

+DIVINE SERVICE II+  
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
+ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST+ 13 AUGUST 2023+

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## The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

[tgslcms.org](http://tgslcms.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:

Dupont showed talent at an early age and entered the Paris Conservatory at 15. He wrote in many forms, including several operas. Tragically, he died of tuberculosis at the age of 36, and never reached his full potential. The Meditation is a quiet piece, utilizing flutes and strings.

In contrast, Dubois lived to a ripe old age, and was highly regarded. He wrote music in many forms but is best remembered for his sacred music. He wrote several operas, but none of them were successful. His best-known work is probably the oratorio “The Seven Last Words.” “Sortie” is a catchall term which French composers applied to any piece for full organ, with no fixed form. This one is from a group of pieces originally for harmonium and takes the form of a fugue.

# Confession and Absolution

## Hymn of Invocation

## 728 How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,  
 5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!  
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;  
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.  
 My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,  
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 Up - held by My rich - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!  
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.  
 Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.  
 Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester  
 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 167

- 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*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

## Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- 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.

## Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 34:4-8; antiphon: v. 1*

I will bless the LORD at | all times,\*  
his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.  
I sought the LORD, and he | answered me\*  
and delivered me from | all my fears.

Those who look to him are | radiant,\*  
 and their faces shall never | be ashamed.  
**This poor man cried, and the LORD | heard him\*  
 and saved him out of all his | troubles.**  
 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear him,\*  
 and de- | livers them.  
**Oh, taste and see that the | LORD is good!\***  
**Blessèd is the man who takes ref- | uge in him!**  
**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.**  
 I will bless the LORD at | all times;\*  
 his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.

**Kyrie**

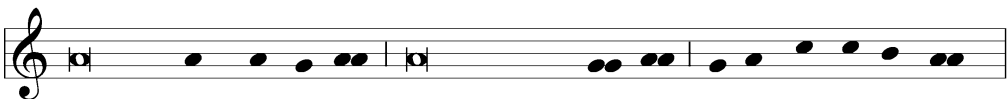
*LSB 168*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



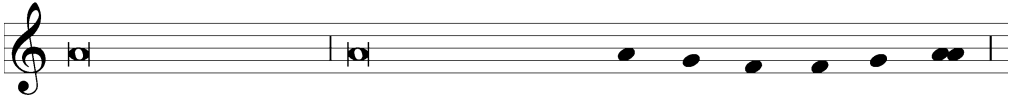
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



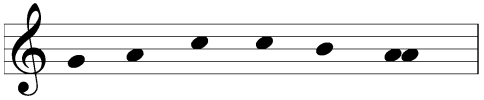
and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



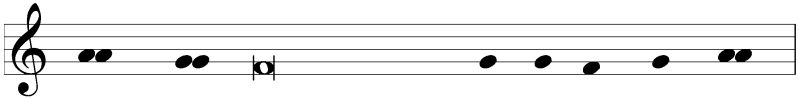
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

**This Is the Feast**

*LSB 171*



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity. Mercifully grant us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; 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*



<sup>4</sup>[The Lord said to Job:] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone,

<sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together  
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup>“Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb,

<sup>9</sup>when I made clouds its garment  
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

<sup>10</sup>and prescribed limits for it  
and set bars and doors,

<sup>11</sup>and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

<sup>12</sup>“Have you commanded the morning since your days began,  
and caused the dawn to know its place,

<sup>13</sup>that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,  
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

<sup>14</sup>It is changed like clay under the seal,  
and its features stand out like a garment.

<sup>15</sup>From the wicked their light is withheld,  
and their uplifted arm is broken.

<sup>16</sup>“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,  
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

<sup>17</sup>Have the gates of death been revealed to you,  
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

<sup>18</sup>Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 18:1–6

**The LORD Is My Rock and My Fortress**

<sup>1</sup>I | love you,\*

O | LORD, my strength.

**<sup>2</sup>The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my de- | liverer,\*  
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my | stronghold.**

**<sup>3</sup>I call upon the LORD, who is worthy | to be praised,\*  
and I am saved from my | enemies.**

**<sup>4</sup>The cords of death en- | compassed me;\*  
the torrents of destruction as- | sailed me;**

**<sup>5</sup>the cords of Sheol en- | tangled me,\*  
the snares of death con- | fronted me.**

**<sup>6</sup>In my distress I called upon the LORD;  
to my God I | cried for help.\***

**From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry to him | reached his ears.**

## Epistle

*Romans 10:5-17*

<sup>5</sup>Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>or "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

<sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" <sup>16</sup>But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" <sup>17</sup>So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.**"

<sup>28</sup>And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "**Come.**" So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**" <sup>32</sup>And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

**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

## 729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;  
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,  
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;  
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.  
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.  
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.  
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;  
Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79  
Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

*Proper response is "Lord, have mercy".*

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

**P** In thanksgiving for our bodies and souls, gifts of our glorious Creator, let us pray to the Lord:

**P** In lament for our sin, for death in this world and for the creation now subject to futility, let us pray to the Lord:

