

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 29, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Prelude “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” -Johann Caspar Bachofen, set. Kevin Hildebrand
“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy” -Kornelius H. Dretzel, set. Kevin Hildebrand

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: “Just as I Am, without One Plea”

LSB 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. **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.** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

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 17 (Year B)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; 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

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the just decrees that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. . . . Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they

depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 119:129–136

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments. Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name. Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts. Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.

Epistle

Ephesians 6:10–20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse





Luke 15:11-32

C Glory to You, O Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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

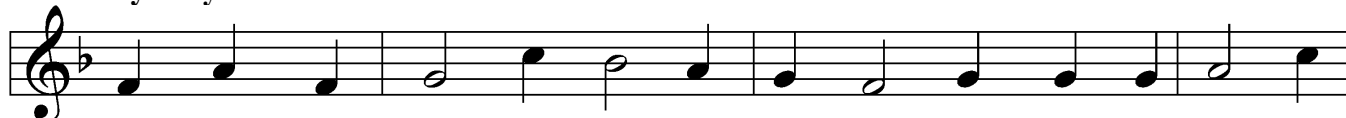
**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.**

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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: "By Grace I'm Saved"

LSB 566



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
 In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
 For though I know my heart's condition,
 I also know my Savior's voice.
 My heart is glad, all grief has flown
 Since I am saved by grace alone.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon (*Following is the online sermon by Pastor Kooi for this week. Please note that if you attend the service in person, there will be a different sermon by a guest speaker.*)

“Remember the Alamo!” This is a famous cry that we are all familiar with, even all the way in Minnesota. This cry comes from the Texas Revolution, where the state of Texas gained her independence from Mexico. But do you know the cry, “Remember the Maine!”? Most people probably don’t. Most people probably don’t even realize this war ever happened: the Spanish-American War. Ever even heard of it? For a brief time, from April to August of 1898, we were at war with the country of Spain. This is the war that began with Americans shouting, “Remember the Maine!” But, like I said earlier, we probably don’t remember the Maine, do we? This war was the one with Admiral Dewey at the battle of Manila Bay. This was the war with Teddy Roosevelt and his famed Rough Riders, and their charge up San Juan Hill. Almost, as if it never happened, in four months, Spain had surrendered. Fact is, they weren’t much of an opponent. By the late 1800s, Spain was several centuries past its prime.

As Paul ends our time in Ephesians, he tells us about a similar war that people don’t realize is going on. Why is that? It is because the enemy is largely unseen. This war is more critical than any our nation has ever fought, and the casualties are much greater. This time, the enemy is no pushover. Every ounce of our energy, every weapon we can bring to bear, every defense we can raise will not be enough. In this war, we need the full armor of God!

But who is this war against? Who is the enemy? In our lives, we fight many battles, don’t we? We certainly have internal ones. We have battles against the desires and works of the flesh. These are things like lust, strife, jealousy, selfishness, anger, envy, lying, coveting, drunkenness, and the like. We can battle with worry, and have bouts with doubt and anxiety. But we have external battles too, don’t we? We have battles with the enemies of the Church. You have false teachers. The other day I had a young family knock on my door to give me a pamphlet that doubted the divinity of Christ. Nice people, but a not a nice message. There can be oppressive governments, like those in Middle East, or Africa. It can be close to home with pagan neighbors and co-workers. It can be enticements of our old life, like a no-holds barred lifestyle or me first attitude. These are battles we may face, but these aren’t the real enemy. These may be his instruments, but, ultimately, they aren’t the real opponent. You know the enemy I’m talking about. He is unseen, but he is operating in the shadows, everywhere. The real enemy is Satan with his allies and flunkies.

St. Paul says, **“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”** This is the real enemy, and these are his allies. Paul wants to lift our eyes to see the battle waged on a grand, cosmic, and spiritual scale. As he does, he tells us about our enemy. He is a schemer and evil. The fact that he schemes shouldn’t be a surprise. Jesus calls him **“a liar and the father of lies.”** He is a murderer from the beginning. In Corinthians, Paul says he masquerades not as an angel of darkness, but rather, as an angel of light. Satan lies, deceives, and tricks. He wants our doom, death, and downfall. But perhaps one of his greatest tricks and lies though, is this: that people think there is no devil. When someone doesn’t think he exists, or when we forget, we forget we are at war.

When we do that, we get spiritually soft, flabby, and out of shape. We aren’t ready for combat. We become even more vulnerable to sin than we already are. We can begin to rationalize our favorite sins, whatever they may be: loving our cars a little too much; loving and elevating our technology a little too much; showing love for our kids a little too little; failing to show love to God at all, except the occasional Sunday morning. Whatever it may be, we have them. When we forget our war against Satan, we can rationalize almost anything! Why? It is because we think we are hearing words of wisdom rather than whispers of the enemy

who wants our death, defeat, and destruction. But Paul doesn't let us forget! He reminds, **"We do not wrestle against flesh and blood..."** Our enemy is real. He is at war with us as we speak, and he is powerful.

