

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST+08 OCTOBER 2023+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.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:

Paul D. Weber is Professor Emeritus at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC. He is widely published and has contributed settings to LSB and other hymnals. The early American hymn tune “Restoration” has a melody based on a pentatonic scale, often associated with Asian music, but also found in many folk songs. Playing only on the black keys of a keyboard will produce a pentatonic scale, a feature which Weber exploits in the first 31 measures of this piece, which is played entirely on the black keys.

Paul Manz's setting of “Built On a Rock” features rapid figuration in the manuals, with the melody in the pedal. In the final measures the 32' Violone is added, producing a very powerful deep bass for the conclusion.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

908 Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear



1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
 2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants
 △ 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the

Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -
 heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and
 Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or

tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.
 bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
 be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Mark A. Jeske, 1952
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401
 Text (sts. 1, 3) 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 118:22–24; antiphon: v. 1

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!
The stone that the builders re- | jected*
has become the | cornerstone.
This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.
This is the day that the | LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.
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, for | he is good;*
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

Kyrie

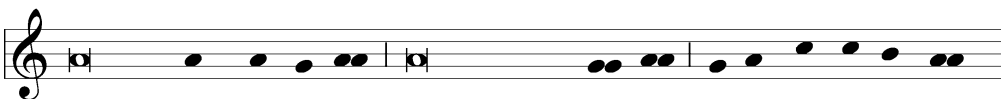
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



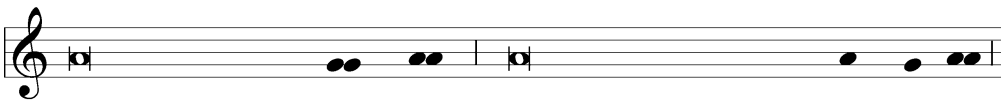
C Lord, have mer - cy.



[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.



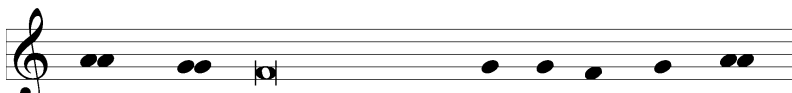
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



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.



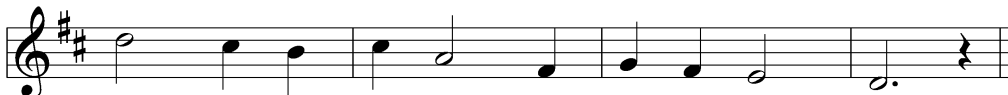
C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



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, because without You we are not able to please You, mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

The Vineyard of the LORD Destroyed

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briers and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds

that they rain no rain upon it.
7For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 80:7–19

7Restore us, O | God of hosts;*,
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

8**You brought a vine out of | Egypt;*,**
you drove out the nations and | planted it.

9You cleared the | ground for it;*,
it took deep root and | filled the land.

10**The mountains were covered | with its shade,*,**
the mighty cedars with its | branches.

11It sent out its branches | to the sea*,
and its shoots to the | River.

12**Why then have you broken | down its walls,*,**
so that all who pass along the way | pluck its fruit?

13The boar from the forest rav- | ages it,*,
and all that move in the field | feed on it.

14**Turn again, O | God of hosts!*,**
Look down from | heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,

15the stock that your right hand | planted,*,
and for the son whom you made strong | for yourself.

16**They have burned it with fire; they have | cut it down;*,**
may they perish at the rebuke | of your face!

17But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,*,
the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!

18**Then we shall not turn | back from you;*,**
give us life, and we will call up- | on your name!

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts!*
Let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Epistle

Philippians 3:4b–14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Straining Toward the Goal

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?'. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.'.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33–46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Tenants

³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

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

608 Lord, to You I Make Confession



1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
 2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
 3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to
 4 Lord, on You I cast my bur - den— Sink it in the

gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
 seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,
 res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,
 deep - est sea! Let me know Your gra - cious par - don,

Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to
 Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my
 Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
 Cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let Your Spir - it

see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.
 sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.
 lone can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
 leave me nev - er; Make me on - ly Yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 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.

