

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 15, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Prelude “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now” -Telemann
“Prelude in C” -Bach

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

LSB 901



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be
en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee
Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the
is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.**

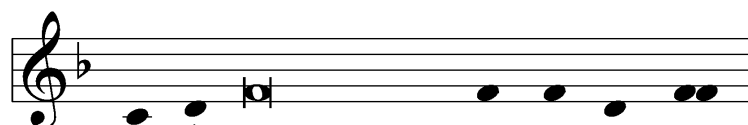
Service of the Word

Introit

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! **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.** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Kyrie

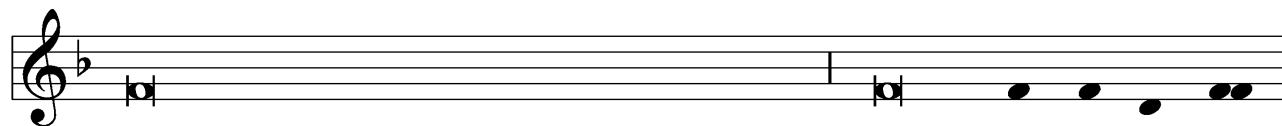
LSB 152



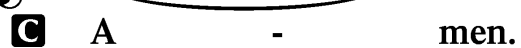
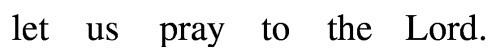
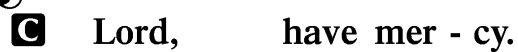
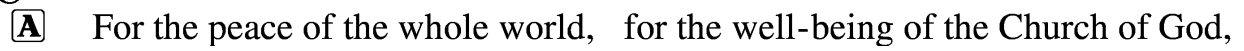
A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

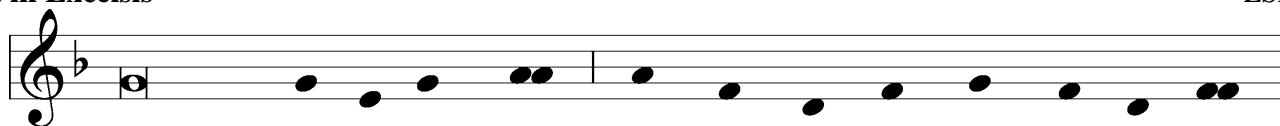


C Lord, have mer - cy.



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





A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



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



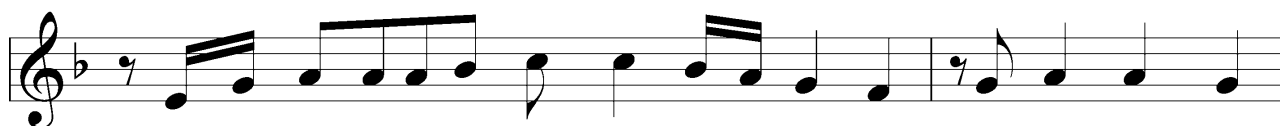
We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



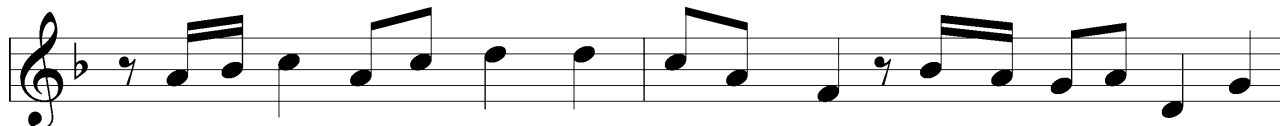
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 15 (Year B)

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, ... “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalms 34:12–22

What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:6–21

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms

and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Common 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 6:51–69

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
 2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True
 3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant

we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
 wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -
 claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
 us that way to know, That truth to keep, that

God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
 form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
 trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
 life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon Henry Francis Lyte was an Anglican minister who lived in the early 19th century and served parishes in England and Ireland. In 1820, Lyte’s friend, William Augustus Le Hunte, was on his deathbed, and Lyte visited him. When he did, an interesting interaction took place. Le Hunte kept repeating to himself the phrase “abide with me...abide with me...abide with me...” as Lyte sat with him. After leaving his friend, Lyte composed the hymn “Abide with Me”, inspired by Le Hunte’s repeated phrase. He then gave the family a copy of the hymn.

