

+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST+ 23 JULY 2023+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgsicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

Jim Vyhanek is Director of Music at Faith Lutheran Church in the Chicago area. He recently retired as a postal carrier for the USPS. He has several choral and organ publications to his credit. “Glory be to God the Father” features three sections, the first two rather dance-like the finale a processional march.

Buxtehude's C-Major Fugue is sometimes called the “Jig Fugue,” because of its spirited triple meter rhythms. It conveys a cheerful mood throughout.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

504 Father Most Holy



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



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



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

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

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 86:11–15; antiphon: v. 6

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer,*
 listen to my | plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk | in your truth;*
unite my heart to | fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with | my whole heart,*
 and I will glorify your name for- | ever.

For great is your steadfast | love toward me;*
you have delivered my soul from the depths | of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men | seek my life,*

and they do not set you be- | fore them.
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and | faithfulness.

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

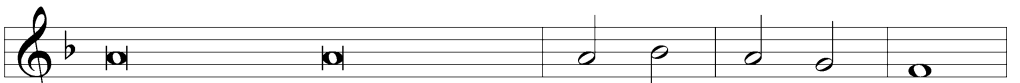
LSB 187



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



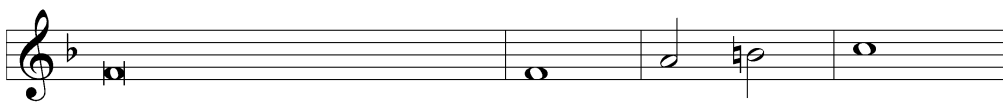
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



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;



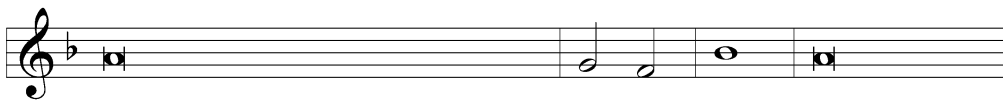
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



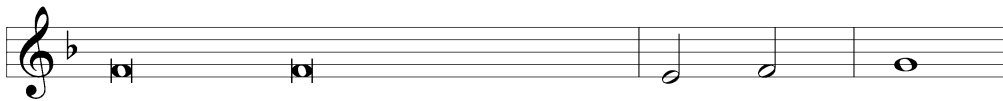
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and to give us those things that are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 44:6-8

Besides Me There Is No God

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalms

Psalms 119:57-64

⁵⁷The LORD is my | portion;*
I promise to | keep your words.

⁵⁸**I entreat your favor with | all my heart;***
be gracious to me according to your | promise.

⁵⁹When I think | on my ways,*
 I turn my feet to your testi- | monies;
⁶⁰I hasten and do | not delay*
 to keep your com- | mandments.
⁶¹Though the cords of the wicked en- | snare me,*
 I do not for- | get your law.
⁶²At midnight I rise to | praise you,*
 because of your just and righ- | teous decrees.
⁶³I am a companion of all who | fear you,*
 of those who keep your | precepts.
⁶⁴The earth, O LORD, is full of your | steadfast love;*
 teach me your | statutes!

