

Sunday & Monday July 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025



## ON A NEIGHBOR IN NEED



**ST. PAUL**  
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

## ON A NEIGHBOR IN NEED

*We tend to think of distraction and focus as opposites. If someone is focused, they are not easily distracted by random events and encounters. If someone is focused, every decision about how to spend time and resources is calculated. Apart from Christ that type of focus spells disaster for our neighbor. We may dismiss the needs of our neighbor thinking, "If I spend time helping him, that will distract me from other things that need my attention." This week, Jesus teaches us that he has set us free to live a life of such distraction. No matter the neighbor and no matter his need, we are free to give him our undivided attention, even if that seems senseless. Christ has set us free to bear any cost and go any distance to serve a neighbor as Christ himself would serve them.*

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Service Setting 2, CW p. 172

### Son of God, Eternal Savior

CW 729

*Stand*

### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the melody. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his'. The third staff continues with 'peo - ple on earth. Lord God,'. The fourth staff continues with 'heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we'. The fifth staff continues with 'wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your'. The sixth staff concludes with 'glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and'.

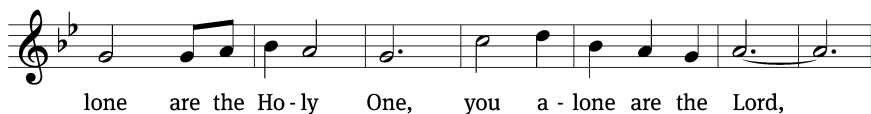
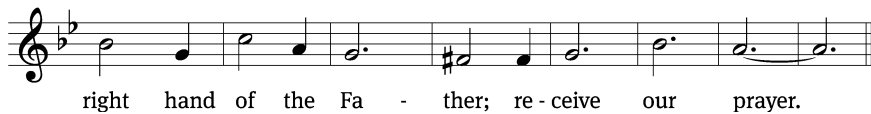
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

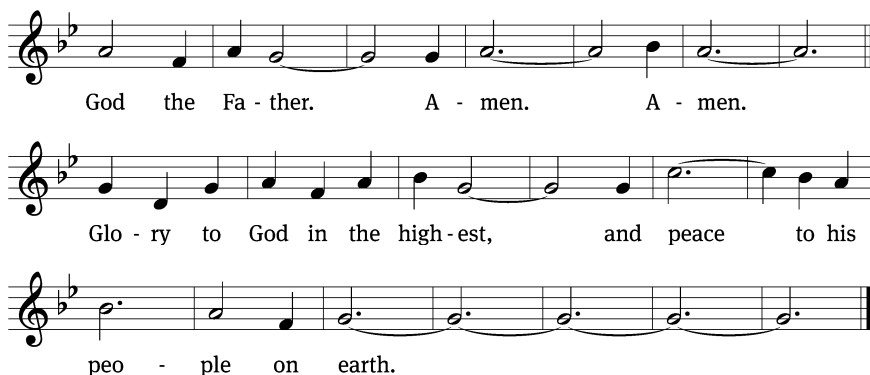
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,

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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and





Tune: Marty Haugen

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## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading & Sermon Text

*Ruth 1:1–19a*

*The LORD moves a Moabite woman named Ruth to care for her widowed mother-in-law, even though it meant leaving her people, her country, and her way of life behind.*

<sup>1</sup>In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup>The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

<sup>3</sup>Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon

and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup>When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup>With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

<sup>8</sup>Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. <sup>9</sup>May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.”

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup>and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”

<sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— <sup>13</sup>would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!”

<sup>14</sup>At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup>“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

<sup>16</sup>But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” <sup>18</sup>When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

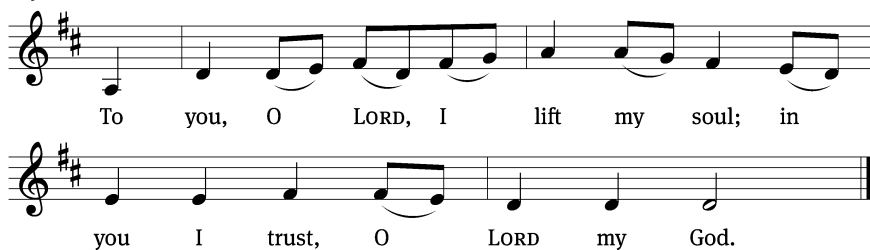
<sup>19</sup>So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem.  
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul

Psalm 25A

## Refrain



## Tone



In you, LORD my God, I / put my trust.

I trust in you; do not let me be / put to shame.

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me / your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my /  
Savior.

Remember, LORD, your great mer- / cy and love,  
for they are / from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my re- / bellious ways;  
according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, / are good.

## Refrain

LORD, forgive my iniquity, though / it is great.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and af- / flicted.

Look on my affliction and / my distress  
and take away / all my sins.

**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. Refrain**

Tune: Mark Haas

Setting: Mark Haas

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## Second Reading

Galatians 5:1,13–25

*Those who have been set free from the law by Christ naturally bear fruit that benefits their neighbor*

<sup>1</sup>It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup>You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup>For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup>If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

<sup>16</sup>So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup>The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup>and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

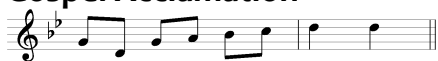
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:11



*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



### *Tone*



Dear friends, since God so loved us,

### *Refrain*



we also ought to love one another.

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## **Gospel**

*Luke 10:25–37*

*In a well-known parable, Jesus teaches us how one loves their neighbor.*

<sup>25</sup>On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.

“Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup>“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup>He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

<sup>28</sup>“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup>But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup>In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup>“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup>The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

CW 768

### Sermon

Pastor Matt Holtz

*Stand*

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Be seated*

### Prayer of the Church *(Congregational response is bold.)*

*Several prayers and petitions will be made. Each ends:*

Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love.

**Show us your ways and teach us your paths.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

In the silent prayers of our hearts we cast all our cares on you.

*Silent prayer.*

Blessed Lord, you have commanded us to love one another. Just as we have received your undeserved blessings, may we love everyone in you and for you. Give us a spirit of compassion and mercy that the blessings you have given us may flow through us to our neighbors to

serve them in their needs; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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## Offering

### Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

CW 737

*Stand*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

**Amen.**

### Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

CW 726

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#### Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

Preacher: Matt Holtz

Presiding Minister: Matt Holtz

Accompanist: Becky Ryan

### Service Teams:

8:00 a.m.      Team Woehler; AV: Ti. Falck

9:30 a.m.      Team Hoh; AV: C. Woehler

6:00 p.m.      Team Waack