

Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026



Laborers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-16

565 Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ



1 Thy works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad-ness to this heart;
2 Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my bruised soul;
3 Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the crushing load
4 Thy death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ransom due;
5 Thy righteous-ness, O Christ, Alone can cover me;



They tell me all is done, They bid my fear depart.
Thy stripes, not mine, contain The balm that makes me whole.
Of sins that none could bear But the incarnate God.
Ten thousand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.
No righteousness avails Save that which is of Thee.



To whom save Thee, Who canst alone For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.
Tune: The Parish Choir, 1850, London
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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.

Kneel/Stand

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

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

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

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

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

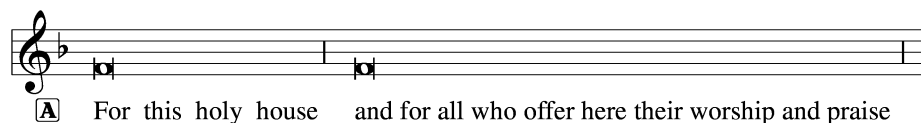
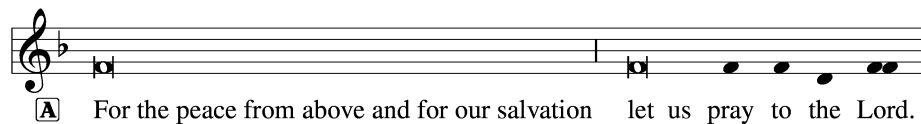
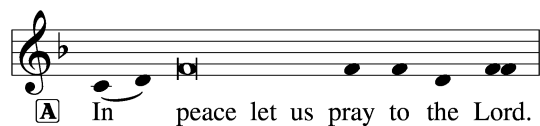
Introit

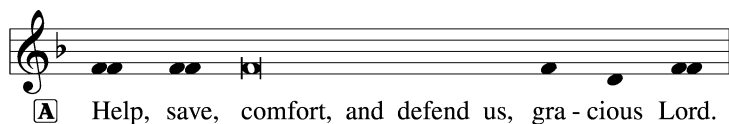
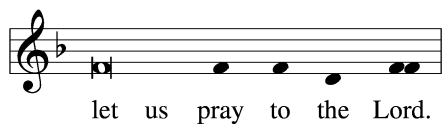
Psalms 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.
What shall I render | to the LORD*
for all his bene- | fits to me?
I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*
and call on the name | of the LORD.
Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
is the death | of his saints.
O LORD, I am your | servant;*
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have | loosed my bonds.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.

Kyrie

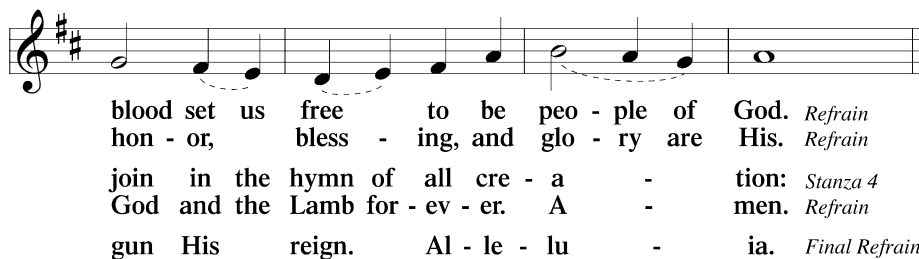
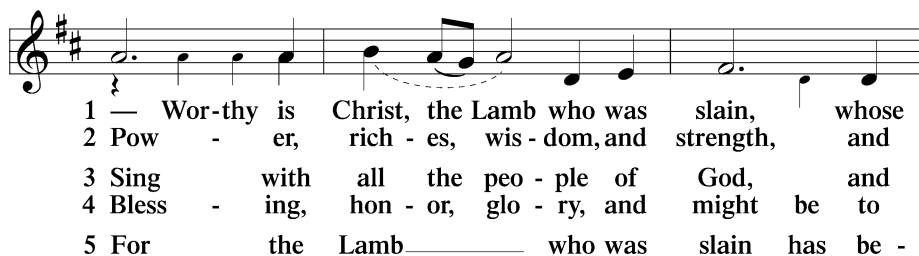
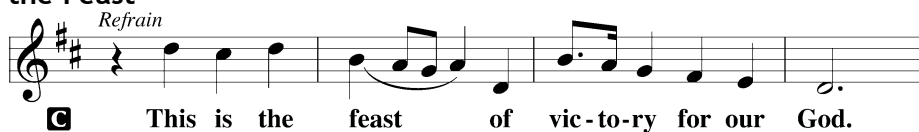
LSB 152



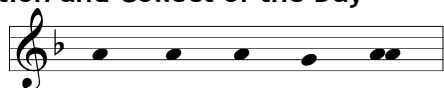


This Is the Feast

LSB 155



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 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

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your

salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.



¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come





fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
pure de - sires The spir - it of the
mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.

