

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST + 01 SEPTEMBER 2024+



What Truly Defiles

- Mark 7:14-15 NLT -

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!

Communion Policy

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and welcome to The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

To Those Intending To Commune This Morning:

We respectfully request that those visiting this morning would speak to Pastor Killian before coming to the altar for Holy Communion. While we desire that all who believe would join us in this feast of forgiveness, we are mindful of what God has spoken to us in His word regarding receiving this precious meal:

"Whoever therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

In light of this scripture and others, we take admittance to the Lord's Supper most seriously. **It is God's desire that you approach His table with a prepared heart and mind, and our desire that you join us. Please speak to Pastor Killian that we may maintain good order and a God pleasing approach to His most precious gift of mercy! Thank you.**

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

576 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup -
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 rest on His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 port me in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
 may I then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.
 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68

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

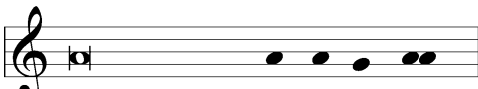
Psalm 51:7, 10–12; antiphon: v. 2

Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!
Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*

and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
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.
Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!

Kyrie

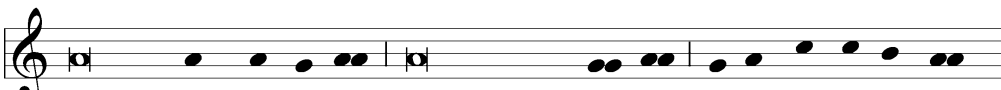
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



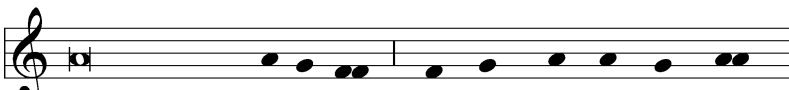
A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



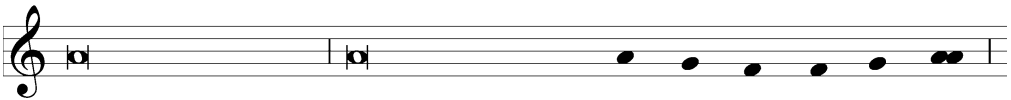
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



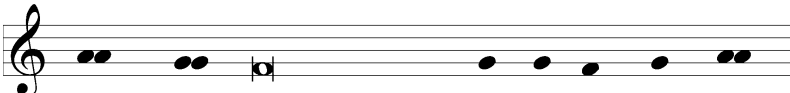
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



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, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; 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

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Moses Commands Obedience

¹“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the just decrees that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. . . .

⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 119:129–136

- ¹²⁹Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
- ¹³⁰**The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**
- ¹³¹I open my mouth and pant,
because I long for your commandments.
- ¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name.**
- ¹³³Keep steady my steps according to your promise,
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.
- ¹³⁴**Redeem me from man's oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**
- ¹³⁵Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.**

Epistle

Ephesians 6:10–20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173

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

Mark 7:14–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

What Defiles a Person

¹⁴[Jesus] called the people to him again and said to them, **“Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.”** ¹⁷And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸And he said to them, **“Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?”** (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, **“What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”**



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

566 By Grace I'm Saved



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

- 5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
 In tribulation's furnace tried,
 By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
 The Father's heart is open wide.
 Where could I help and strength secure
 If grace were not my anchor sure?
- 6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
 In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
 For though I know my heart's condition,
 I also know my Savior's voice.
 My heart is glad, all grief has flown
 Since I am saved by grace alone.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "hear our prayer".

