

September 21, 2025 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

#### **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAYER**

8001 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93306 Phone: 661/871-1289 • Fax: 661/872-6302 Email: office@lcop.org • www.lcop.org

Wonder Window Children's Center 661/871-7051

#### Our Mission Statement Lutheran Church of Prayer walks with others and teaches the Word of God through relationships and personal example.

#### **Welcome Friends & Guests!**

We pray you will be blessed by our worship today. A welcome packet can be found at the Welcome Center Desk in our lobby. Please pick one up. Each family is asked to fill out an attendance card. Place the completed card in the offering plate. If you have a prayer request to be included in the service, please write your requests on the blue Prayer Requests sheet found in the pew rack and hand it directly to an Usher before worship begins.

## **A Time for Quiet Meditation**

As you enter the sanctuary for worship you are encouraged to use this time for prayer and meditation to prepare your hearts to worship our Lord and to look over the worship bulletin. Visiting with friends can be done in the narthex area so others will not be disturbed. Thank you.

#### **Offering**

The offering is an act of worship for members and friends of Lutheran Church of Prayer, moved by God's love, to support the mission of the church. We do not want guests to feel obligated to participate. We want you to feel welcome and we truly wish to serve you! God bless you!

#### Standing

If at any time during the service it becomes uncomfortable for you to stand, please feel free to sit down, even if others are standing. God knows our strengths and understands our weaknesses too.

Organist, David Collins • Choir Director, David Ortiz
Pianist, David Collins • Handbell Director, Judy Houston
Praise Band Director, Tammy Poynor

#### **Serving Us Today**

Pastor	Pastor Dwayne Hendricks
	Ken Campbell & Bryant Arnold
	Michael Griggs & Bryant Arnold
	Ken Madding
	John & Linda Downen
	Barb Kralev & Linda Hartnett

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## As We Gather

The Divine Service is unlike our other activities during the week—in the marketplace, our place of employment, or our school—where we struggle to be "the people of God" amid the temptations and confusing details of living in a world still disfigured by sin, tragedy, selfishness, and death. By our own fault, we daily fall short of our calling as Christians. We are reminded today of the judgment of God's Law by the prophet Amos against our worry over money and our own needs that distract us from the often-greater needs of others and even our own true need of faith and reliance on God above all. Each day of the week, the demands of the Ten Commandments of God call us back to our need for forgiveness and God's mercy, grace, help, and love. So, we gather here for Divine Service, that is, God attending to our real needs. We come to repent of our sin and failure, and to receive forgiveness and new life and hope. That forgiveness and hope comes solely from the God who "loved the world" so much "that He gave His only Son" to die for you (John 3:16). We do not have to wait and wonder until the Day of Judgment. By your Baptism into Christ, by His mighty and reliable Word of forgiveness spoken over and into you, and by your connection with the body and blood of your crucified and risen Lord Jesus, you are being delivered from all evil, redeemed, restored, and forgiven for everlasting life in the kingdom of God already here and now.

#### Confession and Absolution

## Call to Worship

Chimes

Prelude:

"Wen Nur Den Lieben Gott"

Arr. by Stephen R. Johnson

#### Welcome

# Hymn of Invocation: 702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

V1-4



- faith looks up
- 2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart; 3 While life's dark maze I griefs tread And a - round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran-sient dream, When death's cold, sul len stream



Say - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all in - spire! Thou hast died for me, My zeal As Oh, may my Thou my guide; Bid Wipe sor-row's dark-ness turn to day, Shall o'er me Blest Say - ior, then, in love, Fear roll. and dis-



guilt a - way; O me from this day Be whol - ly Thine! let love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, liv - ing fire! tears a - way, Nor ev - er stray From Thee a - side. let me trust re-move; O bear me safe a-bove. A ran-somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872 Text and tune: Public domain

#### Invocation

- In the name of the Father and of the → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## **Opening Sentences**

- **P** I will go to the altar of God,
- **C** to God my exceeding joy.
- **P** The LORD raises the poor from the dust
- **C** and lifts the needy from the ash heap.

## **Confession and Absolution**

P Let us confess our sins in the light of God's holy Commandments.

Thus says the Lord: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

- C Lord God, we confess to You that we often forget Your Word by allowing other concerns of daily living and our own desires take priority over Your ways of mercy and love. Forgive us, O Lord.
- P Thus says the Lord: "You shall not murder."
- Lord God, we confess to You that we have hurt and harmed our neighbors, especially by our neglect of the needs of others. Forgive us, O Lord.

