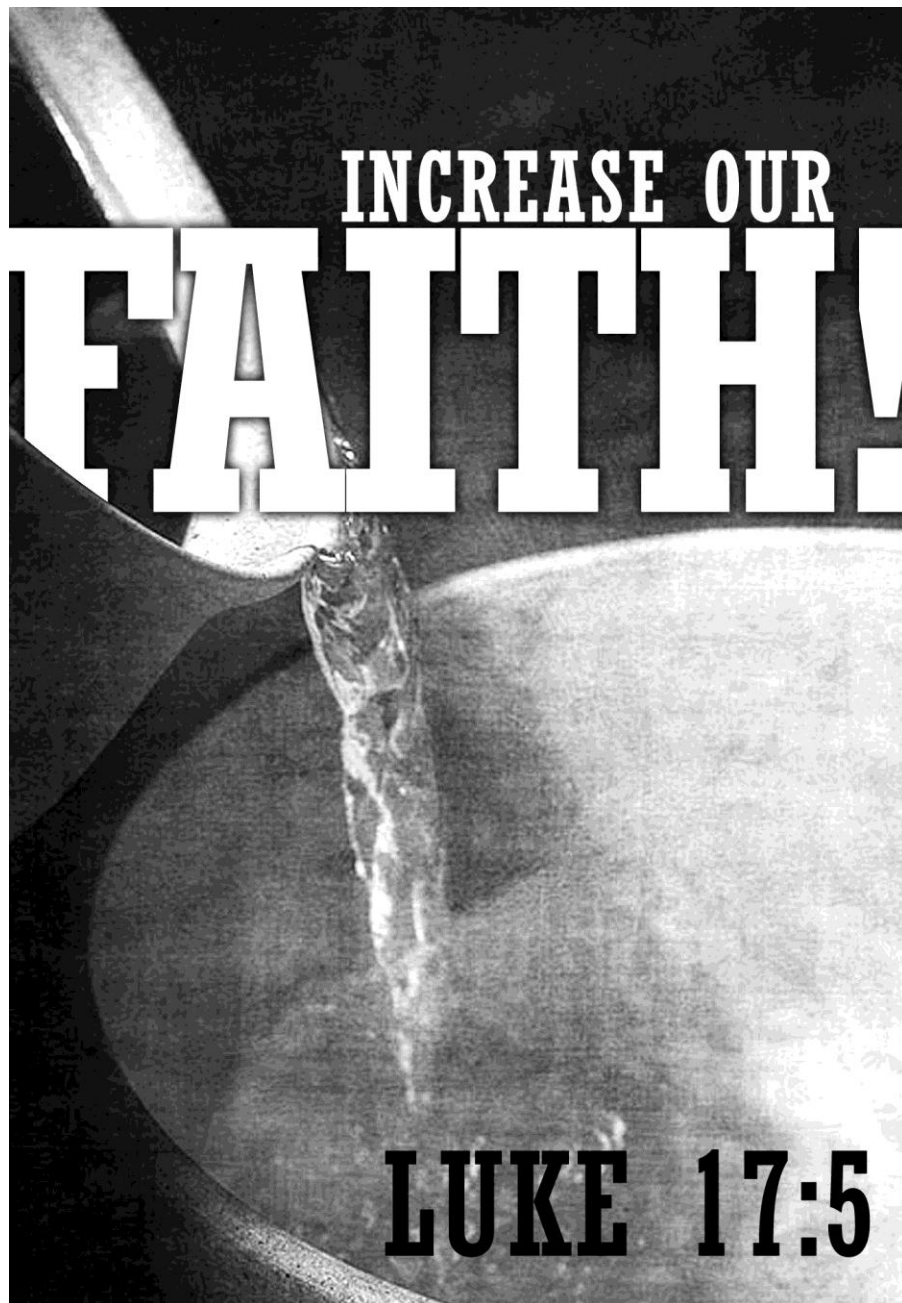




October 5, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAYER

8001 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93306

Phone: 661/871-1289 • Fax: 661/872-6302

Email: office@lcp.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
Elder Richard Kuhn & Tim Hartnett
Ushers..... Frank Cressy & Matt Kralej
Reader Bill Schaefer
Greeters Richard & Carolyn Kuhn
Altar Circle Diane Blankenship & Barb Kralej