O Lord, You have planted, nurtured and hedged around Your vineyard, the Church. You sent Your dear Son to give His life for her. Inspire her by Your Holy Spirit to yield much fruit for Your kingdom and grant that many find shelter on her holy hill. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Merciful Father, since Your Son has made us His own by His death, grant that we may share in His sufferings with confidence, and that we may also know the power of His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, grant all orphans a safe place in which to grow and thrive. Bring into their lives generous couples who will open their hearts to give them permanent homes through adoption. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Shine Your light upon us, O Lord, that we may do what is good and right and live as faithful citizens in our nation. Bless Joseph, our president; Gavin, our governor; and all those elected and appointed to make, administer and judge our laws. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Divine Vinedresser, You prune those whom You love. Strengthen our hearts to heed Your Law, that we may never presume to sin nor trust in our own deeds, but look to the rainfall of Your grace for our source of life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, You bring forth from this barren earth a holy people to press forward to Your heavenly goal. Direct our zeal toward Your good and gracious purpose, and prosper the work of the hands that labor in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** O Lord, prepare our hearts to receive the Lord's body and blood in this Holy Supper. Strengthen us in faith and renew us in love by this Holy Communion. Bring us at last with all the saints to dwell in Your everlasting presence. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Merciful Lord, You sing the song of Your love over the vineyard of Your Church. Lift her united voice through Your Spirit, that she in turn would freely praise Your lavish grace and proclaim Your salvation beyond her walls; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

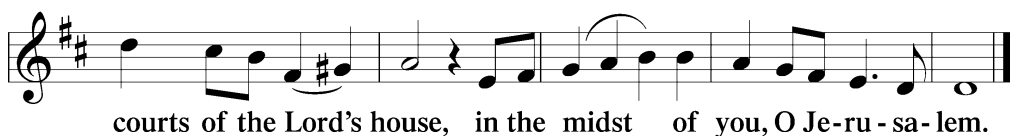
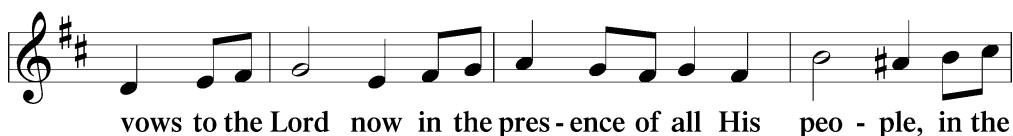
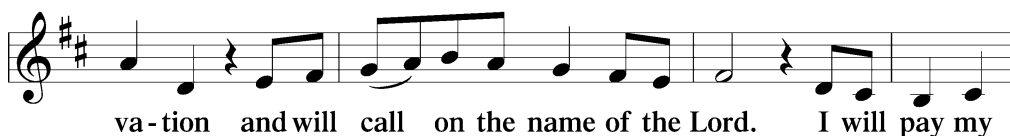
C Amen.

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

Offertory

LSB 176



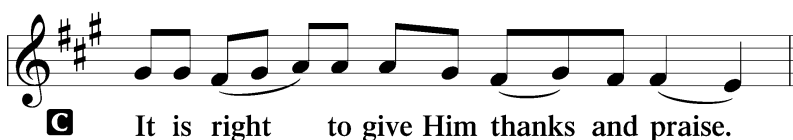
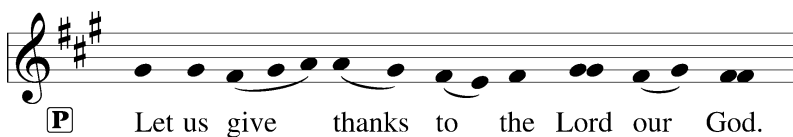
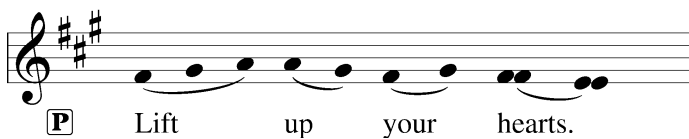


Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177



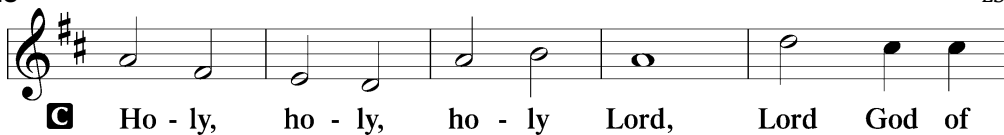


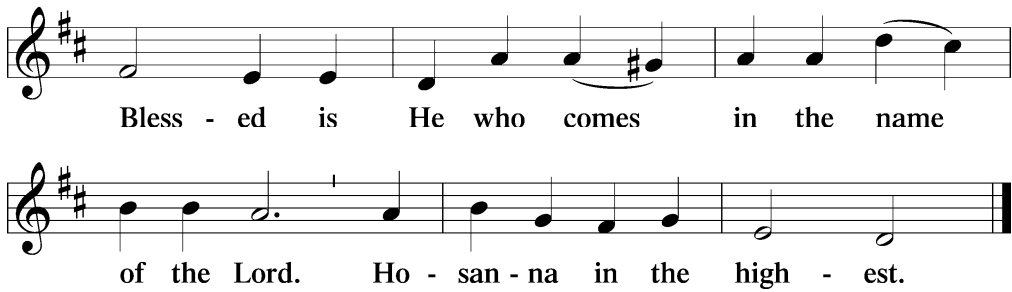
Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 178





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."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

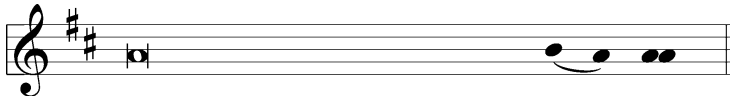
Lord's Prayer

- 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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



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



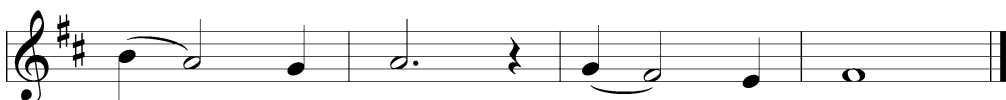
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



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.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,

blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to

Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68
Text and 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

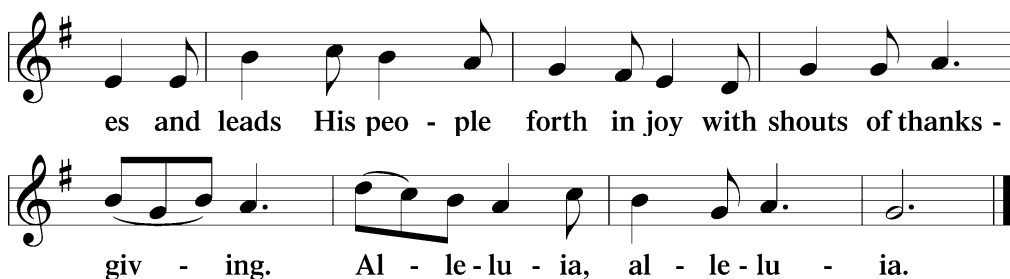
Stand

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-



Post-Communion Collect

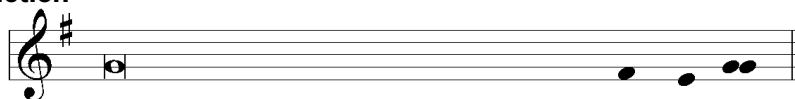
P Let us pray.

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.



