LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Ninth Sunday afterPentecost

August 7, 2022

Welcome to Worship! A theme that surfaces in today's readings is this: You can trust God to come through for you. In the Introit, the psalmist says that God "takes pleasure" in those who trust Him. In the Old Testament reading, God invites Abraham to believe that, contrary to outward appearances, he would have countless children. The gradual states that those who trust in the Lord lack nothing. The Epistle says, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." In the Gospel, Jesus assures His disciples that their Heavenly Father will give them all the things they need, and eventually bring them into the kingdom of heaven. In each of these readings, the takeaway message for you is that you can trust God to live up to His promises!

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in which He feeds us with His body and blood. The Lutheran Church recognizes the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in this Sacrament, and we ask all who attend the Sacrament to share this faith with us. Members of our sister congregations in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are welcome to commune. If you are a guest and want to receive the Sacrament, please speak with the pastor or an elder before the Service prior to communing.

If you wish to receive the common cup instead of an individual glass, place your hand across your chest. At the center of the communion tray, there are glasses with a reduced amount of wine for those who don't wish to have as much wine when they commune. Please indicate your attendance at communion by signing the communion registration sheet on the desk by the outer door.

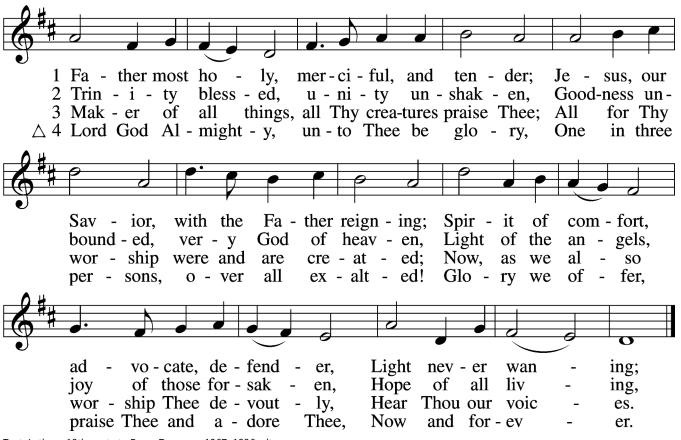
We have gluten-free communion wafers for those who need them. Please speak to the pastor prior to the service if you wish to receive them.

Pastoral Greeting

Divine Service Setting One

Hymn of Invocation

504 Father Most Holy



Text: Latin, c. 10th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Tune: Antiphoner, 1681, Paris Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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

+ Confession and Absolution +

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 1 John 1:8–9

- 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.

Kneel/Stand

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.
- 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 [John 20:19–23]

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.

Stand

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 147:8–11; antiphon: v. 7

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

make melody to our God on the lyre!

He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth;

he makes grass grow on the hills.

He gives to the beasts their food,

and to the young ravens that cry.

His delight is not in the strength of the horse,

nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,

in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

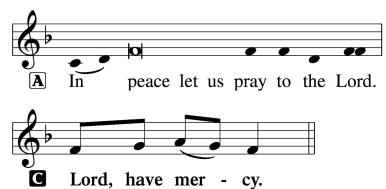
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

