your works to an- | other,*
and shall declare your | mighty acts.**
- ⁵On the glorious splendor of your | majesty,*
and on your wondrous works, I will | meditate.
- ⁶**They shall speak of the might of your | awesome deeds,*
and I will declare your | greatness.**
- ⁷They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant | goodness*
and shall sing aloud of your | righteousness.
- ⁸**The LORD is gracious and | merciful,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**
- ⁹The LORD is | good to all,*
and his mercy is over all that | he has made.
- ¹⁰**All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,*
and all your saints shall | bless you!**
- ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your | kingdom*
and tell | of your power,
- ¹²**to make known to the children of man your | mighty deeds,*
and the glorious splendor of your | kingdom.**
- ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting | kingdom,*
and your dominion endures throughout all gener- | ations.
The LORD is faithful in | all his words*
and kind in | all his works.
- ¹⁴**The LORD upholds all who are | falling*
and raises up all who are | bowed down.**

Epistle

Romans 7:14–25a

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of

sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11:25-30

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Come to Me, and I Will Give You Rest

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

756 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near
 2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, Though their weight
 3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, And I will
 4 From God's joy can noth - ing sev - er, For I am
 5 Now in Christ, death can - not slay me, Though it might,



With His cheer; Nev - er will He leave me.
 May be great, They will not de - feat me.
 Trust Him still When He sends me sad - ness.
 His dear lamb, He, my Shep - herd ev - er.
 Day and night, Trou - ble and dis - may me.



Who can rob me of the heav - en That God's Son
 God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sends them; He who knows
 God is good; His love at - tends me Day by day,
 I am His be - cause He gave me His own blood
 Christ has made my death a por - tal From the strife



For me won When His life was giv - en?
 All my woes Knows how best to end them.
 Come what may, Guides me and de - fends me.
 For my good, By His death to save me.
 Of this life To His joy im - mor - tal!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1–3): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (sts. 4–5): tr. Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–76

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Text (sts. 1–3) 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.

- Almighty God, You ensure that the birds are fed and the lilies clothed in splendor. Deliver us from worry with the consolation that You know what we need, and that, for Jesus' sake, we are of much more value than they. Lord, in Your mercy
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Kindle in us, Holy Father, the gifts of Your Spirit, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, fill our homes with Your Word and grace. Be the companion of those who are alone. Strengthen husbands and wives. Bless parents as they catechize their children. Let them all find refuge in You and so preserve them from every plague and evil. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Ruler of the nations, give our nation's leaders wisdom and integrity to preserve peace, promote what is good, and defend against violence and wickedness. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** God of mercy, You set free those imprisoned on account of their sin to bear their sentence as a joyful custody of hope. Remember the incarcerated. Preserve them from greater evil, and foster in them repentance and trust in Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord God, be with all who are weary and heavy-laden with the tribulations of this life. Give comfort to *Alice, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gene, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Naomi, Sabrina, Steven, Suzanne, and Timothy, and* all who suffer illness. Console them with the knowledge that Your yoke is easy and Your burden light, and that in You they will find rest for their souls. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord God of Israel, You release Your people from the waterless pit by the blood of Your covenant. Bless all who receive Christ's body and blood with penitent hearts, trusting in Your promises and a common confession of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** We give thanks to You, O Lord, for all the saints who, by Your grace, sought Your kingdom and righteousness above all other treasures. We pray that You would preserve us also in repentance and Christ's righteousness until we stand before You in glory. 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

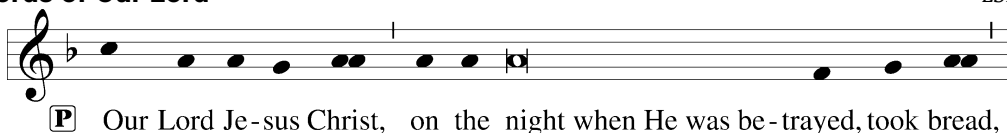
LSB 196



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



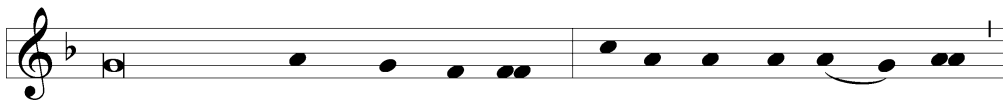
P Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,



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.