- Thus says the Lord: "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."
- Lord God, we confess to You our rash words, harsh judgments, and false accusations against our neighbor, but even more our failure to defend and help those who have been wrongfully shamed, abused, or accused. Forgive us, O Lord.
- P God, our Savior, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For the sake of the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, and by His command, I proclaim to you His Word: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### Service of the Word

#### Introit

Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your just decrees.

You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.

Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

Kyrie LSB 152

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



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

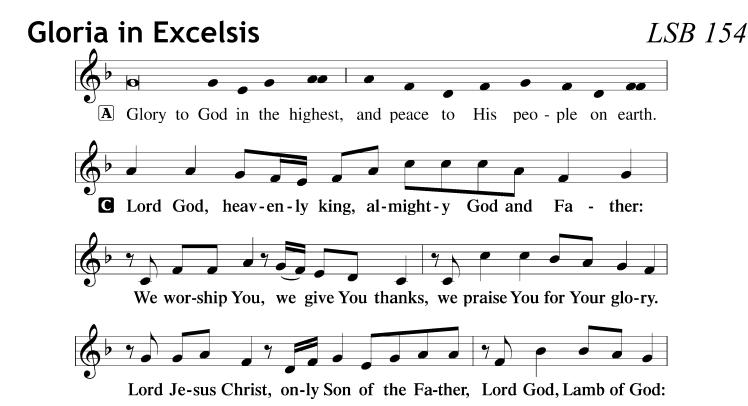


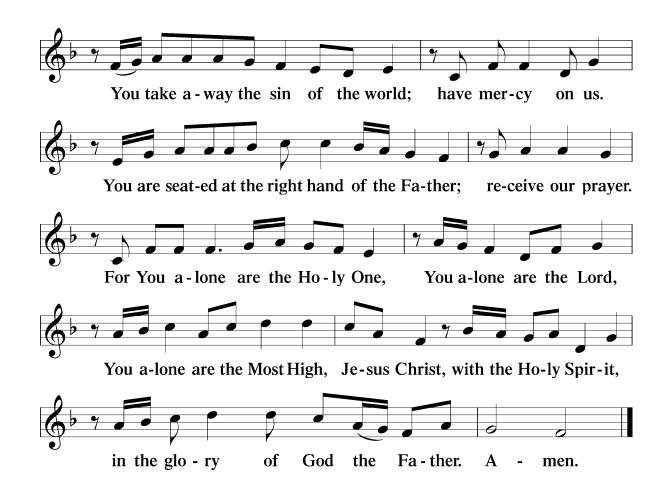
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.







## Salutation and Collect of the Day:

# Proper 20 (Year C)

**P** The Lord be with you.



**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## **Old Testament Reading:**

Amos 8:4–7

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, <sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great

and deal deceitfully with false balances, <sup>6</sup>that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

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

## Psalm:

Psalm 113; antiphon: v. 3

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup>Blessèd be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

<sup>4</sup>The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,

<sup>6</sup>who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

<sup>7</sup>He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

<sup>8</sup>to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

<sup>9</sup>He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

# **Epistle:**

1 Timothy 2:1–15

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

<sup>3</sup>This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

<sup>8</sup>I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; <sup>9</sup>likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, <sup>10</sup>but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. <sup>11</sup>Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. <sup>12</sup>I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. <sup>13</sup>For Adam was formed first, then Eve; <sup>14</sup>and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. <sup>15</sup>Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

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

## **Choir Anthem:**

## "Elijah Rock!"

By Roger Emerson

#### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



# Holy Gospel:

Luke 16:1–15

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.



<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup>And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' <sup>3</sup>And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.'

<sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

<sup>6</sup>He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' <sup>8</sup>The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup>"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup>No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

<sup>14</sup>The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

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



## Nicene Creed

C 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,

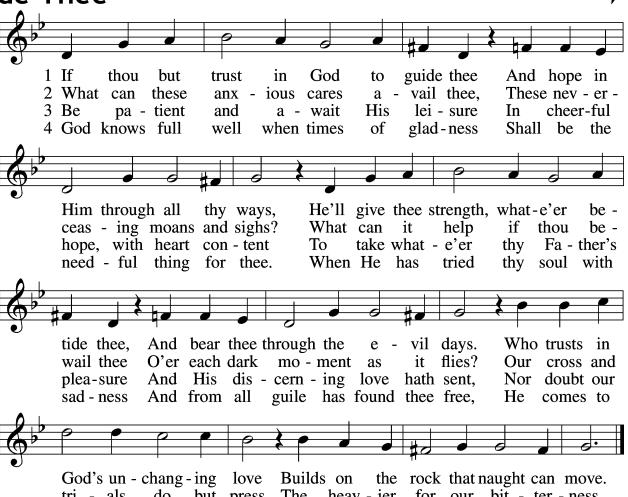
who spoke by the prophets.