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, be near us with Your Word and Spirit. Guide and lead us, that we may not stray from the way of Your commandments nor forget the wonderful blessings that You have given to us. Direct us always with Your Word of truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Remember, kind Father, the preachers of Your Word. Keep them from adding to it or taking from it. Give them grace to proclaim Your whole counsel in Christ Jesus. Raise up new laborers for Your harvest fields, and prosper Your Law and promises throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** God of all knowledge and wisdom, grant us to know You and Your love. Bless pastors and teachers, parents and grandparents, and all teachers of the faith, that we may grow up into You. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Almighty God, look with compassion on our nation and all who bear public office. Give them wisdom, courage and integrity. Destroy and hinder in our common life whatever is not pleasing to You, and bless and prosper whatever accords with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Lord of life, bring health and healing to Your people. We pray for everyone in need of Your mercy today *including Alice, Allison, Betty, Bev, Diane, Janet, Johnathan, Kannon, Lynette, Marion and her family, Ron, and Timothy*. Strengthen them with Your Word of grace, that they would look to You for comfort in the midst of suffering and pain. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Holy Father, we thank You that Christ has given His body and blood into death for our forgiveness. Bless us as we receive this same body and blood in His Holy Sacrament, remembering and proclaiming with joy the salvation He accomplished for us in His death and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we offer You our thanks and praise for Your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. Bring us with them to the unspeakable joys of Your new heavens and new earth at the day of our Savior's glorious appearing. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

C And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

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

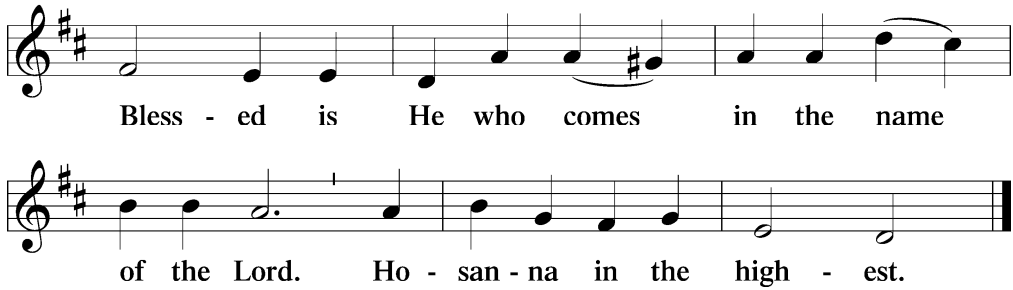
Sanctus

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.



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:

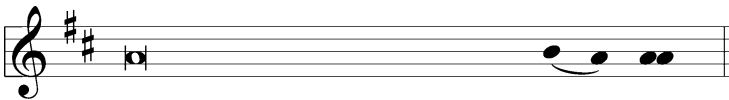
Lord's Prayer

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

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 - ges - 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

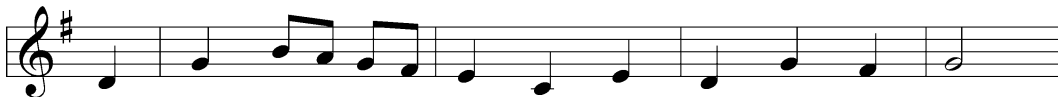


Distribution Hymn

643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
 2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,



The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.



The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
 Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,



The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
 Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
 U-nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
 Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing



To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
 Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.
 Tune: Welsh

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

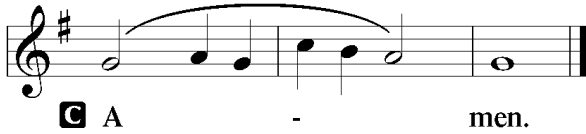
P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and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



Hymn to Depart

738 Lord of All Hopefulness



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



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



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



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

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–53

Tune: Irish

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Tune: Public domain

Prelude and Fugue in A Minor BWV

Bach Circle

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A Note From The Organist:

Gordon Young was a prolific composer of choral and organ music, with hundreds of publications to his credit. Most of his music was designed for service use, and is aimed at the average church choir, but is well crafted without excessive technical demands. His prelude on “Slane” begins quietly, builds to full organ and then returns to the quiet opening section.

The Prelude and Fugue in A minor is one of the 8 short Preludes and Fugues once attributed to Bach, but now believed to be by one of his pupils. Some musicologists have speculated that all eight are not necessarily by one person, because there is a wide variety of styles represented in the group. No definitive proof one way or the other has been found to date. Whoever wrote them, they are wonderful short pieces, and most organists study them early in their career.

