



**FIRST LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

*Set your mind on things  
above, not on earthly things.*

COLOSSIANS 3:2

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

AUGUST 3, 2025

# WELCOME



## Worship Series: Undivided Attention

August 3, 2025

We live in a world where a thousand things are competing for our attention. There is the real danger that we focus on the frivolous and ignore the indispensable. As a result, we often talk about the importance of being “free from distraction.” But the stakes are higher than that. We need to be freed from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference, not only here and now, but also in eternity. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us. On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give his followers power and focus. Still today, through his Word, Jesus grants those gifts to his disciples.

We have come to the second half of the Church Year. In the first half, we focused on the life of Christ. In this second half, we turn our attention to all the teachings of Christ. May we give them our undivided attention.

### Today's Focus: On Useful Resources

Money. Possessions. Perhaps more than anything else, those things have the power to turn our attention away from what is truly important. It is no surprise, therefore, that Jesus frequently teaches about wealth. Christ wants us to understand that it is our heavenly Father who provides us with those useful resources. But we need to know why our Father gives them: what they are useful for, and what they are not useful for. Those resources cannot give purpose or meaning to our lives on earth. They cannot give us security for life after this earth. However, the blessings God provides can bring some joy to our lives. More importantly, our wealth is extremely useful in our efforts to serve God and others. This week let us give our undivided attention to what Christ says about the useful resources our gracious Father provides to us.

### SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Jeremy Laitinen | **Accompanist:** Robert Joseph  
**Elder:** Drew Sherman | **Altar Guild:** Kris Hills | **Projectionist:** Margie Smith

# Opening Hymn

# 778 Father, We Praise You



1 Fa - ther, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and  
 2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our  
 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand - ing now be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer  
 weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,  
 bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion: thus we a - dore you.  
 where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.  
 gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

Text: attr. Gregory I, c. 540–604; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936  
 Tune: Antiphoner, Paris, 1681  
 Text and tune: Public domain



O Lord, o - pen my lips,



and my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



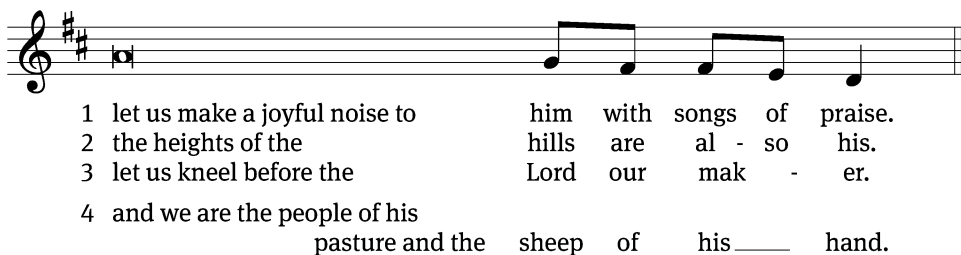
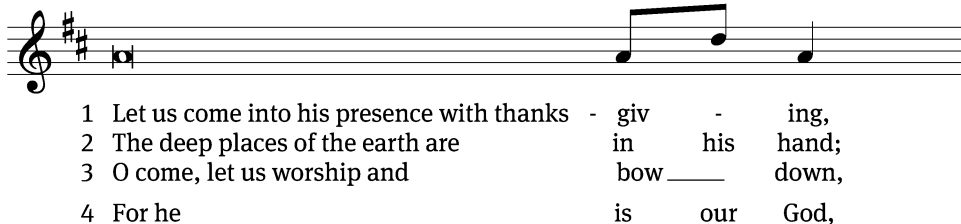
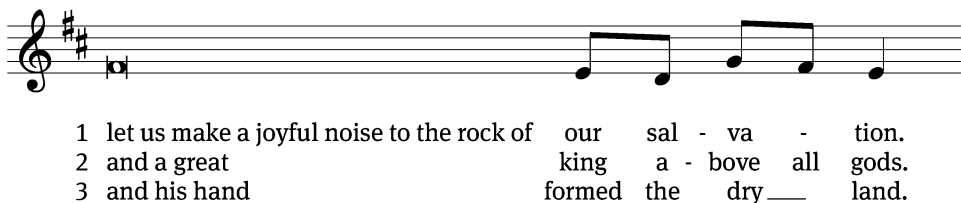
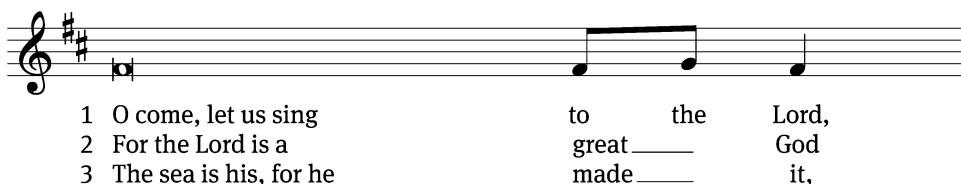
Has - ten to save me, O God;