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.

Hymn of the Day: 750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move. tri - als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness. in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own. thee all un - a - ware And makes thee own His lov - ing care.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text and tune: Georg Neumark, 1621–81

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: "Waisting Away" Luke 16

Offering:

"To Be at Peace"

By Frankling Ritter



## Prayer of the Church

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

Kind Father, Your Son declared to us that we cannot serve You and also be devoted to money. Free all Your baptized children from obsession with the goods of this world, that they may set their hearts on the joys of the kingdom and the inheritance that never fades. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P Almighty God, guide Your Holy Church here and everywhere, that those who have been called to serve as her pastors and church workers and those preparing for and considering full-time church work may be guarded against the assaults of the evil one, encouraged in their callings, and prepared to serve faithfully for the sake of the kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Maker of heaven and earth, You have created man and woman for different offices and with different gifts, that they might complement one another and glorify You. Grant that, in our homes and congregations, Your people might rejoice in the callings You have given them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P God, our Savior, uphold Donald, our president; our governor; and all whom You have placed in high positions with wisdom and mercy, that we may lead peaceable and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- Heavenly Father, be with the sick and those who suffer, those troubled in mind, those grieving in their sorrows, and the dying in their last hours [especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_]. Grant them the comfort of Your presence, relief according to Your will and peace in their hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Heavenly Bridegroom, grant that as we commune this day upon Your body and blood, our hearts would be moved to repentance and faith, and that the fruits of this Sacrament would be borne in lives of holiness and righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Almighty God, You provide us with daily bread and with everything we need for this body and life. Free us from greed and covetousness, that we might be content with Your blessing and glad to share with those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- P O Lord, our God, whose mercies are new every morning, we give You thanks and praise for all Your kindness toward us, and we pray You to grant us the will and desire to worship You joyfully, to serve You faithfully and to proclaim boldly Your mighty acts of deliverance through our Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom we offer to You these prayers, and in whom we trust for all things; to You alone be glory, honor, worship and praise, O Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

Our Belief Concerning the Lord's Supper (Communion Confession spoken together)

In celebrating the Lord's Supper we recognize the Biblical teaching that this is not merely a representation of Christ, but the real presence of His Body, and His Blood in the bread and the wine.

We also recognize that in the Supper we receive forgiveness of sins, strength and unity with fellow confessing and communing Christians.

Preface LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.

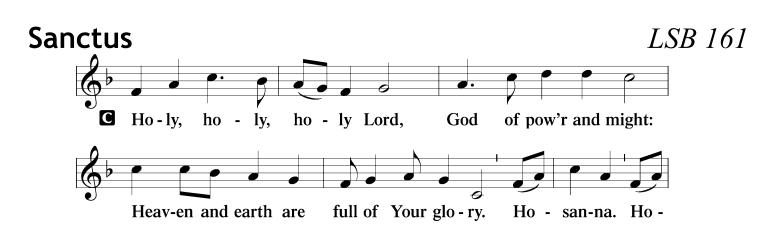


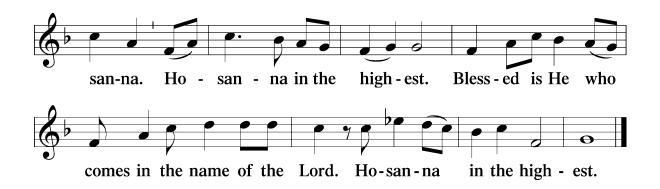
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



## **Proper Preface**

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, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





# Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## C Amen.

#### The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My 

→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **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.
- 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:

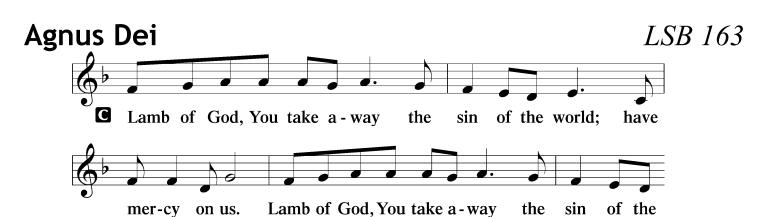
# Lord's Prayer

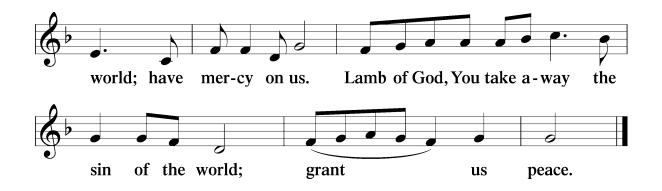
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.