As We Gather

This is a difficult day for your pastor. For you are, in a sense, listening in to our Lord speaking to him of His high expectations as His called and ordained servant. It all has to do with addressing his sins with the cutting accusation of God's Law, but with the goal of applying the comforting healing and hope of God's Gospel of forgiveness and strength. Yet, if you listen carefully, you will discover that it's not only about your pastor's frailty or sins, but it is also Christ addressing your sins and need through him. The pastor's calling is, at once, a most difficult one but also the most joyous and fulfilling calling and vocation. Your pastor has the responsibility and obligation not to mislead you into sin but to apply the remedy for it. Preaching and teaching the Word of Christ, and administering that Word of forgiveness of sin and new life through the Sacraments, is not primarily the pastor's work but is indeed the work of Christ Himself. The pastor pours baptismal water, and the believer dies and is raised with Christ. The pastor does no magical incantation, but Christ speaks through him. The bread and wine are Christ's body and blood for you that takes away your sin (and the pastor's!), imparting forgiveness and eternal life. Pray for your pastor, as he prays for you. Forgive your pastor, as he lives by the same forgiveness he declares to you.

Confession and Absolution

Call to Worship

Chimes

Prelude:

“Boylston”

Arr. by Brian Henkelmann

Welcome

Hymn of Invocation: Blessed Assurance

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby
Text: Public domain

Invocation

P 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 Behold the proud, his soul is not upright,

C but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Confession and Absolution

P When the Lord Jesus warned His disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come,” the apostles said, “Increase our faith!” Let us confess our own weakness and sin, asking the same of our gracious and merciful God.

C **O God, Your Law is true and my delight. Yet because we still feebly struggle against sin, we confess our weakness and failure to live according to Your holy will.**

Our lack of faithfulness toward You causes us to hesitate or even refuse to love and forgive our neighbors. O God, increase our faith! Forgive us and renew our minds and spirit that we may serve You by faithfully serving our neighbor.

P Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, “by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus,” 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

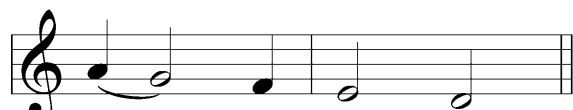
Introit

I hope for your salvation, O LORD,
and I do your commandments.
I rejoice at your word
like one who finds great spoil.
Seven times a day I praise you
for your just and righteous decrees.
Great peace have those who love your law;
nothing can make them stumble.
My soul keeps your testimonies;
I love them exceedingly.
**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.**
I hope for your salvation, O LORD,
and I do your commandments.

Kyrie

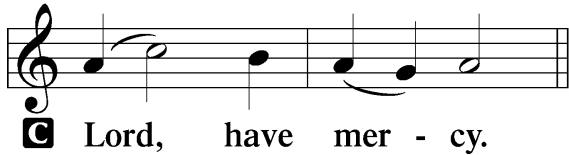
LSB 168

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

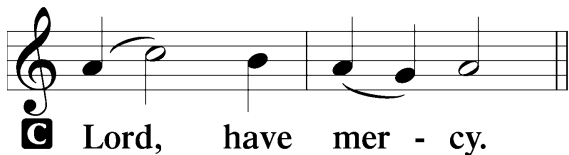
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



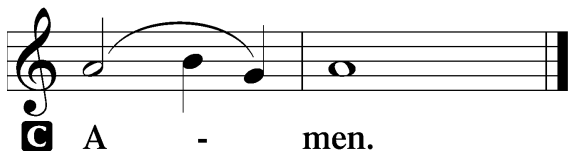
- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



- 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.



Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 170

A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and

Fa-ther: We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we

praise You for Your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly

Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You

take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the

Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the

Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-

lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day:

Proper 22 (Year C)

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; 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.

Old Testament Reading:

Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4

¹The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?

Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see iniquity,
and why do you idly look at wrong?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.

¹I will take my stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the tower,
and look out to see what he will say to me,
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

²And the LORD answered me:

“Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it.

³For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.
If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright
within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: *Psalm 62; antiphon: v. 1*

¹For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

²He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress;
I shall not be greatly shaken.

³How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

⁴They only plan to thrust him down from his high
position.

They take pleasure in falsehood.
They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse.

⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.

⁶He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress;
I shall not be shaken.

⁷On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

⁸Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

⁹Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰Put no trust in extortion;
set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

¹¹Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
¹²and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.
For you will render to a man
according to his work.