Some 27 years later, at the age of 54, Lyte himself would be in the same situation. He was on his deathbed, and had recalled the lines that he had written so many years before for his friend. He polished them up, had created the famous hymn, and gave the finished piece to a family member. Lyte died a few weeks later on November 20, 1847, and the hymn “Abide with Me” was sung for the first time at his funeral. Abide with me. Jesus promises to do just that in our Gospel text for today. However, what does it mean that Jesus abides with you, and with me? We often say it, and tell it to others it, but today, we will examine what that really means.

In John 6:56, Jesus gives us His promise that He will abide in us. He says, “**Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.**” But, what exactly does Jesus mean by that? Feed on my flesh? Drink my blood? Is He talking about communion, here? Throughout John 6, eating and drinking is a metaphor for believing in Jesus. It is not an explicit reference to communion, but we do see many similarities, don’t we? In the Formula of Concord, written after Luther’s death, the reformers helpfully make things clear. They say, “There is a twofold eating of Christ’s flesh. One is spiritual, which Christ describes especially in John 6:54. This ‘eating’ happens in no other way than with the Spirit and faith, in preaching and meditation on the Gospel, as well as in the Lord’s Supper.” There is the “eating” and “drinking” that is done by faith, and then there is the eating and drinking that is done in communion. The first one is what Jesus means, here. Jesus’ point is that *whoever* believes in Him will have Him abide in them, and they in Him. What a wonderful promise!

The remarkable thing is that Jesus promises this in other places, too. Later in chapter 15, Jesus promises this as He talks about Him being the vine, and us the branches. In 15:5, we hear Him promise: “**I am the vine;**

you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” In chapter 17, as He prays, He says, **“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”** Paul puts Jesus’ abiding this way in Galatians 2:20: **“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”** Our Lord doesn’t just save us; He actually abides in us. He takes residence and becomes one with us. He comes to us through Word and Sacrament. He abides in us by faith. But, again, what does that mean? Lyte introduces the first thought when he penned: “Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word/But as Thou dweltst with Thy disciples, Lord/Familiar, condescending, patient, free./ Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.” He does. Since Jesus abides in us, and us in Him, it means that *we aren’t alone*. It isn’t a brief sojourn.

And that is a good thing, especially as we endure a *different pandemic*, and it isn’t COVID. What is this other pandemic? The “loneliness pandemic.” In 2017, former United States Surgeon General Vivek Murthy called loneliness a public-health epidemic. Following suit, the United Kingdom appointed a “minister for loneliness,” and this is all before terms and concepts like “social distancing,” “self-isolation,” and “shelter-in-place” became part of our lingo. Studies have shown that 61% of all people between the ages of 18 to 25 reported feeling lonely either “frequently,” “almost all the time,” or “all the time.” More than half of all mothers with children reported being “seriously lonely.” The same studies said that 1 in 4 Americans feel misunderstood, and that 2 in 5 feel that their relationships lack meaning. Only 53% of all people claim to have meaningful interactions; roughly the same percentage of people eat their meals alone. Have you endured this? Are you, or is a loved one, too busy to interact because of work? Are you, or a loved one, too focused on a hobby, phone, or sport, to engage with those around you? Do you have lots of friends on social media, but no one who can truly listen to you at the end of the day?

Many people can struggle with having sufficient social support, which fuels the loneliness pandemic. The need for social connection isn’t undone by Jesus’ promise, but it does change things. Since He abides in us, and us in Him, *we are never truly alone*. Jesus abides, remains, resides, and dwells in those who trust in Him. He abides with His mercy and peace. He dwells with His joy and strength. Lyte gets it when he writes, “Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide/The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide/When other helpers fail and comforts flee,/help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!” The help of the helpless resides with you, and me. We aren’t *alone, never, ever*.

