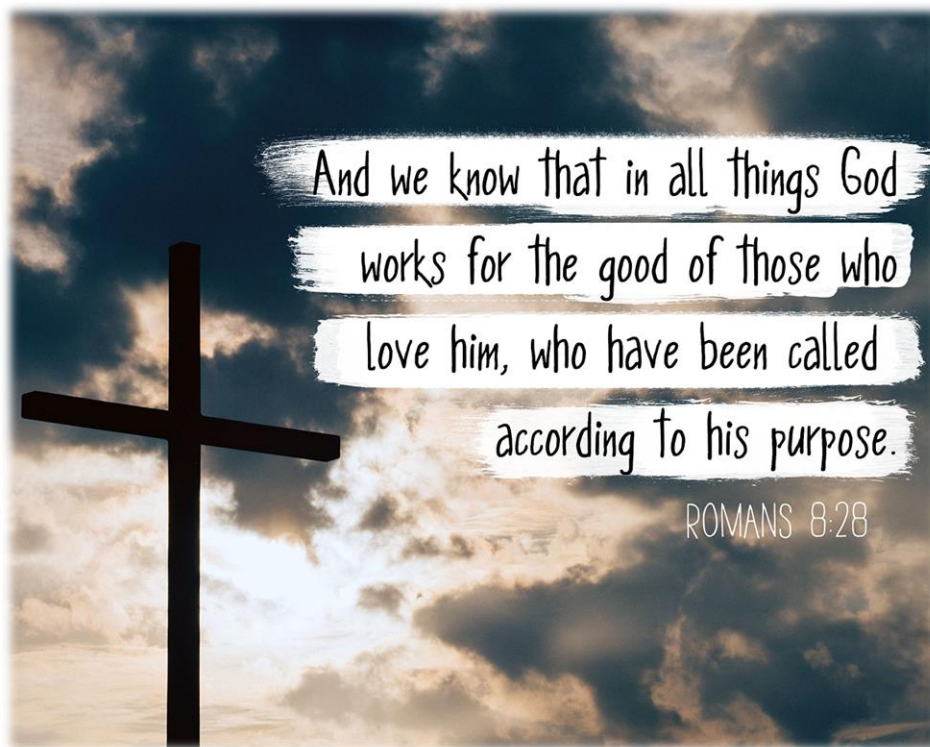


+DIVINE SERVICE IV+  
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
+NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST+ 30 JULY 2023+

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## The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

[tgsicms.org](http://tgsicms.org)

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# 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 Behnke retired from Concordia University and has moved to Florida, where he serves Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte. He continues to write extensively. “Variations on “Slanz” has just been published by CPTI, and features three variations. The first is a dialogue for flutes, the second has the melody in the pedal on a 4-foot stop, which sounds one octave higher than the written pitch. This places pedal melody between the two hands. The final variation is a spirited trumpet tune.

Mark Brampton Smith is Music Director at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison, Wisconsin. The Fanfare and Scherzo are two movements from a larger work. The Scherzo (“Joke”) is given in two versions, a “church” version and a “concert” version. I will be playing the concert version. See if you can figure out why he calls it that.

# Confession and Absolution

## Hymn of Invocation

## 783 Take My Life And Let it Be



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.  
 Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.  
 Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,  
 It shall be no longer mine;  
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
 It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
 At Thy feet its treasure store;  
 Take myself, and I will be  
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79  
 Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870  
 Text and tune: Public domain

*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 105:2–6; antiphon: v. 1*

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name;\*  
make known his deeds among the | peoples!  
**Sing to him, sing prais- | es to him;\***  
**tell of all his | wondrous works!**  
Glory in his | holy name;\*  
let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!  
**Seek the LORD | and his strength;\***  
**seek his presence con- | tinually!**  
Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,\*  
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,  
**O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,\***  
**children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!**  
**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.**

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name; \*  
make known his deeds among the | peoples!

## 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.

Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Deuteronomy 7:6-9*

<sup>6</sup>“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalms

*Psalms 125*

### The LORD Surrounds His People

<sup>1</sup>Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount | Zion,\*  
which cannot be moved, but abides for- | ever.

<sup>2</sup>**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his | people,\*  
from this time forth and for- | evermore.**

<sup>3</sup>For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the | righteous,\*  
lest the righteous stretch out  
their hands to | do wrong.