✝ THIS WEEK’S NOTES ✝

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday’s Attendance: 32**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** September 1st Gayle

September 8th Susie

Cleanup for September: Gayle and Perla

+ **Ushers for September:** Leon Tarr and Johnathan Raelison

+ **Mite Sunday!** September’s Mite Offerings will be designated to **Zoe’s Home** – a mission that seeks to provide women an opportunity to restore, redirect, and redeem their lives, and the lives of their children.

+ **Wednesday Evening Zoom Bible Study - Join us online every Wednesday at 7pm as we take an hour to study the Word of God so freely given to us. Pastor Killian is currently leading us through a study of Genesis.**

September Birthdays!

Azula Carmack 17th

Johnathan Raelison 18th

Joella Hurd Collins 24th

Jod Soraci 26th

Weekly Memory Verse Challenge

Psalm 73: 25-26 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Lectionary Summary for the Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

We Are Cleansed and Sustained by the Word of God

Wickedness and evil come *“from within, out of the heart,”* and that is what defiles a person (Mark 7:21–23). Hence, we cannot save ourselves, because we are sinful and unclean from the inside out. But as the Lord Jesus *“declared all foods clean”* (Mark 7:19), so He cleanses us by His Word, the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, *“listen to the statutes and the rules”* of the Lord, *“and do them, that you may live”* (Deut. 4:1). For His Word is righteous, and to live according to it is *“your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples”* (Deut. 4:6). Cling to His Word, and also teach it *“to your children and your children’s children”* (Deut. 4:9). Put on this *“armor of God”* by hearing and heeding what He speaks to you, that you may *“stand firm”* in the evil day (Eph. 6:11–13). Gird yourself with the righteousness of Christ, by faith in the *“gospel of peace,”* and take up *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”* by confessing Christ Jesus and *“praying at all times in the Spirit”* (Eph. 6:14–18).

Stewardship Bulletin Blurb

Deuteronomy 4:6 – “Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’” There is no wiser, more fulfilling life than a life lived according to the Word of God. We should be encouraged by this when the world tempts us to think that the Word of God is harmful to us. Our Father loves us, so all His Word is meant to bless us. We may have to suffer for upholding the Word of God, as St. John the Baptist did. But the cross the Lord has for us to bear will be far better than any we would create for ourselves.

Lutheran’s For Life Thoughts

The Lord Jesus insists that visible qualities like age, appearance, and ability do not subtract value from life or impart worth to it (Mark 7:18-23). Rather, invisible sinfulness disqualifies us all from both bodily rights and spiritual privileges. But invisible forgiveness—and God’s grace in creating, redeeming, and calling—delivers sanctity to every member of our race. May this truth proceed forth from our hearts and out of our lips!

Explanation of Small Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer, The Sixth Petition

282. What do we ask God to do for us when we pray this petition?

We pray that

A. Our faith in and love for Jesus would not grow cold with unbelief;

941 **Matthew 24:9-14** Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this

gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- 942 **Mark 9:24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"
- B. We would stay alert and on guard against threats to our faith;
- 943 **1 Corinthians 10:12-13** Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
- 944 **Mark 14:38** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- C. Our Father would guard us against all sins that come from Satan, the world, and our sinful flesh.
- 945 **Galatians 5:19-21** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 946 **Revelation 3:10** Because you have kept My word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on earth.
- 947 **Proverbs 1:10** My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.
Read **Genesis 39:1-20**, where Joseph withstood the temptation of Potiphar's wife, and **Hebrew's 6:4-6**, about the danger of falling away from faith.

283. How does God help us to resist those threats?

He provides us with the Word of Christ, the Holy Spirit, Baptism, Absolution, the Lord's Supper, and the gift of prayer as armor and weapons.

- 948 **Romans 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
- 949 **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- 950 **Ephesians 6:11, 17-18** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.... And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Read **Matthew 4:1-11**, where Jesus repelled Satan with the Word of God, and **2 Corinthians 4:7-12**, about how God's power can overcome our sins and weaknesses.

Note: "There is no help or comfort except to run here, take hold of the Lord's prayer, and speak to God from the heart like this: 'Dear Father, You have asked me to pray. Don't let me fall because of temptations'" (LC III 110). (pgs. 270-272)