

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 18, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Prelude “Christ Is Our Cornerstone” -Franklin Ritter

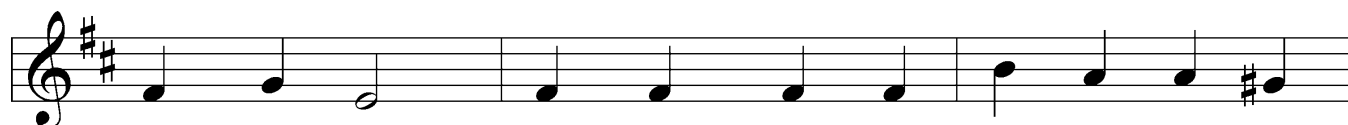
Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

LSB 793



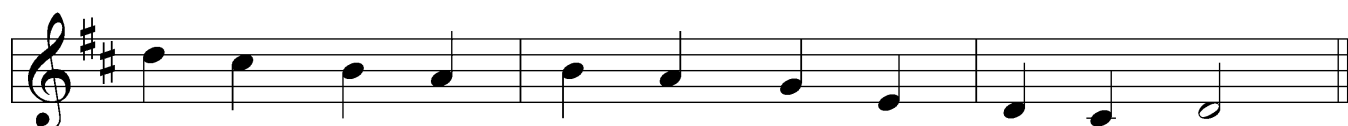
1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your
2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple
3 Fa - ther-like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore Him; You be - hold Him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,
frame He knows; In His hand He gent - ly bears us,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,
Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,
Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia,
All who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.
al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.
al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Tune and text: Public domain

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Pastor: You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!

People: He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

Pastor: His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

All: 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.

Pastor: You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Pew Edition

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Proper 11 (Year B)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1–6

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and

shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Epistle

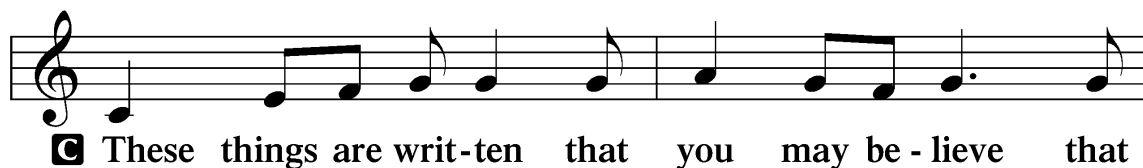
Ephesians 2:11–22

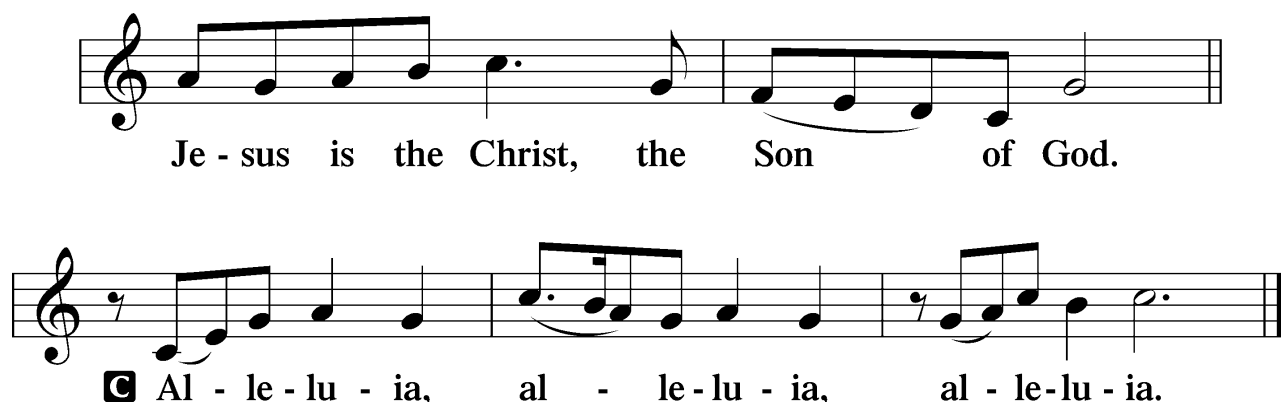
Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse





Holy Gospel

Mark 6:30-44

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence 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.**

Hymn of the Day: “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

LSB 563

1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.

4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.
Text: Public domain

Sermon “Shepherd(s) and Sheep” Jeremiah 23:1-6

I. What are we most like?

- S_____ are mentioned over 500 times in the Bible!

II. Shepherds (23:1-2)

- Who are the shepherds in Jeremiah?
- What didn’t they do?

III. Sheep (23:1-4)

- How are we like sheep?

IV. Shepherd (23:3-6; Mark 6:34)

- Who is the embodiment of this promise?
- What does He do for us?
- Who was the last king before the exile? What did his name mean?
- What five-word phrase, or name, is the summary of the Bible?