This isn’t the only thing it means, though. Since Jesus abides in us, we are never alone, and we are *known*. Have you ever said these words, or ones like it? “You don’t understand me, or what I’m going through. You’ll never know, and you’ll never understand.” It hurts when we say that, doesn’t it? It frustrates us when we think that, doesn’t it? We long to be known by someone. We long for someone to understand us. It shouldn’t be a surprise that (marriage) counselors often say the best relationships and friendships are those in which both people constantly seek to understand the other. We want to be understood. We want to be *known*.

An effect of Jesus abiding in us is that He knows us completely, even the hairs of our head, as a verse like Matthew 10:30 says. The last verse of Psalm 1 also comes to mind. There we read, “The Lord knows the way of the righteous”. The Hebrew word for *know*, *yada*, involves more than just information. It also includes having a relationship with. Our Lord began that relationship with us at baptism, where we were made His own. Our Lord knows us, He knows everything about us... and He still loves us. He knows our sin. He knows our secret ones. He knows our embarrassing secrets, terrible traits, numerous flaws, and many mistakes. He knows the things we would like to do over again. Yet, that didn’t turn Him away. Yet, that didn’t stop Him from knowing you and making you His own through His death and resurrection. Jesus knows you. He understands you. When no one can relate to us, or when no one cares to try, Jesus’ promise that He abides with and in us means that He truly does know and love us. Lyte understood this when he penned, “Thou on my head in early youth didst smile/And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile/Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee/On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.”

In addition to not being alone, and being known, Jesus abiding in us means that *we aren’t our own*. If you are a self-reliant person, or one who likes to be in control, this might not sound like good news. However, it is only bad news if the One Who owns you is self-centered and self-serving. Fortunately, the One Whom we

belong to, and Who abides in us, is capable of, and willing to do what is best for us, and there is nothing more freeing. Luther points out this paradox in his famous work, *The Freedom of A Christian*, when he notes that our perfect freedom is at the same time complete servitude. Paul the Apostle explains it this way in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, when he says, **“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body.”** We have been purchased and won with the precious blood of Jesus. His blood paid for our release, and covered our ransom from the clutches of sin, the fear of death, and the power of the devil. The One Who paid for our release, and Who saved us, lives and dwells within us. How might we glorify God with our bodies? What might that look like as we examine our lives? What might that look like as we look at our homes, and relationships? What might that look like as we look at our congregation and community? Does that mean working less hours to better live out our vocations as grandparent, son, daughter, child, or friend? Does it mean missing watching a football game to help a neighbor? Does it mean putting ourselves second to put someone else first, *even if they might never return the favor?* Our Lord’s promise changes *everything*.

We aren’t alone. We are fully known. We aren’t our own, and we belong to Him. Because of these things, we can echo Lyte’s closing verse and confidently say, “Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes/Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies/ Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee/In life, in death, O Lord, Abide with me!” Have no doubt He will keep that promise. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Apostles' Creed

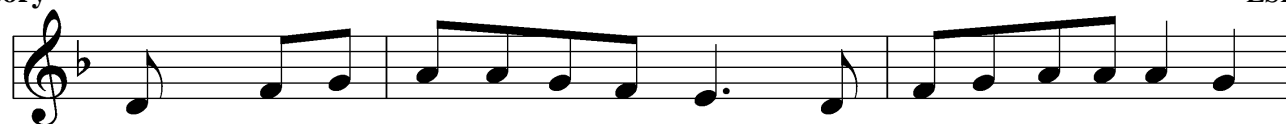
**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

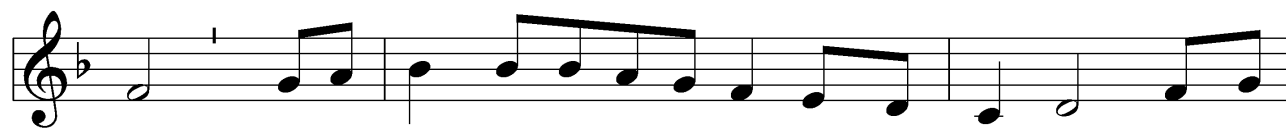
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Offering “Jerusalem, My Happy Home” -Bert Carlson