However, when the last drop of blood has been shed, we'll be able to stand against him, because God provides for us all the armor we need, for in Jesus Christ, you are equipped and armed. Paul says, **"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."**

Believer it or not, the Spanish-American War was a war that America wanted. No less than Teddy Roosevelt, the assistant secretary of the Navy at that time, wrote in 1897, "I should welcome any war. This country needs one." And the whole country got behind it. For that brief period, the energy of the whole country was put behind this conflict. We need the whole armor of God for our war against Satan. To Paul's way of thinking, there's no such thing as putting on half the armor of God. We need all the protection that God gives!

Picture the armor in your minds that Paul gives. It is worth bringing up that as Paul writes this, he is on house arrest and guarded by Roman troops. He may have been shackled to one as he wrote these words! Any soldier preparing for battle first grabs his belt to secure any loose clothing to prepare for moving quickly. **"Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth."** The truth is what is needed to be used against the devil, the father of lies. God's truth never fails, nor does it mislead. The equipping continues. **"having put on the breastplate of righteousness."** The breastplate protects the most vital and important organs, and Paul associates that with righteousness. We know that our righteousness will never stand against the devil, because our righteousness is like filthy and disgusting rags. But our God has fastened onto us the righteousness of Jesus. Jesus did that on the cross when He laid down His armor to die and rise from the grave to give us absolute protection against all of Satan's lies, accusations, and slanders. We have the assurance that we are forgiven. We wear Jesus' own righteousness.

There is more equipment. Every soldier needs footwear, and we have it alright. **"And, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the Gospel of peace."** We are prepared for battle by receiving the Gospel from Jesus through His messengers. Our best defense is the knowledge that peace has been won, and obtained. We are on the winning side. Because we are forgiven by Christ's death, we are at peace with God. We are in holy alliance with Him.

This means we never have to fear: **"in all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation."** Satan will do everything he can frighten us. He will tempt, threaten, and someday bring death. At seemingly every turn, he'll whisper, "Can God really get you out of this one?" In faith, we say, "Yes! He can, always has, and always will! If God is for us, who can be against us?" Faith, the crucial defense against the devil, is God's gift!

We are given a helmet. We have the helmet of salvation. In the ultimate battle of the cross and grave, Jesus defeated and broke Satan's power. Satan fired all his arrows and spent all his weapons. He has nothing left. Christ has given us victory by His death and resurrection. And that means that one day your helmet will become a crown.

No set of armor is complete without a sword. **"Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."** Often times, we can go into battle without our weapon! But when fighting, God's Word is the best piece to ward off Satan's thrusts.

But do you know what makes this armor so powerful, so invincible? All of this is the very armor of Christ Himself! While Paul wrote this on house arrest and surrounded by Roman soldiers, this illustration and idea of armor isn't original to him. It comes from Isaiah 59. There it says, **"God saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede, then His own arm brought Him salvation, and His righteousness upheld Him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head, He put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped Himself in zeal as a cloak."** What we wear is His old armor! Paul tells us that this armor is battle tested and approved. It has been worn to victory. The One Who wore it still fights for us. When we put on the armor of God, we're really wearing as our armor Jesus Himself, the victorious One. And if we are in Christ, we will be able to withstand the attacks, and win the war.

By 1898, Spain was a shell of its former self. Three hundred years earlier, it had been the most powerful nation on earth, but the defeat of its armada by the English in 1588 changed that forever. By the time we picked

a fight with Spain, it was a pushover. Satan once ruled the world, and even today, works in the shadows. He is no pushover, but he is pushed over. Christ has knocked Him flat. We're still at war, but let us remember that Christ has scored the decisive victory. In Christ, we are equipped and armed for victory.

Prayer of the Church

Offering "To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray" -set. John Eggert

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;



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,

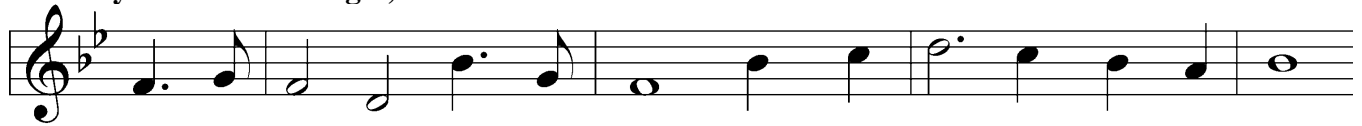
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

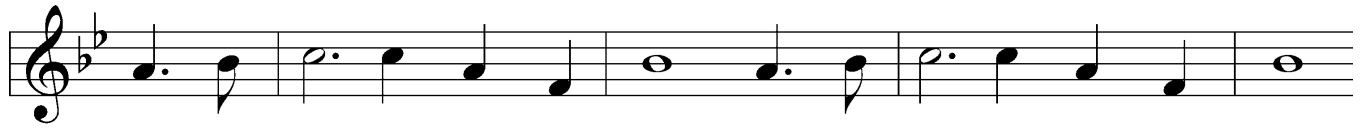
You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray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

LSB 761



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
 When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
 Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