O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



## O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord



## First Reading

## Ecclesiastes 1:1-2,12-14; 2:18-26

*King Solomon, possibly the wealthiest man who ever lived, learned by experience the limited value of earthly possessions.*

The Word of the Lord.

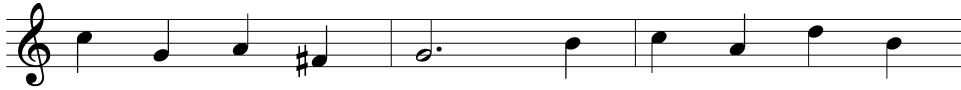
Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

## Psalm 90



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the  
saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is your  
earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing  
like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
you are God, to end - less years the same.  
ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an everrolling stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home!

## Second Reading

Colossians 3:1–11

*Believers are liberated from the idolatry of greed as they put to death their sinful nature and are renewed in their new life in Christ.*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

Luke 12:13–21

*Greed's folly is felt in life and will be exposed in death. Through a parable, Jesus gives us a strong warning against greed.*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Hymn

704 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex -  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, to his im - age  
3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus; his death from the  
4 Let us glad - ly live with Je - sus; since he's ris - en



am - ple pure, flee the world which would de - ceive us and to  
e'er con - form; heav - en's glo - ry soon will please us, sun - shine  
sec - ond death, from our soul's de - struc - tion, frees us, quick - ens  
from the dead, death and grave must soon re - lease us. Je - sus,



sin our souls al - lure. Ev - er in his foot - steps tread - ing,  
fol - low on the storm. Though we sow in tears of sor - row,  
us with life's glad breath. Let us mor - ti - fy, while liv - ing,  
thou art now our head. We are tru - ly thine own mem - bers,



bod - y here, yet soul a - bove, full of faith and  
we shall reap in heav'n - ly joy, and the fears that  
flesh and blood and die to sin, and the grave that  
where thou liv - est, there live we; take and own us



hope and love, let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
now an - noy shall be laugh - ter on the mor - row. Christ, I  
shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
con - stant - ly, faith - ful Friend, as thy dear breth - ren. Je - sus,

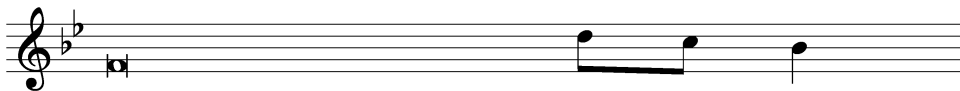


Lord, a - bide with me; Sav - ior, lead; I fol - low thee.  
suf - fer here with thee; there, O share thy joy with me.  
here I die to thee, there to live e - ter - nal - ly.  
here I live to thee, al - so there e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. J. Adam Rimbach, 1871–1941, alt.  
Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

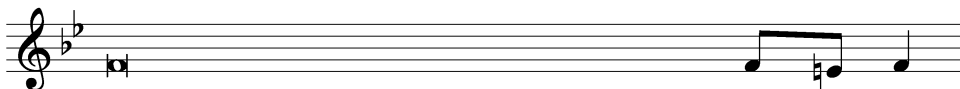
## We Praise You, O God



- 1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim      you      as      Lord;  
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of      heav'n - ly      hosts,  
 3 The white-robed army of martyrs      praise \_\_\_\_      you.