Epistle

Romans 8:18–27

Future Glory

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

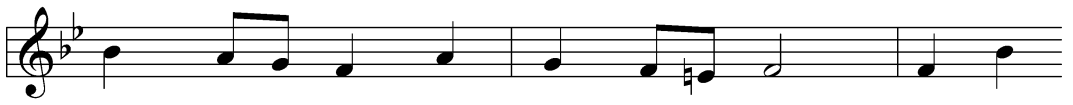
506 Glory Be to God the Father



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



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



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



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

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

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C 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** Redeemer and Lord of hosts, the future is in Your hands. Remove all fear from us, and keep us mindful that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord of heaven and earth, we give thanks that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died to redeem the world and restore creation. Until new life supplants the groanings of this age, lead us to steward Your creation well, not in waste but in wise and diligent use with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, pour out the blessing of Your Holy Spirit on the delegates who will assemble in convention this week. Give wisdom to those who propose, deliberate and decide for the work and welfare of our Synod. Guard all who speak and all who listen. Give us courage to do with integrity what we promise. Bless our plans and actions, and grant success. Only let our manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** We give You thanks for all who serve as instruments of Your compassion, those who care for the elderly at home, and those who work in retirement and nursing facilities. Grant that we also may serve as Your hands, feet and voices to give comfort and company to the lonely. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** O Lord, You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Be patient with those who do not repent or believe. Send Your Holy Spirit to bring them into saving faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Guide the leaders of all nations, that they would work for peace and justice in the face of conflict and discord. By, or despite, their efforts, protect the weak and defenseless. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** We commend to You all who endure the bondage of decay through infirmity and weakness *especially Alice, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gene, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Naomi, Sabrina, Steven, Suzanne, and Timothy.* Deliver them according to Your will, and strengthen and preserve their faith, that they may rejoice that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Preserve us in hope for what we do not see. Grant that we would receive Your Holy Supper with hearts free from pride, presumption or any other sin that would profane His precious body and blood. May we rejoice in His bodily presence for our forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Lord God, You have called us according to Your purpose. You cause all things to work together for our good. Keep us safe until that day when You gather us with the saints into Your kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 194

- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



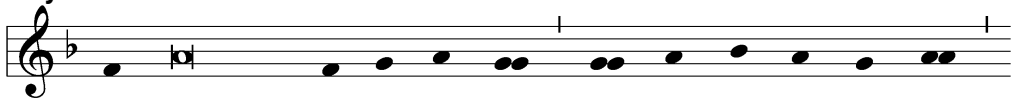
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196



P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



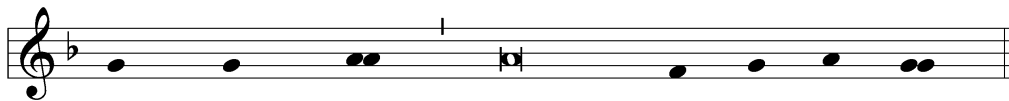
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



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



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197



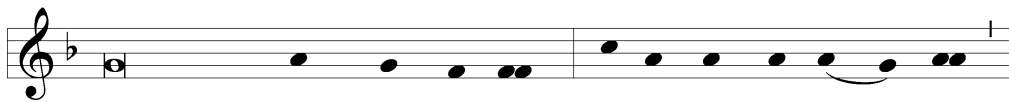
P Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis - ci - ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † bod - y, which is giv - en for you.



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

He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv - en thanks, He gave it
to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
My † blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
G A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

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

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

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

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."

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

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.

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

Text (sts. 1–4, 6–8): Haquin Spegel, 1645–1714; (sts. 1–4, 6–8): tr. Olof Olsson, 1841–1900, alt.; (st. 5): composite
Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re - demp - tion they shall stand A - mong the glo - rious,
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -