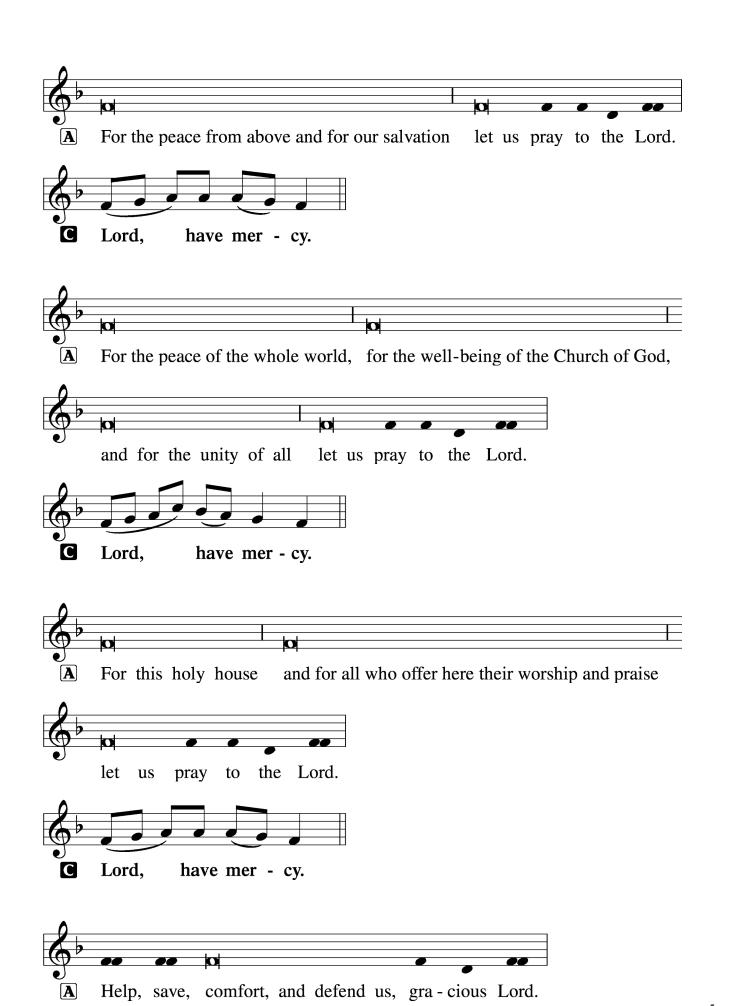
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

make melody to our God on the lyre!

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

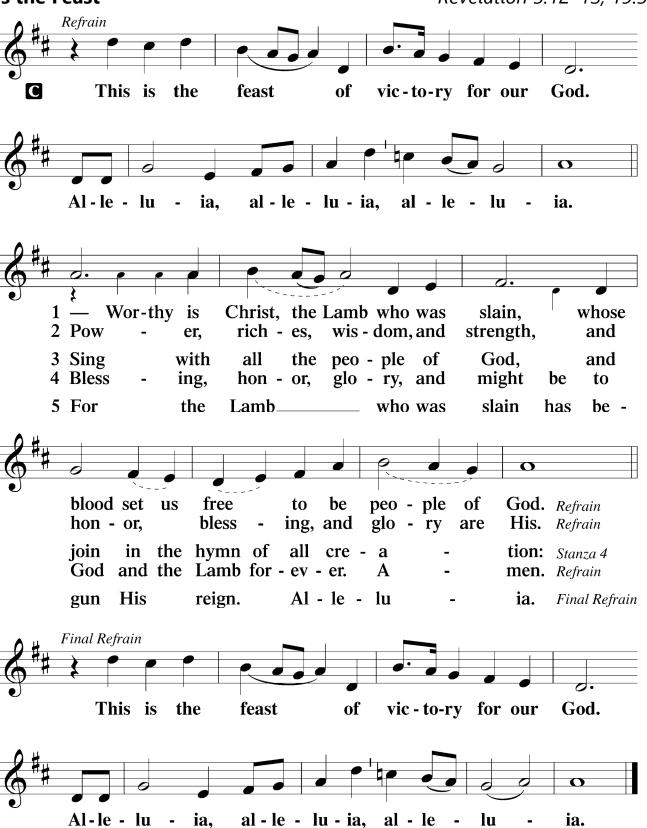




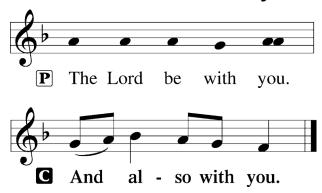


This Is the Feast

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Epistle Hebrews 11:1–16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

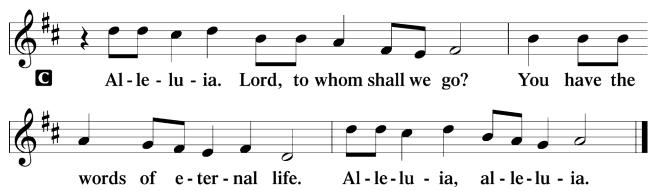
⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

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

Stand





Holy Gospel Luke 12:22–34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.