- 1 all creation worships you,      Fa - ther      ev - er - last - ing.  
 2 heaven and earth are      full \_\_\_\_      of your glo - ry.  
 3 Throughout the world the      ho - ly Church ac - claims      you:



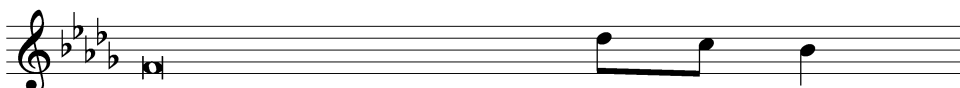
- 1 To you all angels, all the      pow'rs of heav'n,  
 2 The glorious company of apostles      praise \_\_\_\_ you.  
 3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and      on - ly Son;



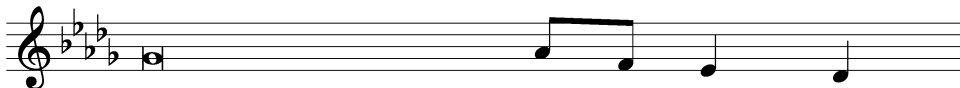
- 1 cherubim and seraphim,      sing      in      end - less praise:  
 2 The noble fellowship of      proph - ets      praise \_\_\_\_ you.  
 3 and the Holy Spirit,      ad - vo - cate      and      guide.



- 4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry,      the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.

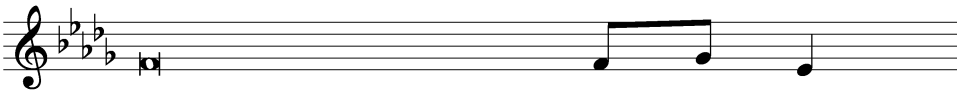


- 5 When you became man to      set      us      free,  
 6 You sit at the right      hand      of      God

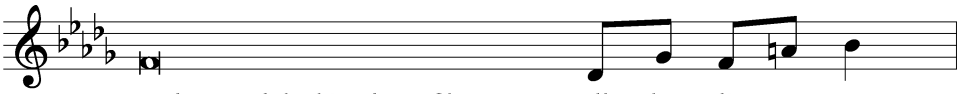


- 5 you humbled yourself to be born      of      a      vir - gin.  
 6 in the glory      of      the      Fa - ther.

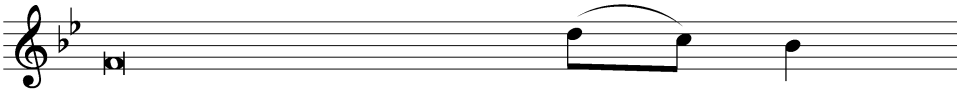




5 You overcame the                      sting      of      death  
6 We believe that                      you      will      come



5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to      all      be - liev - ers.  
6 to                      be      our      judge.



7 Come then, Lord, and help your                      peo -                      ple,



7 bought                      with      the      price      of your own      blood,

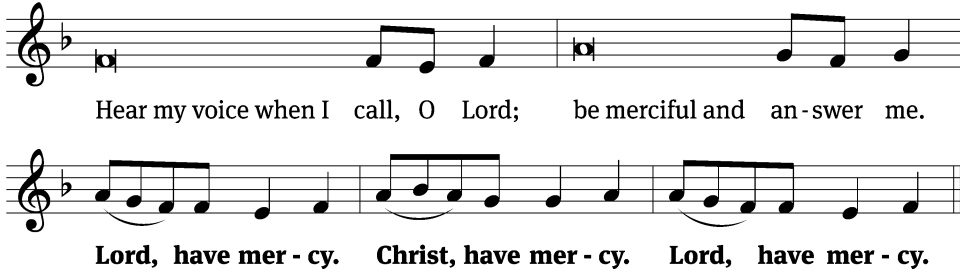


7 and bring us      with      your      saints                      to glory      ev - er - last - ing.

**Offering**

**WELS Connection**

## Lord, Have Mercy



## Prayer of the Day

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures you have stored up for us in heaven that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of your grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**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.



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



A - men.

## Closing Hymn

## 717 What Is the World to Me



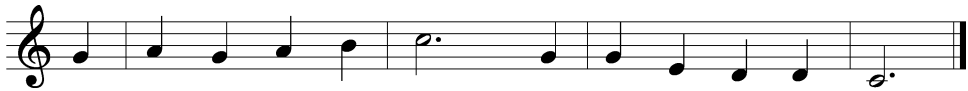
1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure  
2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,  
3 The world is like a cloud and like a va - por fleet - ing,  
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!  
yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.  
a shad - ow that de - clines, swift to its end re - treat - ing.  
my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, my soul's de - light shall be;  
I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll be;  
My Je - sus shall re - main, though all things fade and flee,  
my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!  
my Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!  
my ev - er - last - ing rock. What is the world to me!  
Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: Abasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701  
Text and tune: Public domain

### Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer from Christian Worship

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