

+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

+SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST+ 17 SEPTEMBER 2023+



FORGIVE
as you've been
FORGIVEN

Matthew 18:21-35

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.”

- ❖ 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:

Karl Osterland is organist at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit, where he has access to a wonderful organ by E. M. Skinner, one of the greatest American organ builders of the early Twentieth Century. I had the privilege of meeting him at the recent ALCM convention. “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” is from a recently published collection, which he wrote during the height of the Covid crisis, trying to find ways to comfort and inspire his congregation. The phrases of the chorale are alternated with a melody played on a solo reed stop.

BWV 615 is from the Little Organ Book. It is a very festive setting, featuring an ostinato pattern in the pedals. Near the end, the Cymbelstern is added. This is a set of small bells on a frame which was rotated by the wind of the organ. The organ in Weimar for which Bach wrote this piece had this device.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! To God the Fa -
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Lamb
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Ho -
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to our tri -



ther let us bring Our songs of ad - o - ra - tion.
 of God we sing, In whom we are e - lect - ed.
 ly Ghost we sing For our re - gen - er - a - tion.
 une God we sing; Blest be His name for - ev - er!



To Him through ev - er - last - ing days Be wor - ship, hon -
 He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in
 The sav - ing faith in us He wrought And us un - to
 With an - gel hosts let us a - dore And sing His prais -



or, pow'r, and praise, Whose hand sus - tains cre - a - tion.
 that bless - ed flood, And as His bride se - lect - ed.
 the Bride - groom brought, Made us His cho - sen na - tion.
 es ev - er - more For all His grace and fa - vor!



Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;
 Ho - ly, ho - ly Is our u - nion And com - mu - nion.
 Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Joy e - ter - nal, Bliss su - per - nal;
 Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;



Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry.
His be - friend - ing Gives us joy and peace un - end - ing.
There is man - na And an end - less, glad ho - san - na.
Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry!

Text: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
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 143:1-2; antiphon: v. 9

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*

I have fled to you for | refuge!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*

In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your | servant,*

for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

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



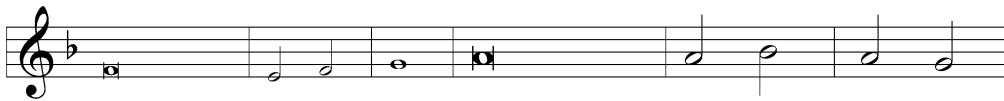
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



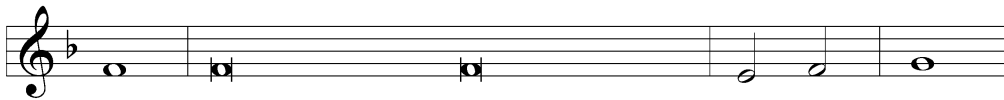
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

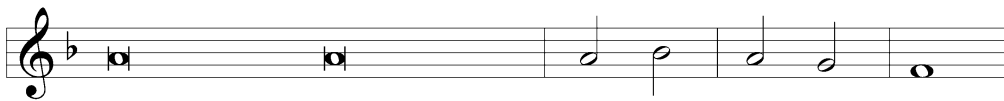
LSB 187



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,



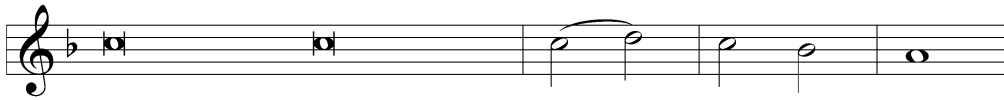
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



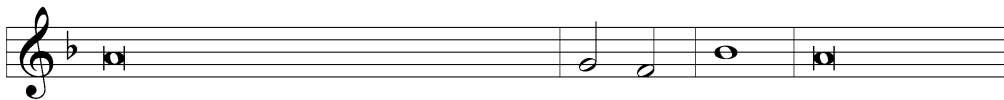
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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 Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; 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

Genesis 50:15-21

God's Good Purposes

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their

sin, because they did evil to you.’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 103:1–12

Bless the LORD, O My Soul

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**

³who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴**who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

⁵who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

⁶**The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸**The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰**He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²**as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.



¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to 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 18:21–35

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

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

Sit



Hymn of the Day

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
 3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
 4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
 deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
 mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
 on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
 lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

- 5 When from the dust of death I rise
 To claim my mansion in the skies,
 This then shall be my only plea:
 Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
 For me, and all Thy hands have made,
 An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
 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 Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, in Your mercy You have forgiven our insurmountable debt of sin, ransoming us with the death of Your Son. Free us from our grudges and unforgiving nature, lest through our lack of mercy we exclude ourselves from Your forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, as You kept Joseph from evil and brought good from his suffering in Egypt, deliver us by Your grace so that we may learn patience in trials. Teach us to be slow to judge, quick to forgive, and steadfast in love for You and one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

P We praise You, O Lord, for retaining among us Your Holy Word and Sacraments. Continue to raise up faithful stewards of Your mysteries, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Christ's name would be proclaimed

in our midst and throughout the world. Prepare Your baptized children to be faithful confessors of the hope that is in them. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Caring Father, visit the homes of Your people. Keep them from all harm and danger, and grant that we would dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** God of power and might, sustain the nations of the earth and lead them in the way of justice and truth. Defend life and liberty, and give us honest and faithful rulers, so that our nation may strive toward what is honorable, true and just. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, according to Your will grant healing to the sick and infirm *especially show Your steadfast love to Alice, Cynthia, Gene, Johnathan, Lynette, Marion and her family, and Timothy.* Grant them patience to endure their time of suffering and crown their days with Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Merciful God, though we come to Your table as servants who owe a debt we cannot pay, Your Son has forgiven it in its entirety. As we receive His very body and blood for our forgiveness, let us be grateful and go out to serve others with the same spirit of forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, 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



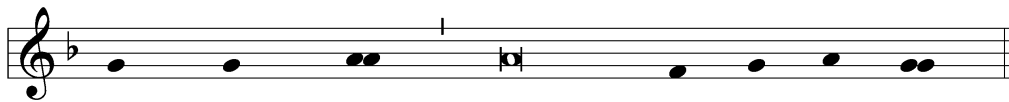
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



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.



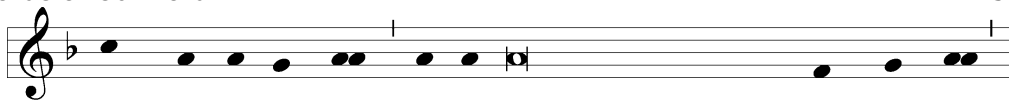
C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



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.
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

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

1 I lay my sins on Je-sus, The spot-less Lamb of God;
 2 I lay my wants on Je-sus; All full-ness dwells in Him;
 3 I rest my soul on Je-sus, This wea-ry soul of mine;
 He bears them all and frees us From the ac-curs-ed load.
 He heals all my dis-eas-es; My soul He does re-deem.
 His right hand me em-brac-es; I on His breast re-cline.
 I bring my guilt to Je-sus To wash my crim-son stains
 I lay my griefs on Je-sus, My bur-dens and my cares;
 I love the name of Je-sus, Im-man-uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra-grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

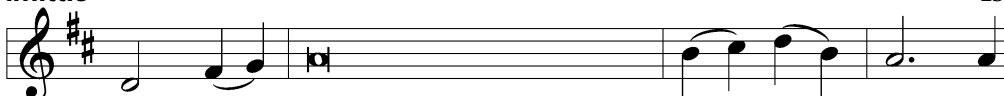
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