Benediction

LSB 183



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

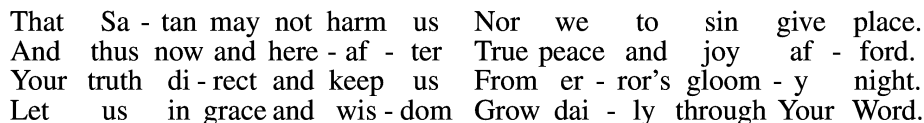
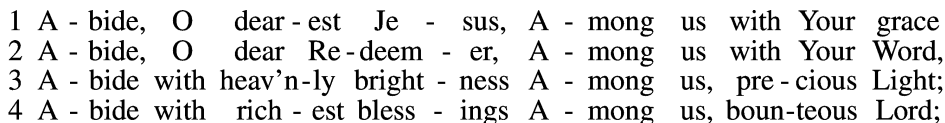
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.



919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus



- 5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615
Text and tune: Public domain

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

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✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

- + **Last Sunday's Attendance:**
- + **Altar Guild Set Up:** October 8th Marie
October 15th Maurine
- + **Cleanup for October:** Marie and Susie
- + **Ushers for October:** Jose Lopez and Johnathan Raelison
- + **October is Pastor Appreciation Month!**
- + **Thank you to everyone who donated items and helped assist assemble the hygiene kits last week!**
- + **Reformation Celebration on October 29th! More details to come!**
- + **Join us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom. We are currently studying the Book of Revelation.**

October Birthdays!

Marie Knox 9th
Denzie Cotton 10th
Moiria Killian 14th
Pastor Killian 25th
Mark Thorn 26th

Lutherans For Life Thoughts

The psalmist openly rejoices that Almighty God cherishes every human life He creates. "Let your hand be on ... the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself" (Psalm 80:17). The same Lord invites us to delight in receiving one another as gifts and privileges—no matter what size, skills, or circumstances. Why settle for bloodshed when we can have justice (Isaiah 5:7)?

"These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand." Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Lectionary Summary for the Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The True Vine Redeems the Vineyard of the Lord of Hosts

"The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel" (Is. 5:7), which He planted "on a very fertile hill" (Is. 5:1). He did everything for His vineyard, not only clearing it of stones and planting it with "choice vines," but also building the "watchtower" of His prophets and hewing out the "wine vat" of His priesthood in its midst (Is. 5:2). But when "he looked for it to yield grapes," there were only "wild grapes" of bloodshed and unrighteousness (Is. 5:2, 7). The Lord Jesus likewise described the unfaithfulness of those who were called to care for His vineyard (Matt. 21:33–35). But in this He also describes His cross and Passion (Matt. 21:38–39), by which He has redeemed the vineyard for Himself. He is the true Vine, planted by death into the ground, and in His resurrection He brings forth "the fruits in their seasons" (Matt. 21:41). Among those good grapes of the true Vine is the apostle Paul. Once a zealous persecutor of the Church, he "suffered the loss of all things" in order to "gain Christ and be found in him," to "know him and the power of his resurrection" (Phil. 3:8–10).

A Snippet From 1517

Old Testament: Isaiah 5:1-7 (Pentecost 18: Series A)

The LORD is not yet finished with His vineyard.

The Old Testament Lesson for this Sunday is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah. The text is [Isaiah 5:1-7](#) and presents an interesting challenge in relation to its location in the book of Isaiah. Biblical scholars have long pondered about why these first five chapters of Isaiah are placed BEFORE the call/sending of the prophet in chapter 6. Basically, the challenge is to address the issue of prophecies, such as the prophecy of our text, coming before the prophet is appointed. How does that work? Apart from the usual higher-critical opinions that some redactor was prowling around the text (the easy way out), there are other possibilities that maintain a high view of the text. My personal preference is Isaiah uses these five chapters to set the stage for the reader/hearer. These chapters let us know, clearly, the climate into which Isaiah is called and why the LORD God uses such strong language when He gives Isaiah his prophesying/preaching orders (job description). Another way to speak of this is to say Isaiah is bringing the people (readers/hearers) into the story. Now, they are part of the drama and recognize the reason for the LORD's instructions to Isaiah as he is called into the prophetic office. The LORD has made His case as He has shown the mess the people of Israel have become.

Jeffrey Pulse, September 27, 2020 1517.org