**P** In faith, for the forgiveness that Christ has won by His blood and for the new life of righteousness that comes from His grace, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** For the people of God, in whose hearts His Word dwells, that they may have courage to confess Christ before the world, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all pastors, church planters and congregations, that they might receive hope, renewal and endurance from God; and that fear would never keep us from the Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For trust in the Lord, that we may have confidence in all He has promised to bestow on us each day, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For preservation from all doubt and fear, that like Peter, we might be kept in the grasp of God's grace, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For those in need, *especially Alice, Cynthia, Gene, Johnathan, Lynette, Marion and her family, and Timothy* that their hearts would not waver from Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who come to the Lord's table, that we would be united in confession even as we are one at His table, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** Gracious Lord, give ear to the prayers of Your people and lead us to trust in Your mercy without fear, that we may be confident that You will grant to us all things needful to us and our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

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

**Offertory**

LSB 176



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will




call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.


## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface


LSB 177



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**G** 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.

### Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

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

### Sanctus

LSB 178



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.




Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### 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."





**Agnus Dei**

LSB 180



**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of



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



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*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**

**740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb**



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at  
 2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my  
 3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,  
 staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,  
 Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry  
 In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He  
 By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.  
 bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.  
 to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941  
 Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, 1784, Leipzig  
 Text and tune: Public domain

# Thank the Lord

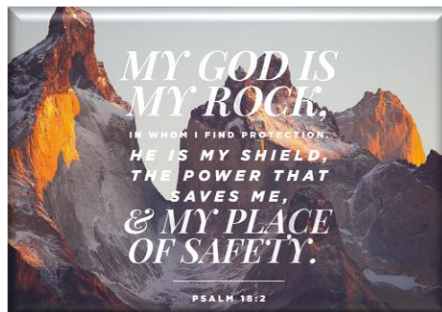
LSB 181

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

# Post-Communion Collect

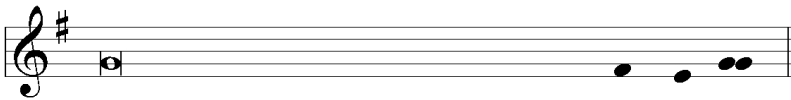
**P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.



## Benediction

LSB 183



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.

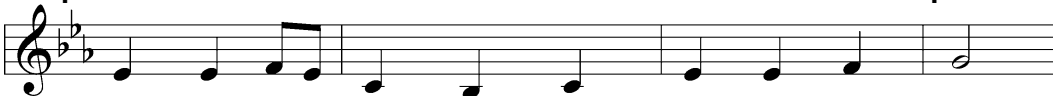
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - - - - - men.

## 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.

## Sortie in D Major

Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

**Acknowledgments**

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# ✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

## Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 28**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** August 13<sup>th</sup> Gayle  
August 20<sup>th</sup> Maurine  
**Cleanup for August:** Nannette and Gayle

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

+ **Come together after service on August 27<sup>th</sup> for an end of summer BBQ! If you would like to bring a side, salad, or condiment there will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex.**

**LMWL quarterly meeting will be held after, where we will get to hear from Onja and Sydney about representing the young women at the National Conference.**

+ **Join us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom. Links are sent out weekly, also located on the homepage of our website.**

## Lectionary Summaries

### ***Christ the Crucified Comes to Save Us by the Word of Faith***

The Lord who *"laid the foundation of the earth"* (Job 38:4) is the Author and Giver of life who governs all things by His Word. His wisdom and power are beyond our understanding, except as He reveals Himself in the incarnate Word, Christ Jesus. He has *"entered into the springs of the sea"* and *"walked in the recesses of the deep"* (Job 38:16), and He draws near to us in mercy. We have been *"a long way from the land, beaten by the waves"* and tossed about by hostile winds (Matt. 14:24). In our mortality and sinful unbelief, we do not always recognize the Lord Jesus. But as we cry out in fear, He speaks tenderly to us, *"Do not be afraid,"* and He reaches out His hand to save us (Matt. 14:27, 31). *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* (Rom. 10:13), and now we call upon Him in faith, because we have heard *"through the word of Christ"* (Rom. 10:17). *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"* (Rom. 10:8).

## Lutheran For Life Quote

"In Jesus there is healing; there is forgiveness. You, dear brother and sister in Christ, need not fear His wrath. For you, the words 'Christ is risen' are good words, they are the best words. They are words so good they should not be contained but shared with the world.