²²[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the

birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

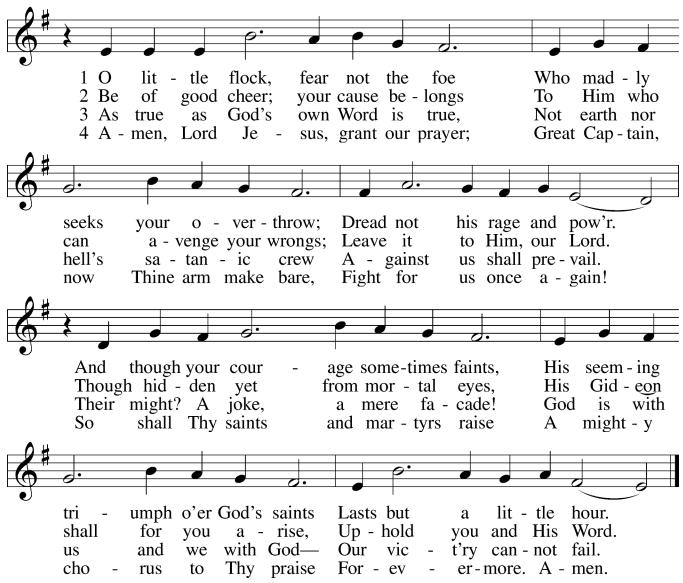
The Catechism

The Lord's Prayer

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH IT IN A SIMPLE WAY TO HIS HOUSEHOLD

- P The Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What does this mean?
- C The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.
- P How is God's will done?
- God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe



Text: Jacob Fabricius, 1593-1654; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: German, 1534, Nürnberg Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

No Fear, But Faith

Dear Heavenly Father,
We are about to hear your Word
Help us to believe we really are what your Word says we are
Help us to believe we really have what your word says we have
Help us to believe we really can do what your Word says we can do
O Holy Spirit, make our minds alert, and our hearts receptive
Because we are about to encounter
The indestructible, incorruptible living seed of your Word
It has the power to change our lives
It has the power to melt our hearts
And, as your Word has its way with us,
It has the power to fashion us into your new creations
In Jesus' name. Amen.

I want to begin our message with a quick lesson in grammar. The way we give somebody a command in English is to use the *imperative* form of speech. "Take that gum out of your mouth!" "Stand up straight." "Give me all the details." We all know *how* to give a directive even if we don't happen to *remember* that it's *called* the imperative form of speech.

But here's something you may not always think about. We *use* the imperative form of speech to do a great deal *more* than simply issuing a command. We use it to *invite* others, as in "Come and have dinner with us tonight." We also use it to *make a suggestion*, such as, "Let's sit down for a

moment." We use it to let somebody know that they have permission to do something, such as "Help yourself." We use it to express a wish as in, "Have a nice day," or to give advice, as in "Take an aspirin."

Why all this talk about the imperative form of speech? In today's Gospel from Luke, Jesus uses a *number* of different imperatives: Don't be anxious... Consider the ravens...Consider the lilies...Don't seek what you are to eat or to drink...don't worry...Seek His kingdom...Don't be afraid...Sell your possessions...Give alms...Provide yourselves with moneybags that don't grow old. If each of those imperatives is taken *strictly as a command*—as an *order to be obeyed*—you and I are going to be pretty *miserable* people. Let me explain what I mean.

I. The Problem

As I child, I had lots of fears. Of course there were the *normal* childhood terrors, like the dark and the boogie man and the monsters that might be under my bed and ready to grab my foot if I didn't *jump* into bed. But I was also afraid of some things that other kids my age probably didn't *worry*

about. For example, through my school, I had learned how to call the fire department if I needed help. Knowing how to do that was a good thing, but I was so *intrigued* by the whole process, that I was afraid my curiosity might accidentally get the *best* of me and I might call the fire department *against my own* will if I were home alone. So for a while, I was afraid to be at home by myself in case I couldn't resist the impulse to dial the phone and contact the fire department like I had been *taught*. Sounds a little over the top for an 8-year-old kid, doesn't it?

But I'm happy to report that now that I've grown up, I've gotten *over* my childish fears. Now I've traded all my *kid* fears in for *real*, *authentic*, *adult* fears. And so have you. Our modern Western world is *built* on anxiety. You can see it on the faces of people hurrying to work. You can notice it even *more* as they travel home in the evening, *tired*, but *still* without having solved all those life problems that make them anxious. Their faces are weary and perplexed, living with the unsolvable dilemma as to why we *do* it in the first place, and what it all means.