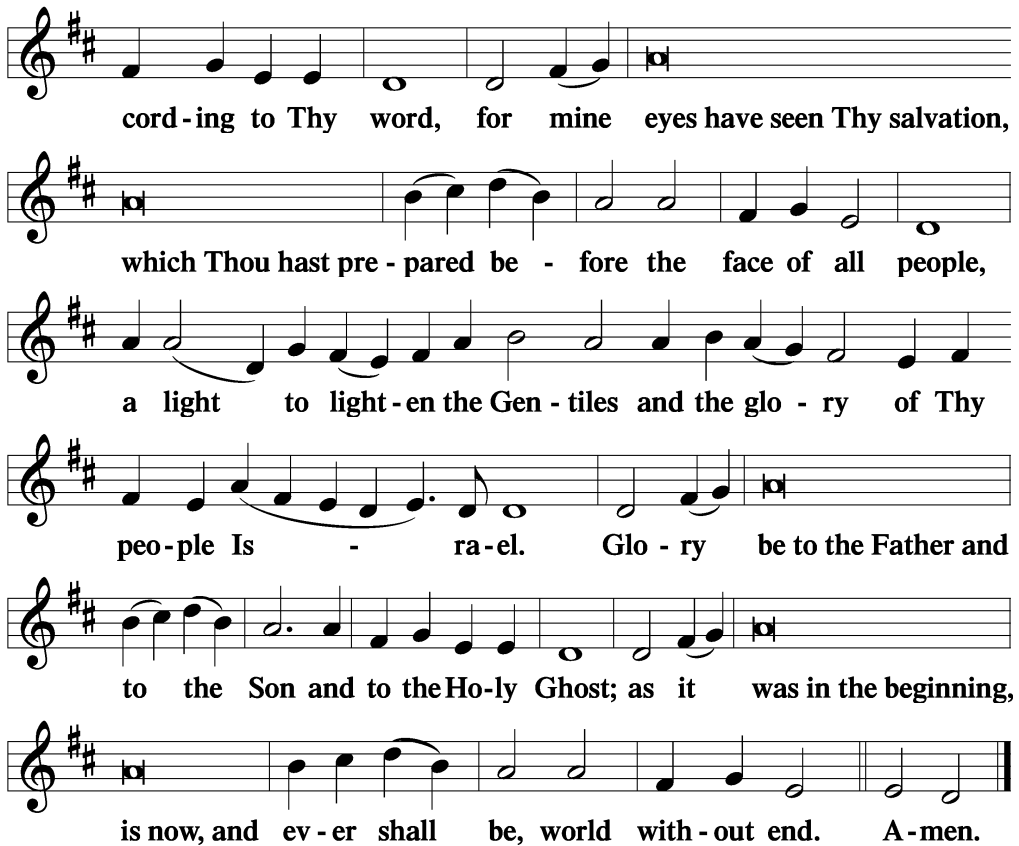
Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



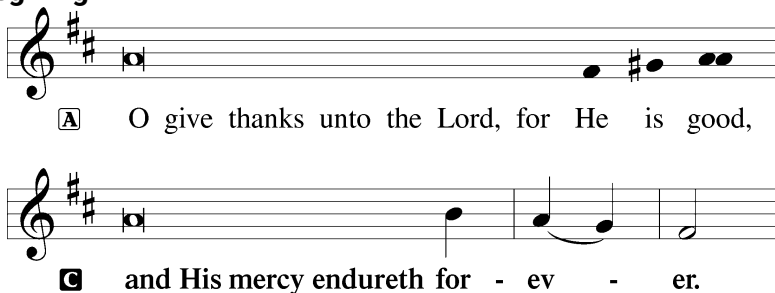
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



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.



A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



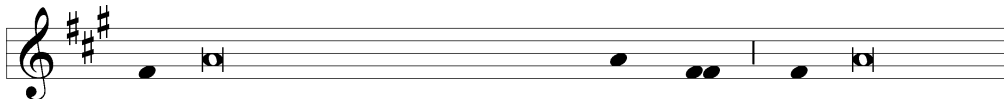
A Bless we the Lord.