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

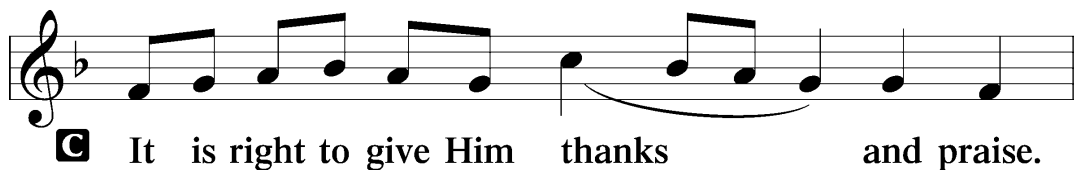
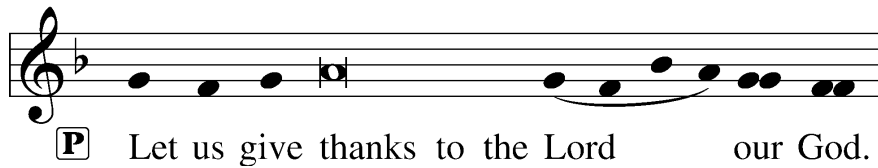
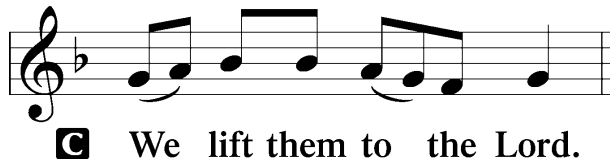
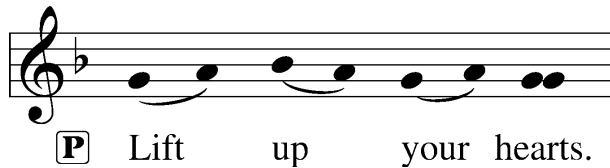
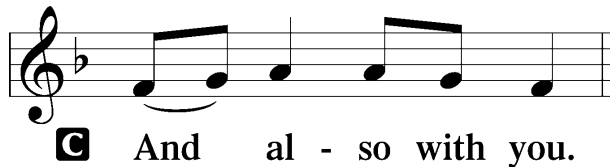
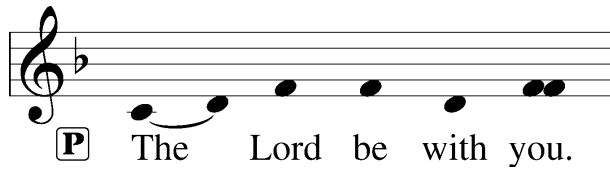


vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the

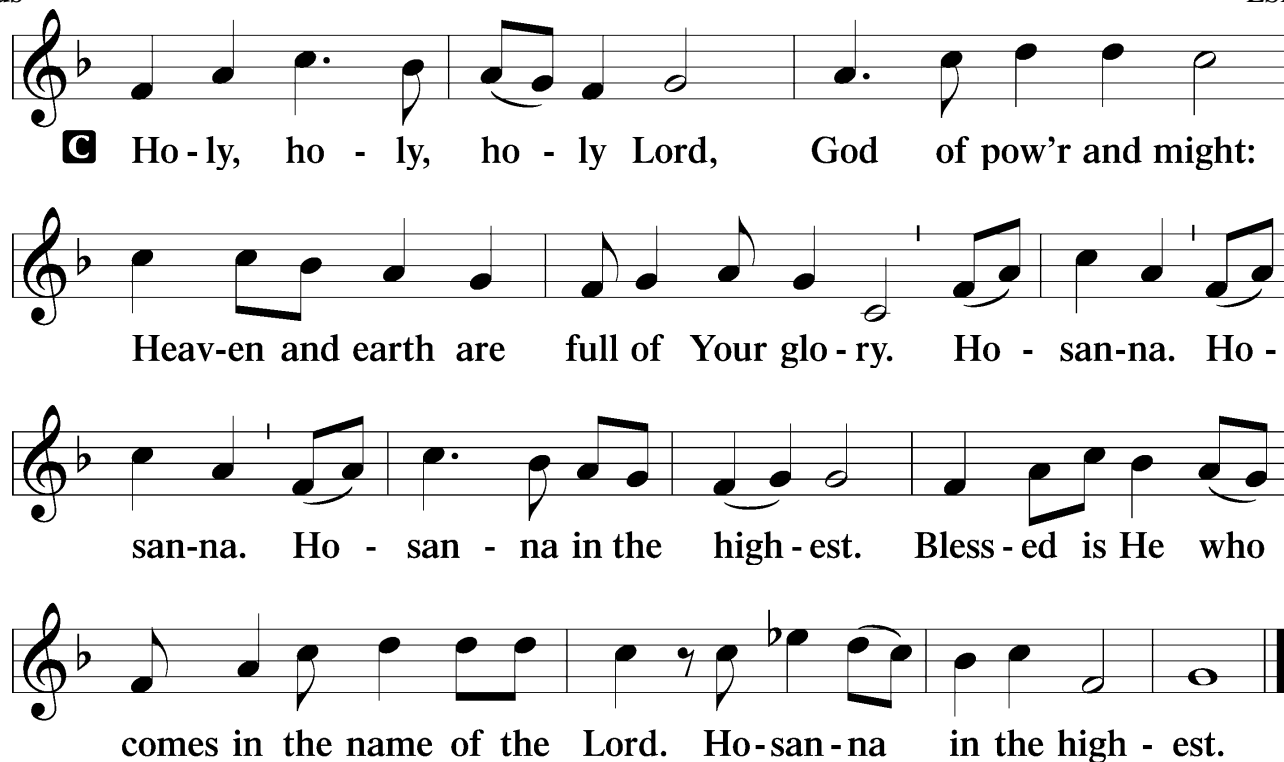


courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament



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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

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

LSB 162

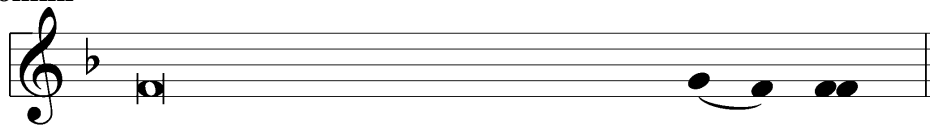
- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
 In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when 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."
- 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 al - ways.



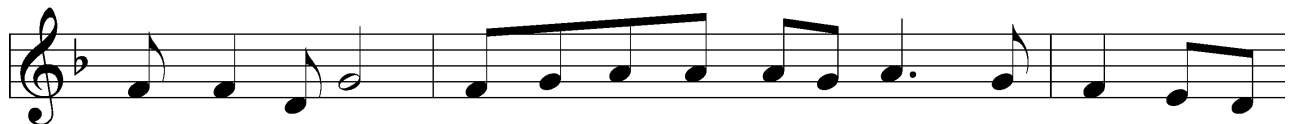
C A - men.

Agnus Dei

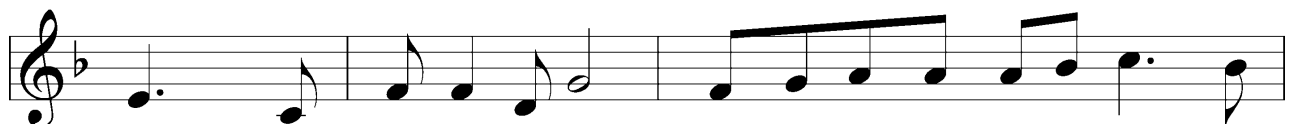
LSB 163



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.