Our world seems to thrive on people setting higher and higher goals for themselves and others. Then we worry all day and all year about whether we will *reach* those goals. If we *do*, then we set *new*, even *higher* goals. If we *don't* achieve them, then we feel like we've *failed*. Do you think this is *really* how God designed us to live?

Jesus' words in today's Gospel tell us that for much of human history, people have faced the same anxiety and fear-provoking problems that we face. The difference, though, is the level at which anxiety strikes. Many of Jesus' hearers had only just enough to live on. Each day they faced the possibility that today might be the day we go without food. One disaster—a family breadwinner being sick or injured—could put them into a state of instant hunger and, eventually, starvation. Most of them would have perhaps one spare garment, and no more. It was to peasants living on the edge of survival that Jesus speaks these words about not worrying about food and clothing. By today's standards, it seems a little strange that none of Jesus' hearers were worried about affording things like cars or vacations or new homes.

Our text doesn't give us this clue in the English language, but when Jesus says "Don't be anxious," the sense of those words is really "Stop being anxious." That's because the hearers in our text were already anxious. They lived in a world where they likely knew of people who had starved to death—perhaps even people who had died from being exposed to the elements because of a lack of proper clothing. You and I live in the same kind of world. Most of us don't worry about starving or succumbing to exposure, but we have flesh and blood bodies that become diseased. We have breakable bones. Because of our sinful nature, we are not immune to fear.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the same position as the grandpa who took his first airplane ride at the age of 86. The private plane he was in circled around the airfield for about 20 minutes and then landed. When he was back on the ground, his children asked him, "Well, Grandpa, how did you *like* your ride in the airplane?" "Fine," he replied, "but I never did put my full weight down in the *seat* of that blasted thing!"

Because of *our* lack of faith, you and I face those times in our lives when *we're* afraid to rest the full weight of our *faith* in *Jesus*. *We* know of people who have been healthy and then died suddenly and unexpectedly. *We* know of individuals who were killed in an unforeseen and tragic accident. Because of *our* little faith, *we* discover that anxiety and fear tend to be the the *rule* in our lives, rather than the *exception*.

II. The Cure

Thank God that the man who is *speaking* these words about fear *knows* a little something of what it is like to be afraid. Jesus is giving these words about *no fear, but faith* to His disciples because He knows our fears and anxieties can drive us *away* from our Father. Being afraid that we won't have *food* or *clothing* can make it seem as if God is *weak*, or *uninvolved*, or *uncaring* in the midst of our troubles. After all, we think, if He were *strong* and *concerned*, He wouldn't *leave* us in this mess. And of course, *that* lie comes from the *father* of lies—Satan.

By looking at Jesus' life, we discover that all fear and anxiety is not always sinful. It all depends on what you're afraid of. In the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus was wrestling with the thought of carrying every sin ever committed on His shoulders, it wasn't His enemies that caused Him anxiety. His fear didn't come because He was dreading all of the pain. Instead, Jesus was afraid of what He knew that couldn't be avoided. He was anticipating losing the love of His Heavenly Father while He was separated from God and dying on the cross. But in spite of that, He went to the cross and died with all of our sins of fear hanging on His shoulders. He paid personally for our sinful anxieties so that you and I need never fear that we are going to lose our Father's love. And He rose again from death so that we might be permitted and allowed and even invited to join Him in having no fears that our Father will ever withdraw His love and care from our lives.

That brings us back to the grammar we spoke of at the beginning of our message. If all of Jesus' imperatives about no anxiety or fear are *strict* commands—as orders to be obeyed— to paraphrase Paul, you and I will be, of all people, most miserable. Commanding somebody not to be afraid

might be compared to ordering someone *not to laugh* when they're being tickled, or not to *sneeze* when their nose is prickling and itchy. It's not all that *helpful*.

Today I'd like to suggest that these words to "stop being anxious," and "stop seeking and being worried about what to eat or drink" be viewed as an invitation. Jesus is saying "Come and join me in seeing My Father as He truly is—Someone on whom you can rest your anxious worries." Think about these words as a suggestion, such as, "Why don't you let go of your fears?" Reflect on these words as God giving you permission to do something, such as "Go ahead and live without the worry that I won't take care of you."