Epistle:

2 Timothy 1:1–14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God
according to the promise of the life that is in Christ
Jesus,

²To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and
Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a
clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my
prayers night and day. ⁴As I remember your tears, I long
to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded
of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your
grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I
am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶For this reason I remind
you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you
through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God gave us a
spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹²which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. ¹³Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

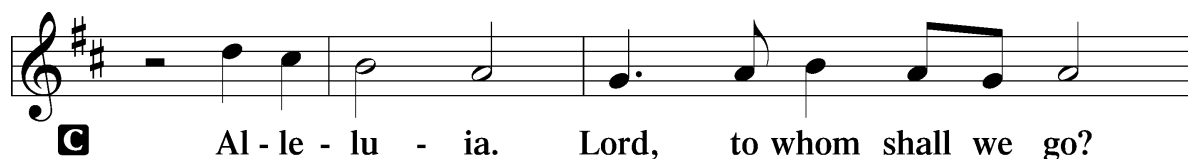
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem: “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173





Holy Gospel:

Luke 17:1–10

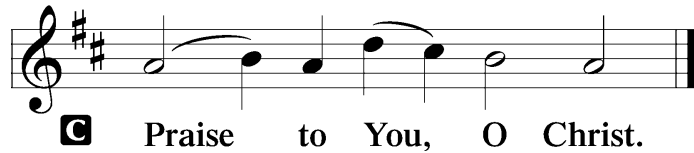
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

¹[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! ²It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. ³Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. ⁷“Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? ⁸Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? ⁹Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded,

say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

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: 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

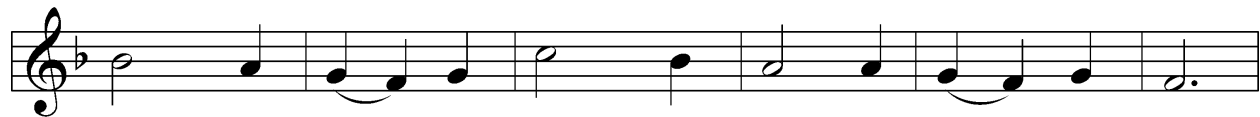
V 1-4



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: “The Seed and the Kingdom” *Luke 17*

Offering:

“Fugue”

By Johann Pachelbel

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.

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.

Father in heaven, You give to Your people a spirit not of fear, but of power and self-control.

Bless Your people with winsomeness and wisdom, that they might confidently speak Your Word in faith and love to all who will hear. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, remember our pastors whom You have called to a holy calling. Embolden them in their testimony concerning our Lord Jesus, and strengthen them by Your power to suffer courageously for the Gospel and guard the good deposit entrusted to them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Everlasting Father, guide husbands and wives to love and forgive each other, and strengthen them in their life together. Help parents to be faithful examples for their children, and grant that orphans may know the joy of a home to call their own. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, hear us on behalf of those who exercise authority over us, who order us according to our laws, who execute justice and who defend us against our enemies. Bless our president; Congress; governor; legislature; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God, our Rock, grant faith, perseverance and, if it is for their good, healing to those who are suffering from the effects of sin in their bodies or minds [*especially* _____]. Be their refuge so they are not shaken even in times of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. This day we rejoice that our sins are forgiven in the washing of Baptism, the declaration of absolution, and the eating and drinking of the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Continually strengthen our faith through Your Word, and prepare our hearts to faithfully receive this divine gift, which brings the immortal body and blood of Jesus to our very lips. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Faithful God, strengthen us against all temptation and guard our steps, that in our weakness or in our liberty, we do not cause others to sin. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty and everlasting God, deliver us from temptation and the powers of evil, that we may be faithful unto death and receive from Your hand the crown of everlasting life.

Whether we live or die, we belong to You. Comfort us with this promise, that we may join the company of the saints on Your appointed day and enter into the heavenly places to worship at Your throne on high; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

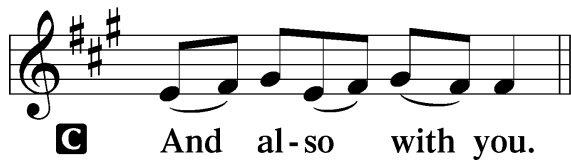
Our Belief Concerning the Lord's Supper
(Communion Confession spoken together)

C 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.

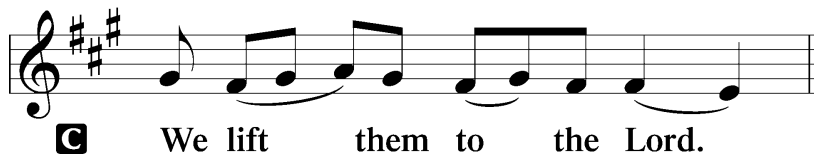
Preface

LSB 177

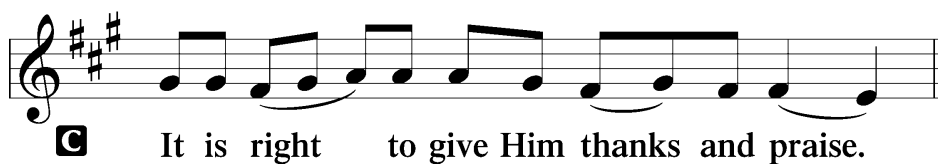
P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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, 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:

Sanctus

LSB 178

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

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.