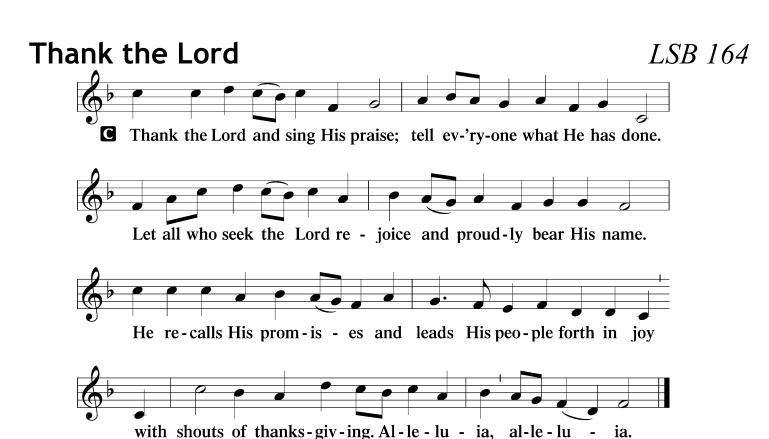


## **Choir Anthem:**

## "In Communion with Me"

By Mary McDonald & Linda Serino

## **Distribution**



## **Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints,

celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction LSB 166

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

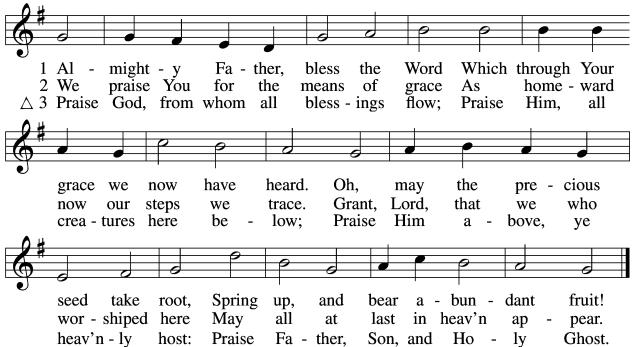
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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



#### **Announcements**

# Hymn to Depart: 923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word V1-3



Text (sts. 1–2): Church Poetry, 1823, Philadelphia, alt.; (st. 3): Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis BourgeoisText and tune: Public domain

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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#### + What We Believe +

- **God:** is Triune, Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Three Persons, One Essence. He is the only true God: *Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:4*
- **Jesus:** is true God, equal to the Father and Holy Spirit, the only Savior of mankind. *John* 5:23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 20:28
- **Sin:** all mankind is wicked; by nature the human race is spiritually blind, dead, broken in heart/mind, and in need of restoration with God and each other. God's wrath abides on all. *Genesis* 8:21; *Psalm* 51:5; *Romans* 3:23, 7:15, 18; *Mark* 7:20-23; *John* 3:36.
- **Justification:** Sin and God's wrath against it has been dealt with by God through the death of God the Son on the cross. All have salvation through the blood of Jesus where our Father no longer holds our wickedness and sin against us but declares us righteous. We have peace again with God through faith in Jesus. This good news gives believers hope, peace, joy, and love to live as Christians. *Romans* 5:1-10; *John* 3:16, 36; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:1-2; Corinthians 5:18-21.
- Conversion: to faith in the Savior is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (spoken, written, and sacramental). In the message of the cross God gathers His family. *Romans* 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23; John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:3.
- **Holy Baptism:** is a gracious work of the Holy Spirit Who creates faith, washes away sins, and connects us to Jesus and His body the church. *John 3:5-6; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13.*
- **The Holy Spirit's Work:** Converted through faith in Jesus our human nature still threatens our unity with God and each other. Reconciliation, that is repentance and faith, is the daily rhythm of believers. Guilt and sorrow are promptings of the Holy Spirit for us to speak with God confessing thoughts, words, and actions asking Him for forgiveness in Jesus' name. *Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 10:19-25*.
- **The Lord's Supper:** or Holy Communion is Christ's True Body and Blood, where He is really present in the bread and wine to assure us of forgiveness. We gather to receive Jesus often because we daily sin much and are in constant need of His power to live the Christian life of faith, hope, and love/charity. *John 6:53-59; 15:5; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16.*
- **Scripture:** is inspired by God, without error and is our solid guide to life. *John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16*.
- Creation: happened according to Genesis 1-2. Evolution is unscriptural, unscientific, and unnecessary. *Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6*.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming:** of Jesus will be sudden/unexpected. *2 Peter 3:10; Mark 13:32; Matthew 24.* We are living in the New Testament era where we rule with Jesus in the activity of sharing His message of love. *1 Corinthians 15:23-26; Ephesians 2:1-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Revelation 20:4-6*