

**Sunday, March 17, 2024, 9:00am**  
***It's All About The Company You Keep***  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Divine Service, Setting II**



*It's Jesus, Peter, and me...and it's all about the company you keep.*

*Our goal in life is to be in God's good company, to be friends of God, so that we find true life in God's good company through Jesus.*

## ***Prelude***

### ***#564, Christ Sits At God's Right Hand***

- 1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His saving work complete, To reign till ev'ry foe will lie  
Beneath His feet— All that the Father planned, The Son sought to fulfill,  
When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."
- 2 Christ was that priest God swore, Uniquely First and Last, Who would in righteousness and  
love Be unsurpassed: "A priest forevermore," An oath God would not break,  
"A priest within the order of Melchizedek."
- 3 Christ's altar was the tree, Where on the world's behalf He shed a blood, unlike the blood  
Of goat or calf, To seal God's guarantee Of grace that cannot fail;  
With blood He entered for our good Behind the veil.
- 4 What costly sacrifice To cover human sin! Who but Christ Jesus had the right  
To enter in? His blood, that sprinkled price, So we might be assured  
That our inheritance in light Has been secured.
- 5 Then let us now draw near, Washed in that precious flood And enter the Most Holy Place  
By Jesus' blood. From hearts that are sincere, Let tongues our hope profess,  
And trust anew God's faithful grace That we confess.
- 6 All praise to Christ we bring, Our Lord who intercedes, Our great High Priest enthroned  
above Who knows our needs; And to the Father sing Our songs of thankful praise,  
Who with the Spirit reigns in love For endless days.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Text: © 2002 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001748

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

**C: Amen.**

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

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people,

**C: from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!**

P: I love the Lord, because He has heard

**C: my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

P: Because He inclined His ear to me,

**C: therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**

P: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

**C: I suffered distress and anguish.**

P: Then I called on the name of the Lord:

**C: O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!**

P: For You have delivered my soul from death,

**C: my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**KYRIE**

*LSB 168*

Assistant: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Congregation: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Together, we pray.

**C: Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## **Children's Time**

### **Jeremiah 31:31–34**

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Hebrews 5:1–10**

Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him, “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”; as He says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Holy Gospel and Sermon Text according to St. John, the 18th chapter.

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

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did one other disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this Man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **#451, *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted***

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;  
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's  
Lord; Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.
- 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His? Friends through fear His  
cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress; Many hands were raised to wound Him,  
None would intervene to save; But the deepest stroke that pierced Him  
Was the stroke that justice gave.
- 3 Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great Here may view its nature rightly,  
Here its guilt may estimate. Mark the sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful  
load; 'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.
- 4 Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost: Christ, the Rock of our  
salvation, Is the name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,  
Sacrifice to cancel guilt! None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have  
built.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt.

Text: Public domain

## **The Sermon                      *It's All About The Company You Keep***

P: Please rise as we profess our faith,

**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.**

### **The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes**

#### **OFFERTORY**

*LSB 176*

**Congregation:**

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

### **The Prayers of His Children**

**P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our Prayer.**

#### **PREFACE**

*LSB 177*

**Pastor: The Lord be with you.**

**Congregation: And also with you.**

**Pastor: Lift up your hearts.**

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**Congregation: 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, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing,**

#### **SANCTUS**

*LSB 178*

**Congregation:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **The Words of our Lord**

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: Jesus, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,

**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.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**

*LSB 180*

**Congregation:**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## **The Distribution of Holy Communion**

### ***#637, Draw Near and Take The Body of the Lord***

1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord, And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields, To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole, Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere, And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

### ***#770, What a Friend we have in Jesus***

1 What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain  
we bear— All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be  
discouraged— Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our  
refuge— Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?



Take it to the Lord in prayer. In His arms He'll take and shield thee;  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86

Text: Public domain

### ***#761, Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me***

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt  
and pow'r.
- 2 Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands; Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling. Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace; Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death, When I soar to worlds  
unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78

Text: Public domain

## **The Blessing of Communicants**

P: Together, we pray,

**C: 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. Amen.**

## **God's Benediction**

### ***#919, Abide, O Dearest Jesus***

- 1 Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace That Satan may not harm us  
Nor we to sin give place.
- 2 Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word, And thus now and hereafter  
True peace and joy afford.
- 3 Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light; Your truth direct and keep us  
From error's gloomy night.
- 4 Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord; Let us in grace and wisdom  
Grow daily through Your Word.
- 5 Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength, Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love; Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.



Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## *The Postlude*