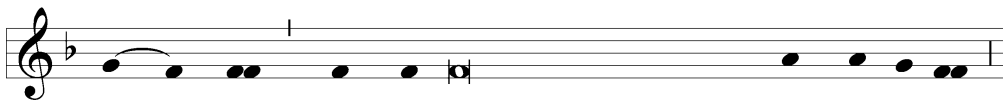
This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



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.



C 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

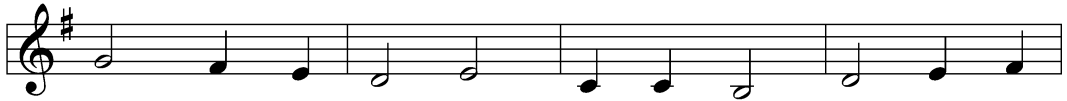
622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for
2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y
4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious

our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y
hosts are dwell - ing; And in Your pres - ence
hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent
Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
 And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
 and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

5 Though reason cannot understand,
 Yet faith this truth embraces:
 Your body, Lord, is even now
 At once in many places.
 I leave to You how this can be;
 Your Word alone suffices me;
 I trust its truth unailing.

6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
 Help me when doubts assail me.
 Remember that I am but dust,
 And let my faith not fail me.

Your supper in this vale of tears
 Refreshes me and stills my fears
 And is my priceless treasure.

7 Grant that we worthily receive
 Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
 And, truly grieving for our sins,
 May prove by our behavior
 That we are thankful for Your grace
 And day by day may run our race,
 In holiness increasing.

8 For Your consoling supper,
 Lord,
 Be praised throughout all
 ages!
 Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
 The world against it

rages.
 Grant that this sacrament
 may be
 A blessed comfort unto me
 When living and when
 dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603-68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841-1931, alt.
 Tune: Peter Sohren, c. 1630-c. 1692, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

638 Eat This Bread



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev - er be hun - gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst.



1 This is His bod - y giv - en for you; this is His blood that was shed for you.



2 As of - ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un - til He comes a - gain.



3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.



4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.



5 If we be - lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

Text (sts. 1-2): Stephen P. Starke, 1955; (sts. ref, 3-5): Robert J. Batastini, 1942; (sts. ref, 3-5): Taizé Community
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-94

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Nunc Dimittis

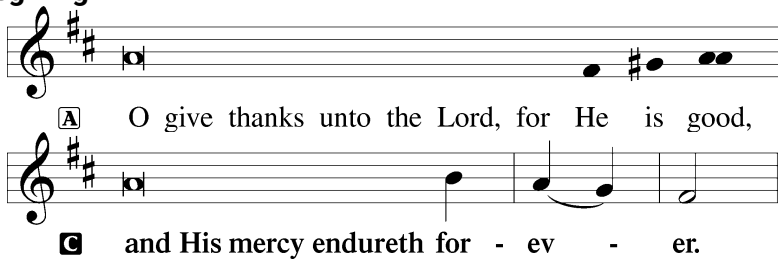
LSB 199



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



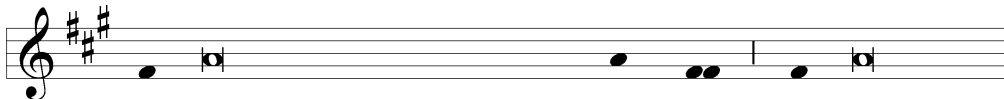
A Bless we the Lord.