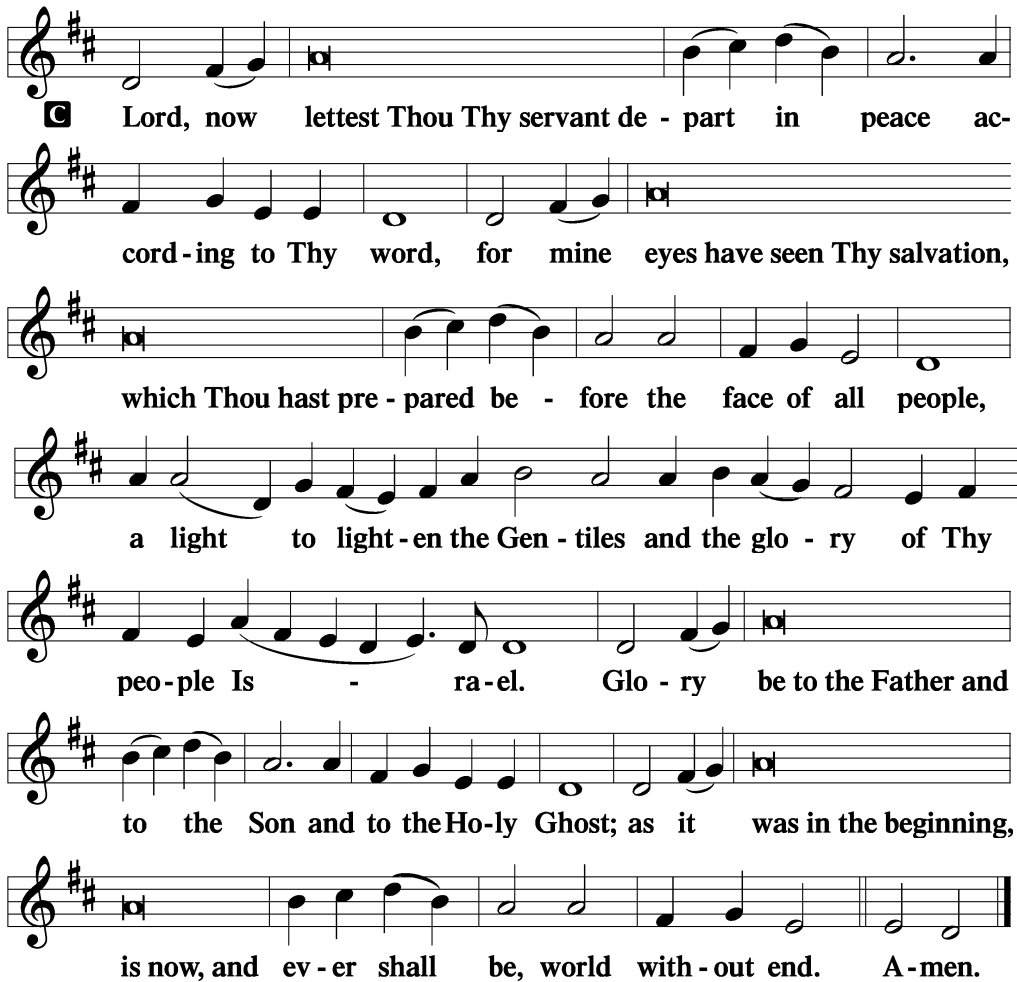


heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg
Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis

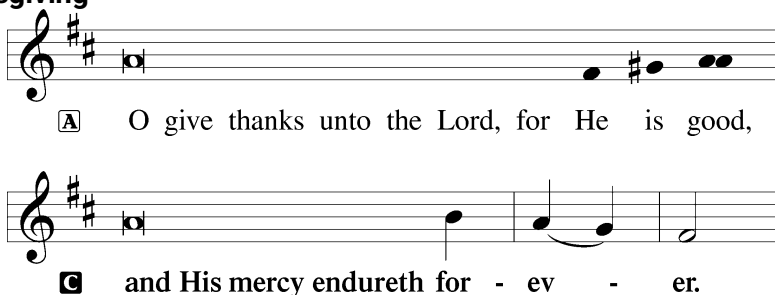
LSB 199



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



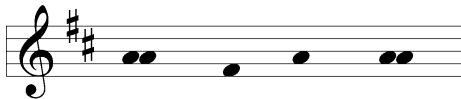
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



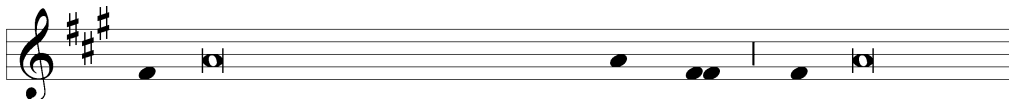
A Bless we the Lord.



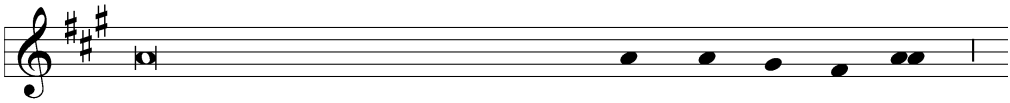
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

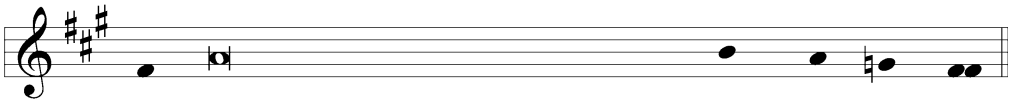
LSB 202



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

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Acknowledgments

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✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

- + **Last Sunday's Attendance: 28**
- + **Altar Guild Set Up:** July 23rd Maurine
July 30th Susie
Cleanup for July: Gayle
- + **Ushers for July:** Dick Huhn and Clinton Galloway
- + Thank you to everyone who donated to the memorial service of Lucas Lubbes, supporting our fellow congregation, First Lutheran Manhattan Beach.
- + **Join us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.**

July Birthdays

Ed Griffin 28th

Luther's Small Catechism

Third Article of the Sacrament of Baptism

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5-8)

Lutheran For Life Quotes

July 23 ~ “Jesus, who is all Man and all God, becomes one of us in order that all of us might become one with Him. Finally, a sigh of relief, a cry of joy, even, a shout of thanksgiving! God is on the throne. Amen.” Rev. Dr. John Nunes, Guest Speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

A Snippet From 1517

“Romans 8: Life in the Spirit”

Only in this manner could the good that the law pointed to be completed.