What creature are we most like? In the nineteenth century, Charles Darwin claimed that people are most like monkeys. That was wrong then, it is wrong today. Today, many biologists now say that people are most like rats. Why? Whatever makes a rat sick tends to make us sick. Isn’t that a happy thought? We are like rats? Other scientists believe people are a lot like bees because we’re social creatures who live in highly structured societies. Still, others compare us to dolphins because dolphins and people have a similar ratio of brain-mass to body-size. Monkeys, rats, bees, and dolphins. According to the Bible, what creature are we most like? I bet you know. Sheep! Sheep are mentioned over 500 times in the Bible-more than any other animal. (This morning, we will look at shepherds and sheep). Sheep need a shepherd, especially, when they have been hurt deeply. In our Old Testament text, Jeremiah says the sheep have been hurt greatly.

In the opening verses, we hear, **“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: ‘You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD.’** God says the sheep are hurt and scattered. Who is the culprit? The shepherds! Who are the shepherds?

In the book of Jeremiah, the shepherds are the leaders and rulers of the people. In the prior chapter, 22, Jeremiah gave three examples of bad shepherds, the last three kings of Judah. There were Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, and Jehoiachin. God says the leaders of the people, the kings especially, haven’t cared for the people. They didn’t protect and watch out for them. They didn’t do justice and righteousness. They misled the people, and because of that misleading, the sheep are scattered to other countries in exile. The shepherds failed in their duties. They were bad, and they were bad at what they did. The people who were to be the greatest blessing, and who were to exercise love and care, the shepherds, ended up doing the most damage and destruction to the sheep, the people.

There are times when authorities hurt us and do great damage. Called to extend justice and compassion, instead leaders might use their position to bring us great harm. They can act violently and irrationally. They can act carelessly and selfishly. What was it for you? Was it a boss or employer? A parent? A teacher? A coach? A professor? A mentor? For Howard Rutledge, it was a foreign government.

Howard Rutledge was an American fighter pilot during the Vietnam War who was shot down and captured by the North Vietnamese in 1965. They locked up Rutledge up in a prison in Hanoi, North Vietnam. What was the prison called? *Heartbreak Hotel*. There, Rutledge was locked in a 6 x 6 cell. There were no books, no magazines, and no newspapers. The colors were drab gray and dirt brown. He fought to keep his sanity. He was eventually released eight years later. Sometimes, life gets dark, really dark, when those in power choose to harm us and hurt us. After all, we’re just sheep.

Sheep are defenseless. Sheep can’t see very far, less than 15 yards (they can’t see the back of the church from where I’m standing). They don’t know what hits them until it hits them. They have no natural defense defenses, no claws, horns, or fangs. To make matters worse, they are top-heavy. Their legs are thin and wobbly. They are prime targets for hungry wolves.

Sheep are distracted. Sheep are distracted by nasal flies, bot flies, and warble flies. When tormented by these pests, it is impossible for sheep to lie down and rest. They get up on their feet, stamp their legs, and shake their heads. Poor sheep can become so distracted that even a jackrabbit suddenly popping from behind a bush can cause an entire flock to freak out and begin a stampede. This leads to the next point: sheep aren't that bright.

Shepherds tell stories about how one sheep falls off a cliff and the rest of the flock follows that one over the edge! In 2005, Turkish shepherds watched in horror as hundreds of sheep followed each other over a massive cliff. More than 400 sheep died, but their bodies cushioned the fall of the additional 1,100 sheep that followed them.

Isn't this us? Defenseless, distracted, and dumb? We are sheep who wander from the Shepherd and His fold where we are safe, secure, and fed. We are sheep who truly are defenseless. We are vulnerable, and we are dependent on God for all that we have and for who we are. We are sheep that are distracted and dumb: we continually fall prey and are distracted by what enslaves, kills, deceives, and destroys us. We unwittingly go from one spiritual danger to the next. Sheep need a shepherd, don't they? Fortunately, God knows that.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God says that He will gather His flock again. He will restore His people, and He will bring them home. He will undo the curse, and see that they are cared for, attended to, and no longer missing. God promises, **"Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring the back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.** What a promise by God! The people will have a shepherd again.

Jesus is the embodiment of this very promise. Our Gospel text shows this well. In verse 34, we hear, **"When Jesus went ashore, He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd."** You aren't shepherdless! Jesus knows you need a shepherd. Jesus sees your pain and hurt. Jesus knows your needs and sin. Jesus cares for you, both in body, and in soul. He provides all that we need to support our bodies and lives. Jesus, our Shepherd, distills all fear. Psalm 23 proclaims: **"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."** We aren't defenseless or alone: the Shepherd walks with us. If we can't see Him when we suffer sadness, His promised presence prevails for us through baptism. If we feel that He is too far away when our heart is broken, He invites us to His supper, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body. Take, drink, this is my blood." When we lament with Jeremiah, **"I sat alone"**, Jesus is our constant companion. Jesus our Shepherd searches for, and gathers those who are His own. He seeks us when we wander, calling us back through His Word. He calls us when we get distracted, and breaks sin's deadly hold on our lives.