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:

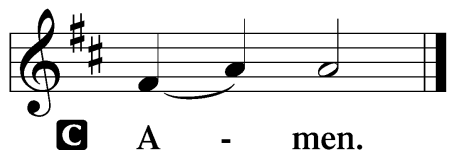
Lord's Prayer

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

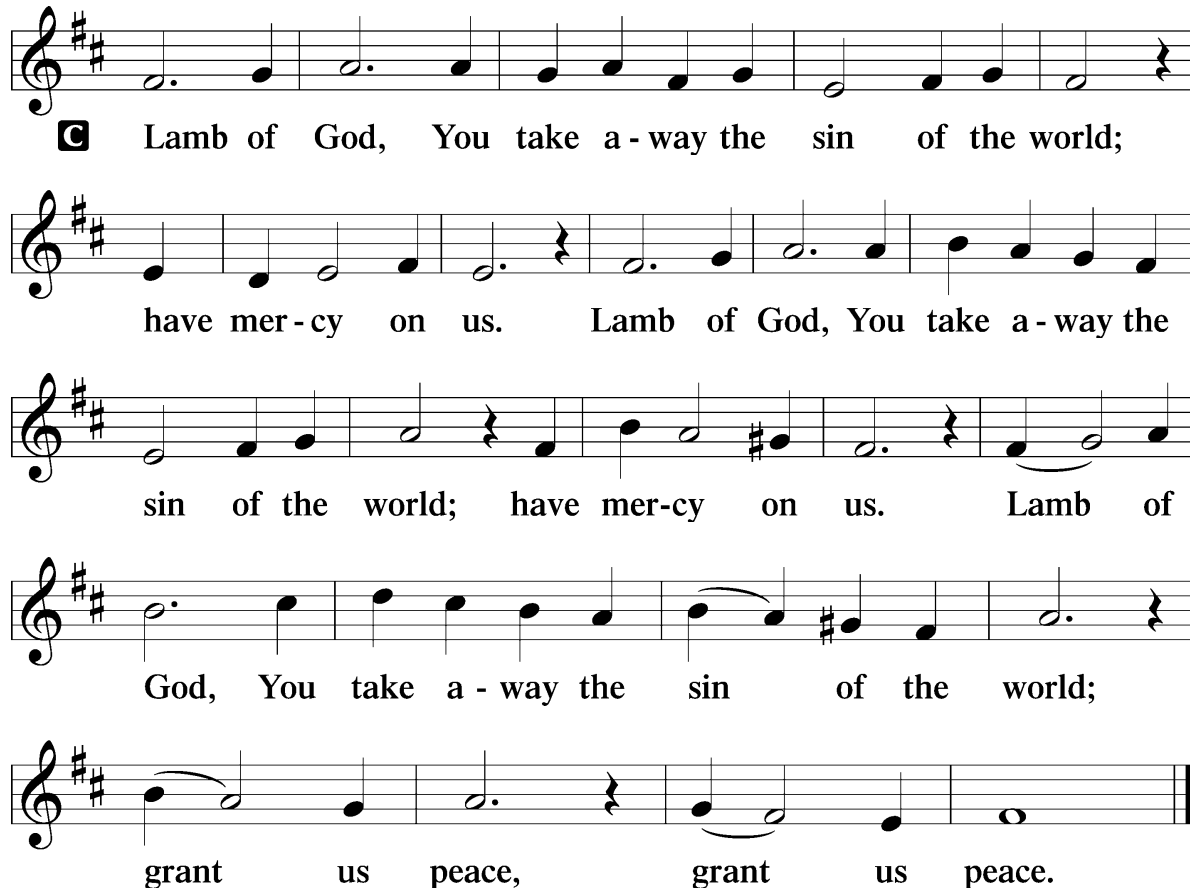
LSB 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei

LSB 180



Choir Anthem:

“Come, Share the Lord”

Words & Music by Bryan Jeffery Leech

Arr. by Roland Tabell

Distribution

Post-Communion Collect

A 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.

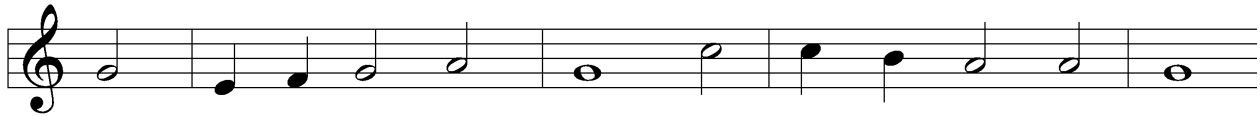
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



Announcements

Hymn to Depart: 649 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

V 1-5



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer bit - ter pain;
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com-forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz-ing tear.
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.
And per-fect love and friend-ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two 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.*

2nd 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*