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Nunc Dimittis

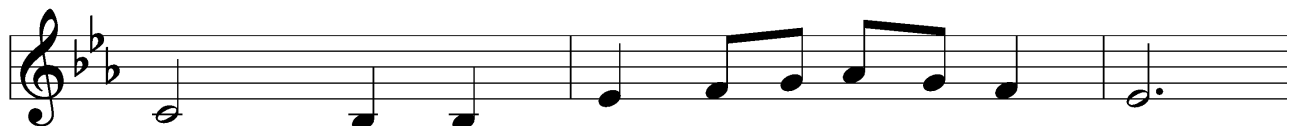
LSB 211



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 lead 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: "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

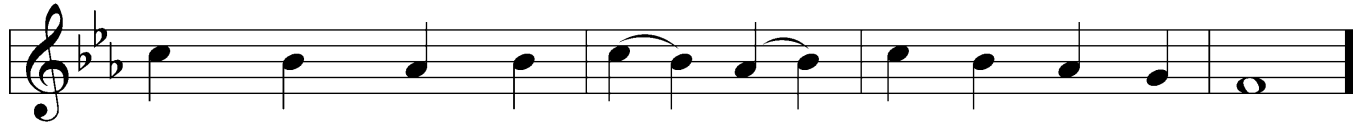
LSB 662



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,
2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,
4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, Join our hap - py throng,
With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.
Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.
But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.
Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:



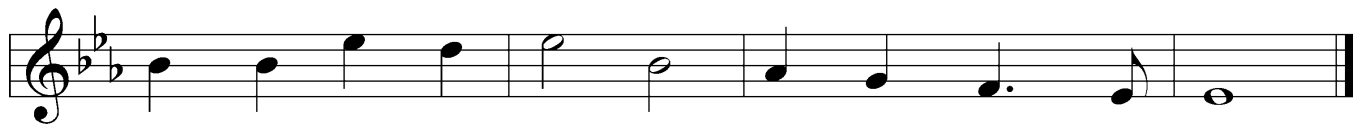
Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;
We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,
Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ, the king;



For - ward in - to bat - tle See His ban - ners go!
One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.
We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.
This through count - less a - ges Men and an - gels sing.



On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

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Postlude "Psalm 19" -Bendetto Marcello, arr. T. Gieschen

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Deuteronomy 4:6* – “Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ” There is no wiser, more fulfilling life than a life lived according to the Word of God. We should be encouraged by this when the world tempts us to think that the Word of God is harmful to us. Our Father loves us; so all His Word is meant to bless us. We may have to suffer for upholding the Word of God, as St. John the Baptist did. But the cross the Lord has for us to bear will be far better than any we would create for ourselves.

CHOIR RISERS: We are in the process of doing some fall cleaning, and would like to clear out the old choir/youth group risers that are currently being stored in the back of the fellowship hall. First, we want to make sure that they are not going to be used for a future event. If not, then there are 2 options for vacating them from the church. If anyone can use them, please contact the church. Another option is to see if they can be recycled via a local organization. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Chris G. Thank you!

BARNABAS BUDDIES: Coming this fall to our congregation on September 12th is Barnabas buddies. This will be for children college age and under who have attended one activity in the last two years. An adult or family will pick the child's name off the board. They will then during the year send letters, postcards, etc. to the children. They will also be praying for them. During the year the adult or family will not tell the children who they are. In May or June we will have a get together to reveal yourself to your Barnabas buddy. Any questions contact Nicole P or Pastor Nick.

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: "Living, Mighty, Active Faith" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. An elephant is a living, mighty, active thing. So is the faith of Jesus. (Isaiah 35:4-7)

CONCORDIA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS: Registration is still open for Concordia Academy's 7th-8th grade football team and 5th-8th grade Dance Team. These programs are open to students from any Twin Cities-area school and are designed to offer opportunities that will complement...not replace...the sports offerings at these students' current schools. In addition, our new Beacon Buddies program offers flag football, volleyball, soccer, and basketball camp options on Saturday mornings for students in 1st-4th grade. Information and registration can be found at www.concordiaacademy.com/beams.

CONCORDIA ACADEMY CRAFT FAIR: The Concordia Academy Craft Fair returns on November 13, and registration is now open for crafters and vendors. Go to www.concordiaacademy.com/craftfair for details!

MAIN STREET LIVING CHOIR

We are looking for singers to come sing in the Main Street Living Choir! We hope to meet in September (things could change so we will keep you posted). As of right now, we have to decide if we will meet on a Friday afternoon (September 24) or Saturday morning/afternoon (September 25).

If anyone is interested in singing with us, here's the plan. We will meet ahead of time for a little bit to rehearse and warm up (hymns will be sent to you ahead of time). You're welcome to bring your own hymnal (LSB) or we have plenty to share! Wear black pants and a white top. Recording will take a couple of hours so if you need a stool or chair, let me know ahead of time.

Check out Main Street Living here: <https://www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities/>

Please contact Amy Schutte, Music Director at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights, to RSVP. You can email me at acschutte10@gmail.com or call the church and leave a voicemail at 651-457-3929 X111. We need as many singers as we can get of ANY age! Please join us! Also, when you RSVP, let me know if you can do Friday afternoon or need to do Saturday. Give me YOUR email so I can reach you personally. THANK YOU!