But God isn't done promising things, yet. The prophet continues with a prophecy about Jesus, calling Him a name that is the Bible summed up in five simple words. The last king before the exile was a man called Zedekiah, which means, "My righteousness is the Lord." The name of this promised Shepherd King is "The LORD is our righteousness." Isn't that name the summary of Scripture? Isn't that what it is about? The Bible is about how God sent His Son into our flesh to take on our sin, be our Savior, and to give us the righteousness that we could never hope to earn. Unlike Zedekiah, this King will live up to His name. Zedekiah might have had the name, but Jesus gives the gift: the gift of righteousness. Righteousness is His essence, His being, and His nature. God gives by faith what the shepherds and sheep of Judah lacked: righteousness. He gives us by faith what we utterly lack: righteousness, so we can be right with God and live before Him. This righteousness that God imputes gives us hope: hope for the future, hope for the new creation, and hope for life as a sheep.

Our sermon hymn captures this well in stanzas one and two: "Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness/ My beauty are, my glorious dress/ Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed/ With joy shall I lift up my head....Bold shall I stand in that great day/ Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay/Fully absolved through these I am/ From sin and fear, from guilt and shame." This hope encompasses our entire lives: The LORD is our righteousness.

What creature are we most like? Monkeys? Rats? Bees? Dolphins? Sheep. We are sheep, and that is great thing when you have a Shepherd King like Jesus. In His Name, AMEN.

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new 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

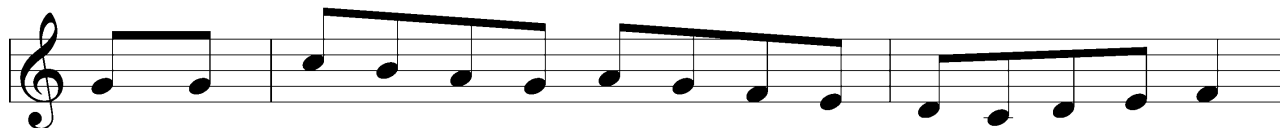
LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

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."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing. You may kneel, but it is not required.

Distribution Hymn: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

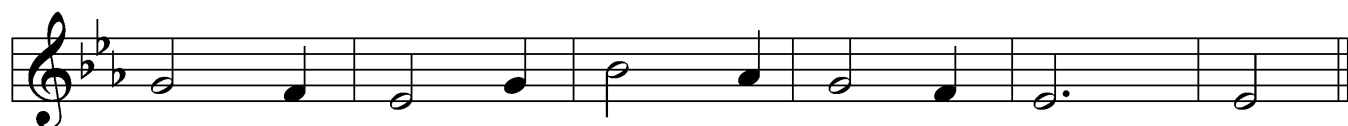
LSB 709



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text and tune: Public domain



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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.

C

Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A

Let us bless the Lord.

C

Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 212

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.

C

Amen.

Hymn: “Have No Fear, Little Flock”

LSB 735



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; Have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; Have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; Praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; Thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, For the Fa - ther has cho - sen To
flock, For the Fa - ther will keep you In
bove, For He stoops down to heal you, Up -
God, For He stays close be - side you, In



give you the King - dom; Have no fear, lit - tle flock!
His love for - ev - er; Have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; Praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; Thank - ful hearts raise to God!

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Postlude “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng” -David Schack

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Ephesians 2:13* – “*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*” What all of mankind’s efforts, works, and scheming could not do, the blood of Christ did. We have peace with God, and we are brought near to the Father. This life-giving sacrifice of Christ sets the pattern for the sacrifices we are called to make for others within our vocations in home, church, and society.

WE DID IT! Thanks to everyone’s efforts the youth collected more than 100 bags of shoes. Yes, we have over 2,500 pairs of shoes waiting for pick up in the Sunday School room. On behalf of the youth group, thank you for your help.

VBS: We will be having a Vacation Bible School this August. Families, please mark your calendars for August 11, 12 & 13 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. We will be learning about some amazing women of the Bible. If you think you will be attending, please let Nicole P know. If you would like to help in some way please also reach out to Nicole. We could use people in helping tell the stories, crafts, playing games, decorating, etc.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “The Peace Child” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A story about warring tribes and the peace which comes only through the giving of a son. (Ephesians 3)

Please join us after services today for a cake and beverage reception to celebrate Pastor Kooi’s fifth anniversary of his ordination and installation at Emmaus.

The reception will be held in the Social Hall. We hope that you can join us. If there are any questions, please contact any member of the fellowship committee: Kjersti Duncan, Pam Nelson, Marilyn Pierce, and Magdalena Brown