We can well afford to do so. "Fear not!" is the most repeated command in the Bible. In fact, it's been said that there are 365 "Fear nots" in the Bible—one "Fear not" for every day of the year! One man even says there are 366 "Fear nots" in the Bible, one for every day of the year, including Leap Year! The truth is that there are actually *more* than 365 "Fear nots" in the Bible. Do

you suppose that's because God doesn't want us to go a single day without hearing His word of comfort: "Fear not?"

That's what God says in today's Old Testament reading: "Fear not, Abraham." He also speaks those words to Jacob and Moses and Joshua and David and Solomon and Elijah and Hezekiah and Jeremiah and Ezekiel and Daniel and Zechariah and Joseph and Mary and the women at the tomb and Paul and the nation of Israel and the disciples. This morning He's saying them to you as well. That's an invitation that's too good to turn down. Amen.

Stand

Apostles' Creed

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

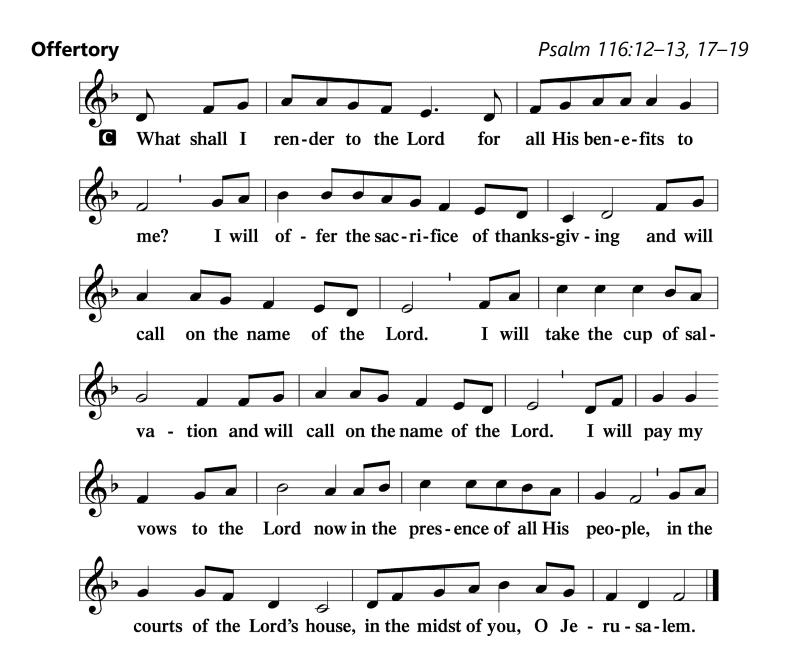
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the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

- P Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: That You would give us the faith to heed Your invitation not to fear, Lord in Your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.
- P That the governments of the world and our leaders would act justly and with mercy, so we may be spared war and violence, Lord in Your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.
- P That all Christians who are persecuted might remain faithful to You, Lord in Your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.
- P That our congregation might grow, so Your Word may reach many and bear abundant fruit, Lord in Your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.
- P That You would send seasonable weather and provide an abundant harvest for those who supply our food, Lord in Your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.
- P That You would help Your people who need you in any way, especially..., Lord in Your mercy,
- C **Hear our prayer.**
- P That You would receive our thanks to You for all the blessings You lavish upon us, Lord in Your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.
- P That You would give true repentance and faith to all who commune at Your table today, Lord in Your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.

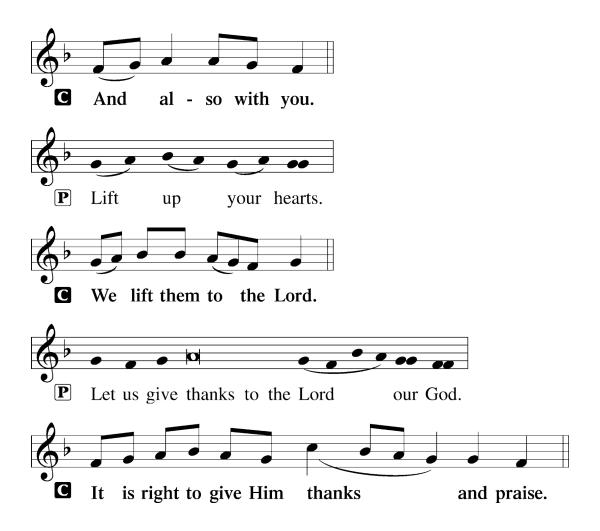
- P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord
- C Amen.



