

# Welcome: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church where our vision is “**educating, equipping, and empowering all people to live lives of Promise and purpose through Jesus Christ**”! We’re excited you’re here and look forward to the opportunity to learn more about your unique faith journey. As you spend time here, you’ll notice some amazing things:

1. You’ll notice warm and friendly people trusting in God’s promises and sharing their experiences.
2. You’ll notice authentic and vibrant worship. It could be Latin chanting, familiar old hymns, or a guitar-led modern worship piece, but in every instance, worship at Trinity comes from the heart. You’ll be noticed. When you’re here, expect people to be interested in you. You have an amazing story to tell, and we want to hear it!

## As We Gather

Jesus’ conversation with the rich man seems to point out how childish the man is. The reality is that we all are tempted like him to believe that the things of this life are our real treasures and the works we do in this life determine if we are saved. The man could not let go of either—not of his own prospect of earning the kingdom of God nor of his many possessions and wealth that secured his life. The man was disheartened by the choice between Christ and these things when in reality there is no choice at all. Our wealth is temporary and relative and our works small and insufficient. Christ is the assurance of our salvation.

## Prelude

*Jeff Edwards*

*The Congregation prepares their hearts for worship. "...Let us draw near with a true heart..." (Hebrews 10:21-25)*

# Confession and Absolution

*Please stand.*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

## Exhortation

- 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.**

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

## Confession of Sins

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.**

## Absolution

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

*Please stand and face the Processional Cross.*

*The candles are lit during the Processional Hymn.*

## Processional Hymn: 782 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

*sts. 1, ref. 2, 4*



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings  
2 By Your Word You formed cre - a - tion  
△ 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing



New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies  
Filled with crea - tures large and small; As we tend that  
Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and



nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.  
end - less trea - sure May our care en - cir - cle all.  
Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

*Refrain*



Lord, we pray that we, Your peo-ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,



Through the shar-ing of Your bless-ings May bring glo-ry to Your name.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946  
Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati  
Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000832  
Tune: Public domain

## Service of the Word

### Kyrie

*Mark 10:14*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



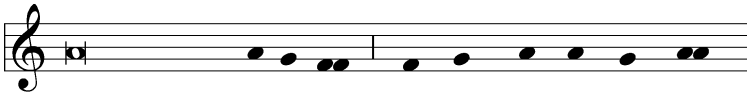
**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



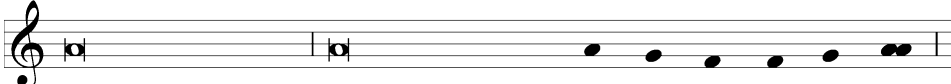
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



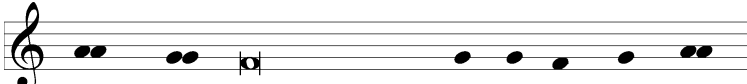
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**A** Glo - ry to God in the high - est, 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

*2 Timothy 4:22*

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus

Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## Old Testament Reading

*Amos 5:6–7, 10–15*

A The Old Testament Reading is written in Amos, chapter 5.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live,

lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph,  
and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel,

<sup>7</sup>O you who turn justice to wormwood  
and cast down righteousness to the earth! . . .

<sup>10</sup>They hate him who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor him who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and you exact taxes of grain from him,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not dwell in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and turn aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time,  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good, and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil, and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

Hebrews 3:12–19

A The Epistle is written in Hebrews, chapter 3.

<sup>12</sup>Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup>But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup>For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. <sup>15</sup>As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

<sup>16</sup>For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? <sup>17</sup>And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup>And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup>So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second staff contains the lyrics: "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia." The music consists of simple, rhythmic patterns using quarter and eighth notes.

## Holy Gospel: The Rich Young Man

Mark 10:17–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>18</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” <sup>20</sup>And he said to him,

“Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” <sup>21</sup>And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup>Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

## Children's Message

*Gloria Tausch*



## Hymn of the Day:

## "In Christ Alone"

- 1 In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.
- 2 In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.
- 3 There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain



Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

- 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Stuart Townend  
Text: © 2002 CCLI. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11008289

## Sermon

*Please stand.*

## Nicene Creed

- C I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*"Us men" means all people.*

*Christian: the ancient text reads "catholic", meaning "the whole".*

*"Church" as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.*

*Please sit or kneel as you are able.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with compassion on Your Church. Protect Your children from an evil, unbelieving heart that would lead us away from You into the deceitfulness of sin. By Your Spirit's power, enable us to hold our original confidence firm to the end. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord, God of hosts, keep us from hating those You send to reprove us with Your law. Do not let us abhor those who speak Your truth to us, that we might repent and live. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, Your Son warns us against the danger of trusting in wealth and earthly goods. Give us hearts that are content with His promises and hands that are generous with our worldly possessions. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, in kindness remember the president of our country, our Congress and justices, and all who bear office in this land. Protect them from the temptations of power and wealth that would lead them away from their calling. Make their service a blessing to our land and its people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those with special needs and concerns these days, remembering the sick, the shut-in and the hospitalized, and other situations especially *Connie, Mike, George, Claire, Greg, Sarah, Bryson, Katie, Shirley, Cathy, Peggy, Rosemarie, John, Bridget, Jamie, Sue, Theresa, George, Bonnie, Donna, Barb, Suzanne, Travis, Susan*, those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, those who are homeless, those with mental health concerns, those who are lost or forgotten, those who have never heard the Gospel, and those we now name in our hearts.