<sup>4</sup>**Do good, O LORD, to those | who are good,\*  
and to those who are upright | in their hearts!**

<sup>5</sup>But those who turn aside to their crooked ways  
the LORD will lead away with evil- | doers!\*  
Peace be upon | Israel!

## Epistle

Romans 8:28–39

<sup>28</sup>We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

### God's Everlasting Love

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God 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



## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 13:44–52*

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

### The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

### The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

### The Parable of the Net

<sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### New and Old Treasures

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

- 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*

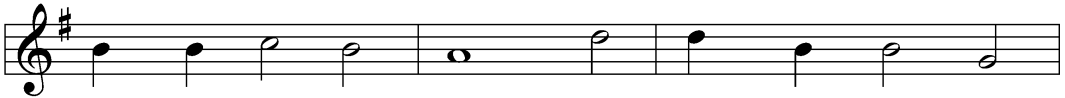


## Hymn of the Day

## 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -  
3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That  
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my  
sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the  
bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the  
sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!  
earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.  
sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.  
foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.

- 5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own  
Your God, ye fallen race.  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
Be justified by grace.
- 6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;  
The Lamb of God was slain.  
His soul was once an off'ring made  
For ev'ry soul of man.
- 7 To God all glory, praise, and love  
Be now and ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above,  
The Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Tune: Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon**

*Pastor Edward Killian*

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

*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.  
Heavenly Father, You have redeemed us out of Your steadfast love. Grant that the Gospel may go forth unhindered and Your Spirit bring many into this fellowship of the redeemed. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, You have revealed to us the true treasure of Christ's cross and resurrection. Grant that we may pursue Your kingdom with all our hearts, souls, minds and bodies. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, You justify us for the sake of Christ. Comfort any who are troubled by the memory of past sins or visited by the temptation to believe they cannot be forgiven. Give them confidence in Christ, that He died for them and still intercedes for them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, You have given us various offices in our lives. Grant us faithfulness in these callings, that we may see them as gifts through which we serve You and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, grant wisdom to Joseph, our president; *Gavin*, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may seek what is best for all in accordance with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, bestow Your comfort upon all who are burdened by sickness and affliction *especially Alice, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gene, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Naomi, Sabrina, Steven, Suzanne, and Timothy*. Grant that they may await healing and deliverance in the firm conviction that nothing can separate them from Your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, grant that all who partake in Holy Communion today do so rejoicing that the Christ they receive in this Sacrament also intercedes for them at Your right hand. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, it is not for the sake of our numbers or strength or birth that You preserve us, but for the sake of Your faithfulness and steadfast love. As You preserved Your ancient people of Israel for the sake of Your promises, keep Your Holy Church on earth, and also preserve our Synod, we pray, for the sake of Your name. Lead our delegates and members, gathered in convention, according to Your good pleasure and will, that in word and action we may love You and keep Your commandments, confessing Your steadfast love and faithfulness even to a thousand generations; through Christ, the crucified, 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



**C** 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



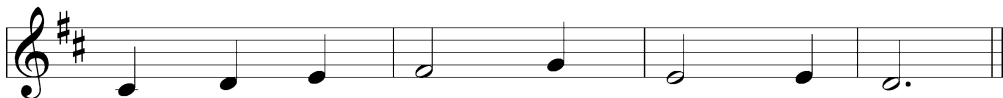
**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which  
 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in  
 3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is  
 4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not  
 5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and  
 Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my  
 nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and  
 rob me of my cheer; For He who is of  
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy



strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.  
 soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.  
 thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.  
 death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.  
 prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

*Refrain*



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain



## 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!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928  
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois  
 Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

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.

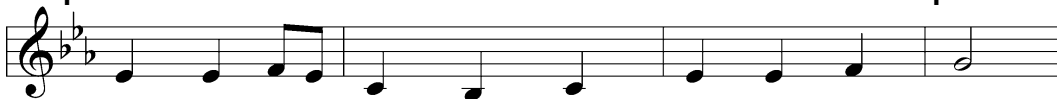
**Benediction**

- 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

## 738 Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:  
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-53

Tune: Irish

Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain

## Fanfare and Scherzo on "Azmon"

*Mark Brampton Smith (Living)*

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## August Birthdays!