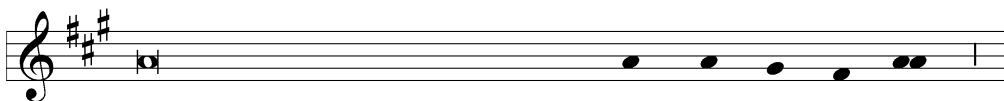
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

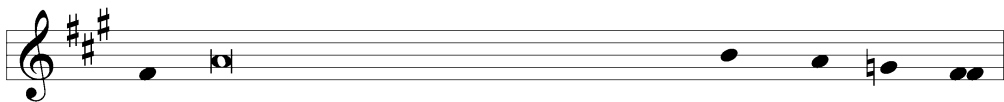
LSB 202



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.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart

748 I'm But a Stranger Here



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;
2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.
Short is my pil - grim - age, Heav'n is my home;
What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;
And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–35
Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

- + **Last Sunday's Attendance: 33**
- + **Altar Guild Set Up:** July 9th Marie
July 16th Gayle
Cleanup for July: Jill and Moira
- + **Ushers for July:** Dick Huhn and Clinton Galloway
- + **Christmas in July!** Royce Morton left a great many items to the church. Throughout the month of July, there will be a table located in the Narthex, for anyone to look through.
- + **We have been invited by Christ Lutheran to their annual Music Festival! Come on out on Saturday, July 15th from 11am-3pm for sweet entertainment, good food, and great fellowship! There is a sheet on the coffee table in the Narthex with more information.**
- + **Join us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.**

July Birthdays

Brent Tilley 18th

Ed Griffin 28th

A Snippet From 1517

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus did not come to be first.

He came to be faithful, faithful to His Father's mission for you.

...Jesus is calling all who are weary and heavy-laden to come and follow Him. Those who follow are given a yoke to bear. Yet, when they bear the yoke, they find themselves both carried and cared for, completely resting in this Lord and His love.

This call of Jesus should sound strange to our contemporary ears. In our world, leaders gather around them people who are successful and can contribute to their mission. Whether they are drafting players in sports or adding workers in a startup, smart leaders surround themselves with those who succeed. In fact, smart leaders keep their eyes out

for the strong, the wise, those who are willing and able to make a positive contribution. "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link," we say.

Jesus, however, does the opposite. He says, "Give me the weakest link." He constantly has His eye out, not for the strong, but the needy, the left behind, and the forgotten. He calls those who are weary and heavy-laden to come and follow Him.

If you work for a government which oppresses your people, and you collect far more money for taxes from your people than is necessary and then use the extra for yourself, well, guess what... Jesus wants you. If you live among the tombs, possessed by demons, hurting yourself with stones, and frightening others with cries, Jesus will walk among the dead just to speak with you. If for years you have tried to provide emotional support for your spouse and yet failed miserably, so much so that you are about to give up and walk away from the marriage, Jesus says, "Come closer. Listen. Can't you hear me calling?" If you have questions about God that weigh on your mind and issues with the Church that smother your soul, Jesus says, "Wait, I've opened a door for you."

A bruised reed, He will not break. A smoldering wick, He will not snuff out. So, for those who have tried and are tired, for those who have denied and now doubt, for those who once cared but now cannot, Jesus is here; calling... waiting... lifting... carrying... you.

There is much in this text to meditate on – the Father's wisdom in revealing the Kingdom to children, a yoke that is pleasant, a burden that is light – but, perhaps in a world that is weary, this call of Jesus is enough for today.

Jesus did not come to be first. He came to be faithful, faithful to His Father's mission for you.

Because of that, He gathers about Him all who are burdened or broken. The downtrodden and the debilitated, the meek and the mourning, the despised, and the suffering, these are the ones Jesus gathers. Why? Because He is not going to rely on human wisdom or strength. In humble obedience, He will do the will of His Father. Jesus did not come to win but to lose. He came to be beaten, to be broken, to be cast aside, and to die: For you. But then He will rise so you might know that no failure, no weakness, no sin, no suffering will ever separate you from your Father's love. Your Savior has borne all sin, endured all suffering, that He might bring all God's grace to all the weary of this world.

Today, Jesus invites us to be honest about our inadequacies, our ineptitude, our fears, and our failures. Bring them to Him and He will carry you. It is His labor of love.

David Schmitt, June 28th, 2020

GLORY be to the
FATHER,
and to the
SON, and to the
HOLY SPIRIT
as it was in the **BEGINNING,**
is **NOW,** and ever shall be,
world without end. **AMEN**