*Individual prayers may be offered at this time.*

From Your treasury of grace, meet the needs of all who call to You, granting them whatever is best for their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, satisfy our longing hearts with Your steadfast love here in the feast of Christ's body and blood, that we may rejoice and be glad in You all our days and into eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We give thanks to You, O Lord, for the faithful of every time and place who heard Your Word and held their confidence firm to the end. Keep us steadfast in the faith, that we may have our share with them in the eternal inheritance that You have promised; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## Offering: 784 Take My Life and Let It Be

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19  
sts. 1-2, 4, 6



1 Take my life and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,  
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would  
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its



Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them  
of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and  
I with - hold; Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry  
treasure store; Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er,



flow in cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.  
beau - ti - ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.  
pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.  
on - ly, all for Thee, Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79  
Tune: Henri A. C. Malan, 1787-1864  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand.*

## Service of the Sacrament

### Communion Statement

Trinity Lutheran Church joins together in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, are asked first to speak with the pastor. In the mean time, please feel welcome to come forward and receive a special blessing.

## Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al-so 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.

## Proper Preface

**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. 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

*Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*



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

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

*Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

*1 Corinthians 11:26, Revelation 22:20*

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

*Matthew 6:9-13*

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

*John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29*



☐ 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, grant us peace.

*Please sit.*

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*



## Distribution Hymn: 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'n's a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt.  
Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901  
Text and tune: Public domain

### Piano Interlude:

### “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

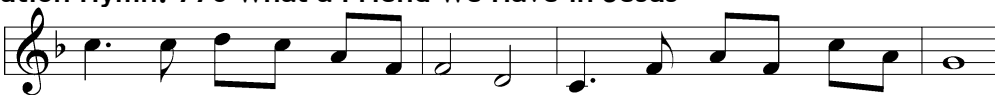
*O soul are you weary and troubled  
No light in the darkness you see  
There's light for a look at the Savior  
And life more abundant and free*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace*

*His Word shall not fail you He promised  
Believe Him and all will be well  
Then go to a world that is dying  
His perfect salvation to tell*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace*

### Distribution Hymn: 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

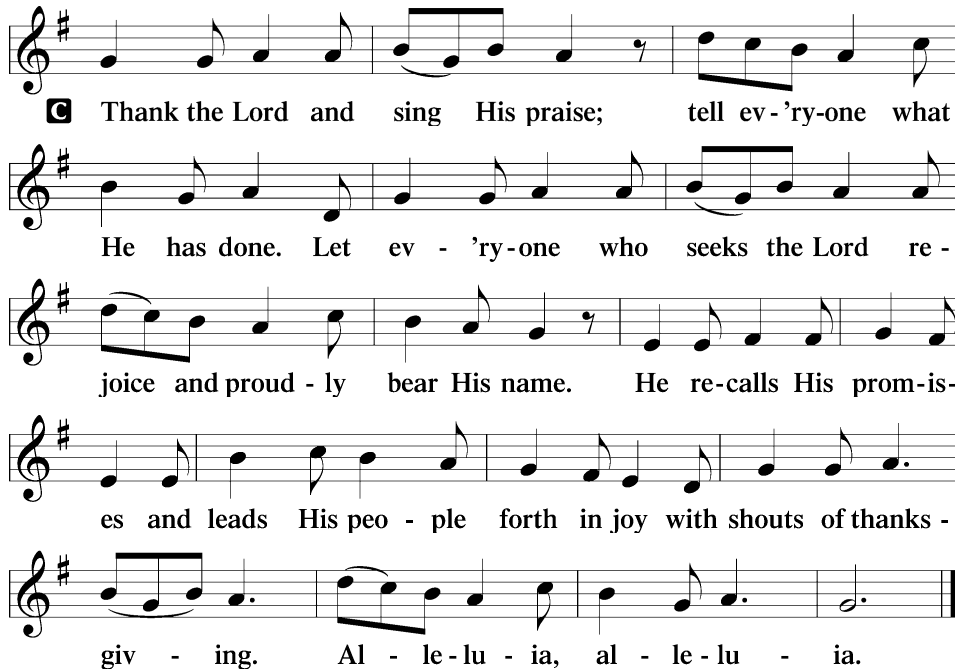


All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819-86  
Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand.*

## Thank the Lord



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks 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

**P** 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.**

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**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 T give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn: 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar  
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,  
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more; Feed me till I want no more.  
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91  
Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932  
Text and tune: Public domain

*During the Recessional Hymn, all candles are extinguished.*

## Congregational Announcements

*Please sit for the Announcements.*

### Postlude

*Jeff Edwards*

### Acknowledgments

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**LCMS Stewardship Ministry: Newsletter Article- October 2024- "The Singing Church".**

Lutherans have historically been called "the singing church." There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, "We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise."<sup>1</sup> Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

*Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace  
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,  
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face  
that shows Your message ever new and near.*

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren't actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as "the free and joyous activity of God's family — the church — in managing life's resources for His purposes." God's love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus! The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord's House. At the Lord's Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!