

**"Do not
let your
HEARTS
be troubled.**

**Believe
in
God,
believe also
in me."**

John 14:1, NRSV

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAYER

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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.....	Don Votaw & Tim Hartnett
Ushers.....	Jerry Sturz & Matt Kraley
Reader	Barb Kraley
Greeters	Mike & Carolyn Griggs
Altar Circle	Linda Hartnett & Barb Kraley

As We Gather

Since 1986, voice actor Tom Bodett has had his career defined with a one-line promotion for the Motel 6 hotel chain. He always ends his commercials for the company with a simple line stating “we’ll leave the light on for you.” Having an assured place to be going to can be encouraging and comforting. As Jesus speaks with His disciples, we hear Him reassure them and us that He will be in His Father’s house, the heavenly place where lights are not even necessary. In the Revelation to John, we have this insight about our God’s eternal city: “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb” (Revelation 21:23). In “Jerusalem the Golden,” medieval monk Bernard of Cluny writes of the “radiancy of glory” and the “bliss beyond compare” that are in store for God’s redeemed people there (*LSB* 672:1). As we share in the foretaste of the feast to come through our worship, we can only imagine what joys still await us.

Call to Worship

Chimes

Prelude:

“Fugue in F”
By Johann Pachelbel

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: 814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul *V*

1-6



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

P The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

C **in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

P O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

C **In wisdom have You made them all.**

P May the glory of the LORD endure forever.

C **Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

Confession

P Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a**

penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P As you believe, so let it be. 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.

Service of the Word

Introit

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down
to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a
lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with
the morning.

**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.**

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

Kyrie

LSB 152

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.



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 unity 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 worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people 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: Easter 5

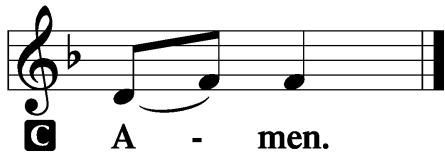
P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



First Reading:

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the

Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm:

Psalm 146; antiphon: v. 2

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth;

on that very day his plans perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Epistle:

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to
shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of

darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem:

“Blest are They”

By David Haas

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel:

John 14:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that

I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

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: 556 Dear Christians, One and All,
Rejoice** *V 1-4*



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood - ed dark - ly
3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer - it
4 But God had seen my wretch - ed state Be - fore the world's foun -



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my
gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all
da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
 moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My
 good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left
 my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
 life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
 on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.
 did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800-87, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: “Stones, Sand and Stars” *1 Peter 2:2-10*

Offering:

“Song of the Bells”

By John M. Rasley

Offertory

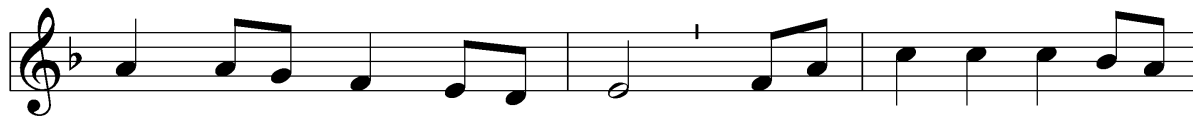
LSB 159



☐ What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to



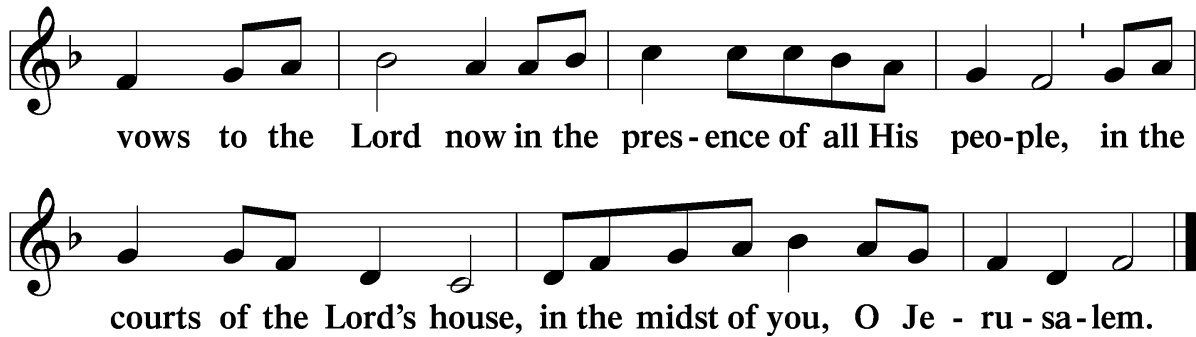
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



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



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.

Heavenly Father, through the power of Christ's resurrection You adopt all who believe in Him. Receive us as Your newborn children and nourish our faith through the pure spiritual milk of Your Word, that we may dwell in Your presence forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Send laborers into Your harvest, Lord. Preserve Your ministers among us devoted to Your Word and to prayer. Give many servants to Your Church, that neither the preaching nor the care of Your people may fall into neglect or disregard. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, help parents to raise up their children to know You as their help and hope, that they may not put their trust in princes in whom there is no salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, Your power brought all things into being and still preserves what You have made. Bless Donald, our president; the Congress of the United States;

_____, our governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants. Lead them to honor You and Your purpose, establishing order and justice, encouraging virtue, and protecting all life. Give them wisdom and moderation to lead for the well-being of the nation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of glory, Your Son declared Himself to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all who have requested our prayers [*especially* _____]. May Christ Himself be their way of salvation, their truth amid doubt and their life amid death. Grant them a sure and steadfast hope in the good news that He has prepared a place for them with You, where pain and sickness are no more and all things are made new. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, in Christ You have made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people for Your possession. Preserve Your people in the one true faith, and grant that all who come to the Supper this day might do so with repentant hearts that thankfully receive Your Son's body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, we thank and praise You for Your servant Stephen, whom Your Son has received into His glory. May we imitate him in faith and love to speak Your truth with boldness, forgiving those who sin against us as Christ forgave His persecutors from the cross. When our last hour comes, let us fall asleep in Him and be born into eternal life, for the sake of Him who was born into our flesh to redeem it, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

P Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

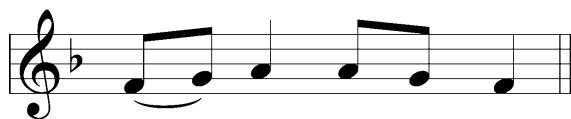
Our Belief Concerning the Lord's Supper
(Communion Confession spoken together)

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 160

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

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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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 161



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.**

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 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

Four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics underneath. The melody is simple and pastoral.

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.

Special Music:

“God Said, I Love You”

J. Reese/J. Rasley

Distribution

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek 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

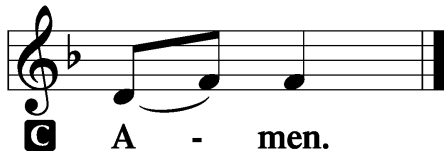


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

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 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: 921 On What Has Now Been Sown *V* 1-3



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
 2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
 3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
 Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
 May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
 es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
 low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.
 Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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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*