Distribution

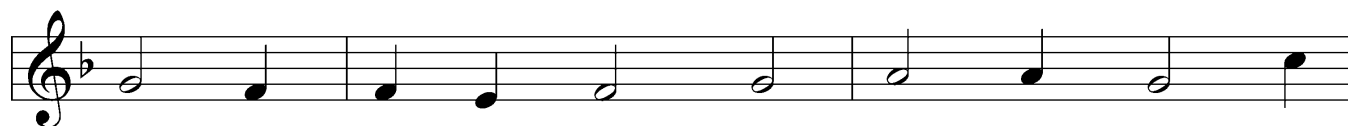
You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray 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: "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

LSB 623



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray That we may
2 Give us, who share this won - drous food, Your bod - y
3 By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the
4 One bread, one cup, one bod - y, we, Re - joic - ing
5 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray: O keep us



feast on You to - day; Be - neath these forms of
bro - ken and Your blood, The grate - ful peace of
gift of love re - told; All that You are we
in our u - ni - ty, Pro - claim Your love un -
stead - fast till that day When each will be Your



bread and wine En - rich us with Your grace di - vine.
sins for - giv'n, The cer - tain joys of heirs of heav'n.
here re - ceive, And all we are to You we give.
til You come To bring Your scat - tered loved ones home.
wel - comed guest In heav - en's high and ho - ly feast.

Text and tune: Public domain

"Come, Follow Me" -Johannes Walther

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



☐ 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

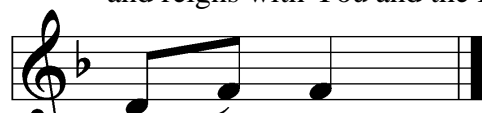


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

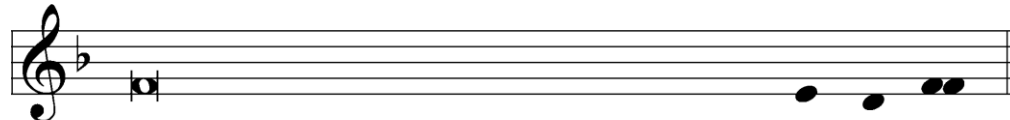
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

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.



C A - men.

Hymn: "Abide with Me"

TLH 552

1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou, Who changest not, abide with me!

3. Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word,
But as Thou dweltst with Thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.

4. Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friends of sinners, thus abide with me.

5. Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee.
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

6. I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the Tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!

7. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

8. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Postlude "Nun Danket Alle Gott" -George Kaufmann

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Ephesians 5:6-7 – “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them.”* The wrath of a God is a real thing, and we do well to reflect on this. We want to stay away from anything that would take us away from the Lord. As Mary replied to the angel Gabriel, “I am the handmaiden of the Lord, may it be to me according to your word.” We are the Lord’s servants, therefore we cling to His Word.

THE SHOES HAVE LEFT THE BUILDING! Thank you to everyone who

- donated shoes to the shoe drive;
- asked family, friends and neighbors for shoes;
- shared one or more of our social media posts;
- helped unload shoes from cars on Sunday mornings;
- bagged shoes on one of our collection dates or Sunday morning after church;
- hauled bags of shoes to the Sunday School area; and
- Gary, Nancy, Greg, Don, Carrie, McKayla, Pam N., Nicole, Dean and Arlen for loading shoes on Tuesday.

THANK YOU! Thank you so much to everyone who attended our wedding! Friends like all of you are what make Emmaus truly feel like home for both of us. Also, thank you to everyone who contributed to the St Paul Hotel gift card! That was so incredibly generous and unexpected. We are extremely touched by your thoughtfulness and felt quite emotional when reading the card. We couldn’t ask for a better church family and feel so blessed that you are part of our lives and our relationship.

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: “A Sunny Place for Shady People” Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann “Archives August.” The life of a notorious saint shows how the grace of God makes the Church a sunny place for shady people. (Ephesians 5:8)

CONCORDIA ACADEMY CRAFT FAIR: The Concordia Academy Craft Fair returns on November 13, and registration is now open for crafters and vendors, with an early registration discount through the end of August. Go to www.concordiaacademy.com/craftfair for details!