It was completed in us, not by us.

12–17, We Are God’s Children

God’s children are those who “are driven by God’s Spirit.” God’s children also have their flesh remaining. It comes with its demand. But we do not remain in the guilt of it. We have no obligation to it. We don’t need to think, “Because this is still in me, it is then hopeless.” It can never be hopeless when we have Christ, because we put ourselves at the side of the Spirit and “put the deeds of the body to death” (“the body” here means “the flesh”). These are the desires and notions that we say no to. We do this with the Spirit’s help.

And take notice: it is not a matter of a spirit of slavery, as one who says, “It is so bad but I have to do it.” This spirit makes us fearful before God so that we serve as unwilling servants. But here it is a question of the Spirit of childship, he who can say, like Jesus Himself, “Abba Father.” The certainty that we have of being children and living under the eye of a good father is a far better motivator than any law can be. And the Spirit also gives us certainty that we are God’s children. Paul points to one of faith’s deepest experiences, a comfortable inner certainty of childship. Thereby we are also heirs to all this that Christ has won for us: God’s kingdom and all the coming glory. But this childship does not mean that we escape suffering in this world. It means that even suffering receives meaning.

18–25, Hope and Suffering

In the New Testament, suffering is a fact. It almost goes without saying, not the least for a Christian who encounters all the enmity that the world spontaneously feels before Christ. But this suffering feels as light as a feather compared to the glory that comes to be revealed “in us,” as Paul says—that is, so that we are changed by it. Paul thinks of the day when Christ comes again and makes all things new. Then we shall “together with him step forward in glory” ([Col. 3:4](#)). We are not the only ones who long after that day. This means all of creation, Paul says. Today the creation is no longer such as it was when it proceeded from God’s hand. It has been “placed under corruption.” Even here the forces of destruction are effective. This is a consequence of the fall into sin, and it has happened “through the work of another.” Here Paul means through the fall of Adam, and because the earth was cursed for his sake ([Gen. 3:17](#)). But already at that time, God had resolved

to establish His creation, both man and the world. Therefore God will create a new heavens and a new earth “where righteousness lives” ([2 Pet. 3:13](#)). It is to this day that creation longingly reaches. We know, Paul says, that the creation groans and agonizes under corruption. We do not know this naturally from our own study of nature—it is a knowledge that only God can give, when through His word He allows us to see the hidden context of existence.

But it is not only nature that groans under the pressure of evil in the world. We Christians do too, Paul says. We do this even though we are God’s children and have received the “first fruits of the Spirit.” The first fruits were the first of the harvest. They were brought forward as an offering to God. There they were laid upon the altar where it was proof that the fields were now ripe. So the Spirit is the first of the harvest of the kingdom of God that is ripe. We still do not see the harvest, but the Spirit shows that it is there. God’s kingdom is near. But “It is so in this hope that we are saved.” We are really saved, but it is also something that we hope in. Our childship is not something visible, not a concrete reality, until that day when Christ comes in His kingdom. On that day, our body shall be redeemed. We shall not be redeemed from the body. On the contrary, the body is caught up in salvation. It shall really be freed from the “law of sin” that lives in our members.

26–27, The Spirit That Intercedes for Us

It is not only the creation and ourselves that moan. The Spirit that dwells within us also does this. Even within a man who believes and who prays, there is weakness. It is in this relationship to God, in the life of prayer—so long as it depends on us. But the Spirit comes “to help our weakness.” He steps in for us as our intercessor with God. This He does with groaning that we do not understand. Perhaps Paul means that speaking in tongues was an expression for the Spirit’s manner of “interceding for us.” In any case, He will say that in the end the decisive thing is not the strength and depth of our prayers, but the Spirit Himself. The Comforter and Advocate takes on our cause. Something happens in the hidden depths of our hearts, in the midst of our weakness, a work that God Himself carries out for those who believe.

This is an excerpt from [Romans: A Devotional Commentary](#) written by Bo Giertz and translated by Bror Erickson (1517 Publishing, 2018). Used by permission.