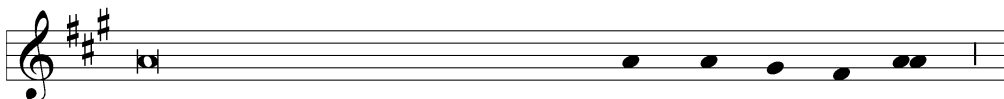
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

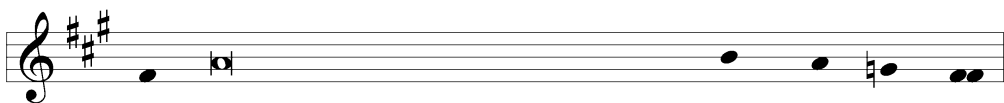
LSB 202



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

565 Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ



1 Thy works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad-ness to this heart;
 2 Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my bruis-ed soul;
 3 Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the crush-ing load
 4 Thy death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ran-som due;
 5 Thy righ-teous-ness, O Christ, A-lone can cov-er me;



They tell me all is done, They bid my fear de-part.
 Thy stripes, not mine, con-tain The balm that makes me whole.
 Of sins that none could bear But the in-car-nate God.
 Ten thou-sand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.
 No righ-teous-ness a-vails Save that which is of Thee.

Refrain



To whom save Thee, Who canst a-lone For sin a-tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.
 Tune: The Parish Choir, 1850, London
 Text and tune: Public domain

Fantasia In A Minor

Johann Jakob Froberger (1616-1667)

Acknowledgments

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✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

- + **Last Sunday's Attendance: 32**
- + **Altar Guild Set Up:** September 17th Maurine
September 24th Susie
Cleanup for September: Onja and Sydney
- + **Ushers for September:** Leon Tarr and Johnathan Raelison
- + **LWML will be collecting hygiene products (hand towels, wash cloths, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and disposable razors) throughout the month of September.**
- + **Join us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.**

September Birthdays

Azula Carmack 17th
Johnathan Raelison 18th
Jocella Hurd Collins 24th
Jod Soraci 26th

Happy Anniversary to Gayle & Leon Tarr!

Lectionary Summary for the Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have *"mercy on your fellow servant"* and *"forgive your brother from your heart"* (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord's forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we *"are the Lord's"* (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will *"stand before the judgment seat of God,"* we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also *"will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand"* (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends *"to bring it about that many*

people should be kept alive" (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: "I will provide for you and your little ones" (Gen. 50:21).

Memory Verse Challenge

1 Samuel 12:24 Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.

A Snippet From 1517

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

In this parable, notice how Jesus invites us to consider that forgiveness is something more than a moment. It is a way of grace that extends throughout an entire kingdom.

...We often call this parable, "The unforgiving servant." The problem, however, is not just that the servant is unforgiving. The problem is the servant is clueless. When he received forgiveness from his master, he entered a different kingdom. It is a place where sins are forgiven. When he went out into the world, however, he refused to live in that kingdom. For him, forgiveness was a single transaction before his master, not a life-changing experience. It was something that could be set aside, not something through which he always lived.

Unfortunately, we can fall into the same problem. Sometimes we limit forgiveness to a personal experience of God's grace in one moment in time. We are baptized, receive absolution, partake of the Lord's Supper, but that forgiveness is seen only as a moment; something you experience in church. It is not seen as something you live through as you enter into your Savior's world. Forgiveness changes your world. When God forgives you on account of Christ, he brings you into a kingdom that reaches to the ends of the earth and lasts to the end of time.

Forgiveness is not just a momentary experience, a get-out-of-jail-free card that gives us the opportunity to go out and work harder to accomplish our salvation. No, forgiveness is a life-changing event. It changes who we are. Suddenly, we discover we are not servants managing our money but children of God who live in His Kingdom where grace never ends. Sure, we can go back to the kingdom where you pay your debts... but who would ever want to do that?

Our world's conversation about sin can be frustrating. It can bring you to your knees in confession or solidarity. It can sap you of strength or overwhelm you with activity. But if you listen only to this conversation, you are missing out on something God is doing – forgiving sins. God has forgiven your sins in Christ and now He calls you, frees you, and sends you to forgive the sins of others.

David Schmitt, September 6, 2020, 1517.org