Kevin Griffin 1<sup>st</sup>

# ✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

## Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 38**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** July 30<sup>th</sup> Susie  
July 30<sup>th</sup> Susie

**Cleanup for July:** Gayle

+ **Ushers for July:** Dick Huhn and Clinton Galloway

**Ushers for August:** Dick Huhn and Leon Tarr

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

## A Snippet From 1517

...Some approach these parables with the assumption they need to do something (e.g., "I need to give up all I have to follow Jesus"). They will be surprised and comforted when have nothing to do. Jesus has done it all. He has found them, given up all for them, and now claims them as His own.

In this meditation on the text, however, I will not follow that interpretation. For me, the treasure in the parables is the Gospel and they offer us a glimpse of a pattern we see in the ministry of Jesus. The pattern has three parts to it, lending itself to an expository sermon that teaches three truths.

First, God's Kingdom comes by grace to those who are searching and to those who are not. As the parables open, they are quite dissimilar. In the first parable, we have a person who is not searching for a treasure. He is merely there in someone else's field. Suddenly, however, he comes across a treasure, unexpectedly. In the second parable, we have a person who is described as searching for a pearl. He is a merchant who can calculate a pearl's value and is intent on finding one of great price. For both men, searching and not searching, however, the kingdom comes. It happens to them. They suddenly discover it, regardless of whether they were seeking it or not.

In the ministry of Jesus, God's Kingdom comes to those who are searching (see [Acts 17:27](#)) and not searching. Some of the people Jesus encounters are searching for the Kingdom. John the Baptizer, Simeon and Anna, Nicodemus, Zacchaeus, and the rich young ruler to name a few. To these people who are searching for the Kingdom, Jesus comes. Others, however, are not looking at all. Peter, Andrew, James, and John are fishing. Matthew is collecting taxes at his booth. The Widow of Nain is burying her son. To these people who are not searching, the Kingdom also comes. Whether you are searching or not searching, God's Kingdom comes by grace.

Whether you are searching or not searching, God's Kingdom comes by grace. So, it continues today. A child baptized as an infant is not seeking the Kingdom, but an adult convert may have struggled for years to find meaning in life before encountering Jesus. Whether you are seeking or not seeking, God's Kingdom comes to you in Jesus by grace.

Second, when God's Kingdom comes, it causes you to value all of life differently. In both parables, once individuals encounter the Kingdom, they sell all they have. There is not one aspect of their life that does not have value in relation to this kingdom.

So, too, in His ministry, Jesus taught His disciples to see their lives differently. Rather than lay up for themselves treasures on earth, they give up all they have and follow him, laying up treasures in Heaven ([Matthew 6:19-20](#)). The call to discipleship involves losing one's life for the sake of Christ. When a disciple loses one's life, the disciples find true life in Him ([Matthew 10:39](#)).

This continues today. As God's people, we have a different view on life. With Jesus, our lives are suddenly transformed. The poor in spirit, the mourning, and the meek are blessed and our lives are a witness of God's work in the world ([Matthew 5](#)). A child in the womb is a life to be protected. An elderly person, living with dementia, is not someone who God will forget but, rather, one for whom God cares. When the Kingdom comes, all of life is valued differently.

Third, discipleship is learning to live off the grace of God in His kingdom. Some parables in Scripture are open-ended. They leave you wondering. Will the elder son return to his father and join the prodigal son's party ([Luke 15:31-32](#))? Will the barren fig tree bear fruit ([Luke 13:9](#))? These two parables in Matthew leave us in a paradoxical situation. How will these people live? They have sold all they have to possess the treasure and yet now they will need to rely on the treasure for the necessities of life. In other words, those who possess the Kingdom are actually possessed by it.

Discipleship is learning to live off the grace of God in His kingdom.

For the disciples, following Christ means living daily off His grace. Like the master Jesus speaks of at the end of these parables, disciples continually return to the treasures of the Kingdom, bringing out what is new and what is old ([Matthew 13:52](#)).

In a consumerist culture, Christians can reduce the gospel to a commodity; something they possess like the Bible they keep on their shelf. The reign and rule of Jesus, however, is not a commodity. It is a present experience at work in our lives. In daily repentance, we come before Jesus to receive forgiveness of sins and in daily delight, we walk in His grace. Having sold all we have, we live only in relationship to Him.

These parables invite us to consider the mysterious way of the reign of God. The Kingdom of God comes by grace to those who are seeking and not seeking it. When it comes, it causes you to value all of life differently. Discipleship is learning to live off the grace of God in His kingdom.

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