+ Service of the Sacrament +

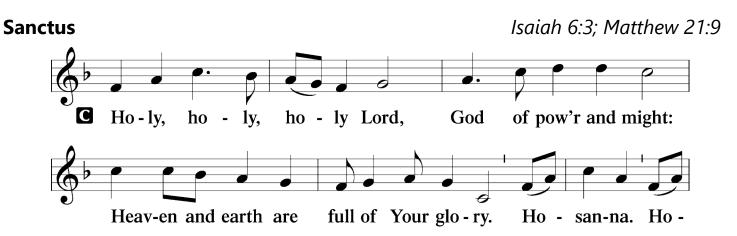


P The Lord be with you.



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:





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

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."

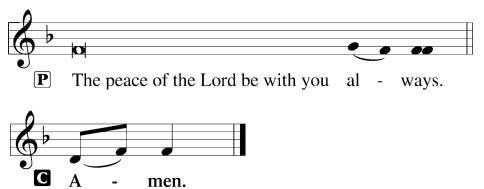
Proclamation of Christ

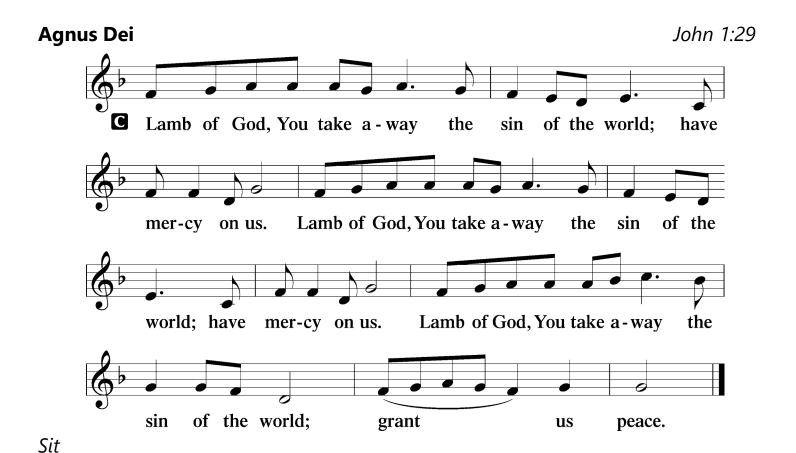
- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed 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 John 20:19





Distribution

Distribution Hymn

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



- Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure, Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding: Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You; Worthily let me receive You And, so favored, never leave You.
- Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender, Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring: At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker Of this blessèd food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.
- Tord, by love and mercy driven,
 You once left Your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forego all joy and gladness
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love requited;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.

Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text (sts. 1, 4–5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005894 Text (sts. 2–3, 6–8) and tune: Public domain

Stand



[Psalm 105:1-3, 42-43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8-10]



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.

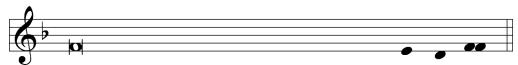
Post-Communion Collect

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.



Benediction Numbers 6:24–26

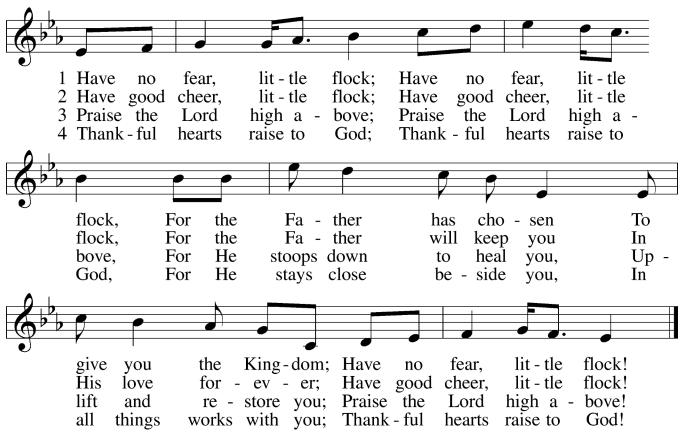


P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.



735 Have No Fear, Little Flock



Text (sts. 2-4): Marjorie A. Jillson, 1931-2010

Text (st. 1) and tune: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, 1930

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