They are pure Gospel." Rev. Dr. Jason Broge, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

### **A Snippet From 1517.org**

#### ***We All Sink Like Peter***

*We are still so much closer to Peter in our flaws than his virtues,  
and Christ is still our rescue.*

...If you've been a Christian for any length of time, you've heard the story. Yes, it's true that you might have heard it referred to as, "Peter walking on water." or "Peter stepping out of the boat by faith." I suppose, technically, that's accurate. That's usually where most pastors and teachers go with it. We are encouraged to keep our eyes on Jesus. "Peter only sank because he took his eyes off Jesus, so if our focus is always on Jesus, we won't sink when we face difficulties, and then we'll be able to accomplish all we want, or are called to do." It sounds nice and perfect but I don't know anyone that has had that experience. I mean, we don't struggle? We don't despair and doubt at times? We look to the virtuous characteristics of the Old Testament saints and forget the shadier parts of their stories, or at least we gloss over them with the best parts. We forget David was a murderer, Noah a drunk, and even Isaiah knew how unclean his lips were and the list could go on.

In the same way, we look at Peter's life and see the things he did and try to follow those examples. We make the story about Peter's faithfulness. We make this story of Jesus walking on water about Peter's faith and subsequently our own. We turn a simple story about Christ into a call to arms for us to have great faith or even a "greater faith", so we don't sink. We certainly don't forget Peter's failings, but it often gets overlooked in favor of seeing it as a stepping stone to something greater for Peter, and eventually us. We miss the great grace of God by focusing on what Peter is doing and then making it what we are supposed to be doing. That's fine. Then let's really focus on what Peter was doing. He was sinking!

Peter stepped out onto the choppy waters by faith, but it wasn't a perfect faith. It was shaky and doubtful. It had to be. Peter's faith was the kind of faith that denied Jesus three times. Peter's faith was the kind of faith that is sometimes more concerned with how he looks in front of his own people. Peter's faith was the kind of faith that was determined to justify itself by actions over and over again. But it is still the same faith that hopes in Christ. He displayed hope that day. It was that hope that made him step out of that boat and begin to take steps atop the waves. It was that same faith that was tested and found lacking as the winds came and Peter quickly sank. But it was also that hope, that faith, though shaky that remained as it cried out, "Lord help me!" In that moment, Jesus did for Peter what he has always done for all of us. He saves him. In that shaky, barely-holding on faith, Christ is still present, and he grabs him not because of how laser-focused Peter's eyes were on Jesus in that moment, but because even if we only catch a glimpse of him from the corner of our eye, on a bad day, it is the object of that faith that matters most.

The object of that faith, Jesus, always rescues, always saves, and always encourages us towards hope.

With such a focus on telling people to "keep our eyes on Jesus", we forget no one does this all the time. We all have wandering eyes. We all turn our heads, we all have moments of wavering faith. We all have moments when we cry out to God for help in our unbelief. Finally, we all have moments that Christ has to reach down and rescue us in the little faith that we have. For the longest time all I could see in this story is Peter. Peter stepping out, Peter sinking, Peter crying out. I used to think, "I'd better keep my eyes on Jesus or I'll drown." My Goodness, what a burden to bear! I see it so differently now! I see Jesus walking on the water, Jesus calling Peter out, and Jesus rescuing Peter. Even in his rebuke, "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?", Jesus is grabbing hold of Peter and pulling him up. In that moment, Jesus is still encouraging him towards faith in him.

This is a picture of everyday faith. At least it is for me. It's not faith in our abilities as Christians, but in Christ, who is our continued rescue despite our failings. Jesus is always there, not hitting us over the head with condemnation, but encouraging us through each difficulty, even the ones that never seem to go away. I make that point so you might understand it's not specifically about the end result in this life, but about the one who holds us and rescues us. For some of us, in our specific situation, that rescue has to be daily, because there is no light at the end of the tunnel. Heck, there is no tunnel! But there is Christ, who is always saying to us, "I am here, why do you doubt? Keep trusting me. I will hold fast to you." God is always telling this story in so many different ways. He is always saying you need a rescue, and I have a provided it. It has never been about "great faith", but a GREAT SAVIOR! How great a Savior would he be, if he didn't take care of those of us with a shaky, barely holding on, pin-needle sized faith? His grasp is firm, and we can be sure that he does hold us.

When we do these character studies, we can see the faith and the hope of these men and women, but ultimately they are flawed characters. These flawed characters should always be pointing us to Jesus, whose character is flawless. In Peter, we see a flawed man. A man who repeatedly, throughout his life, could not keep completely focused on Jesus in the midst of trouble. A man who, as he walked on the waves, quickly began to sink. A man who was rescued by Jesus. Even today, we are still so much closer to Peter in our flaws than his virtues, and Christ is still our rescue. May that never change.

There is no story in the bible that we read where we can claim that we walk like this saint or that saint in some form of righteous good standing by our actions. We are all, at times, the prodigal son and the one who remained, the proud Pharisee and the tax collector who beat his chest, and like Peter, we are the ones who step out of the boat, AND the ones who sink. We wrestle with our two natures, sinner and saint, and while we wrestle, Christ saves. He comes and lifts us up, comforts us and loves us.

I do encourage you to keep your eyes on Jesus. If you do, you just might see how often he has rescued you with forgiveness and grace. *Dominick Santore, November 26, 2019*