- 5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled
Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.
- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.
- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.
- 8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin
And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in
The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.
- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;

And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

△ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ 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 ⴕ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159

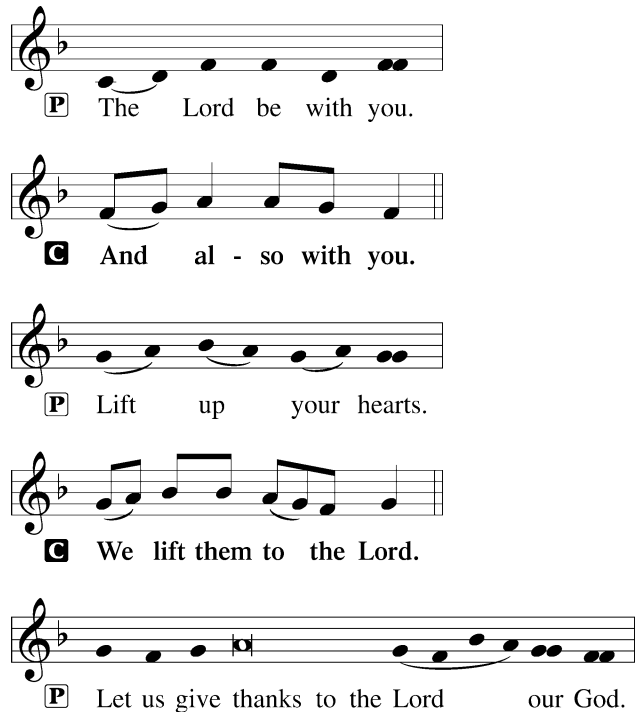


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



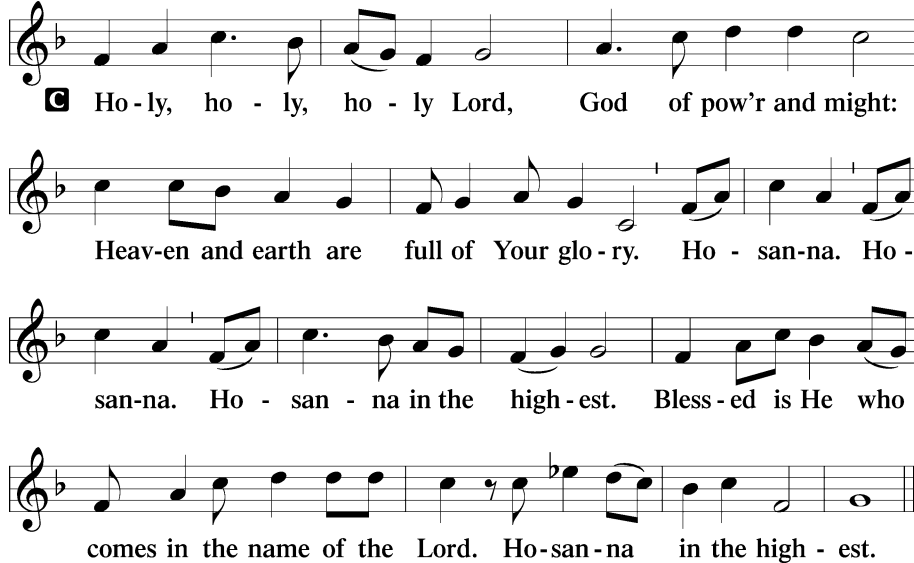
P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, 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.

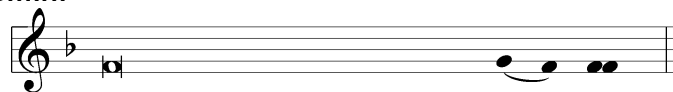
The Words of Our Lord

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

LSB 163



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
 come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
 in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain

738 Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-53

Tune: Irish

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716 I Walk in Danger All the Way



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way. The thought shall nev - er
 2 I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin and ills con -
 3 And death pur - sues me all the way, No - where I rest se -
 4 I walk with an - gels all the way, They shield me and be -



leave me That Sa - tan, who has marked his prey, Is
 tend - ing; In pa - tience I must bear each day The
 cure - ly; He comes by night, he comes by day, He
 friend me; All Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay When



plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den snares
 cross of God's own send - ing. When in ad - ver - si - ty
 takes his prey most sure - ly. A fail - ing breath, and I
 heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me; They are my sure de - fense,



May seize me un - a - wares If I should fail to
 I know not where to flee, When storms of woe my
 In death's strong grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni -
 All fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do



watch and pray. I walk in dan - ger all the way.
 soul dis - may, I pass through tri - als all the way.
 ty to - day As death pur - sues me all the way.
 what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.

- 5 I walk with Jesus all the way,
 His guidance never fails me;
 Within His wounds I find a stay
 When Satan's pow'r assails me;
 And by His footsteps led,
 My path I safely tread.
 No evil leads my soul astray;
 I walk with Jesus all the way.
- 6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;
 Await, my soul, the morrow,
 When God's good healing shall allay
 All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.
 Then, worldly pomp, begone!
 To heav'n I now press on.
 For all the world I would not stay;
 My walk is heav'nward all the way.

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Ditlef G. Ristad, 1863–1938, alt.
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1708, 4th ed., Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen
 Text and tune: Public domain

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
 △ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
 Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a-way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt.
 Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



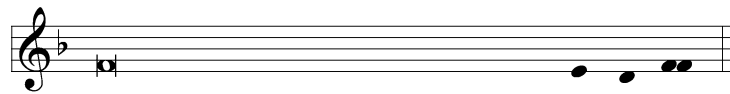
Post-Communion Collect

- 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

LSB 166



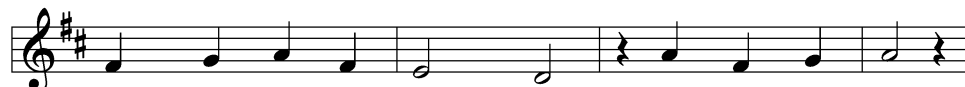
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



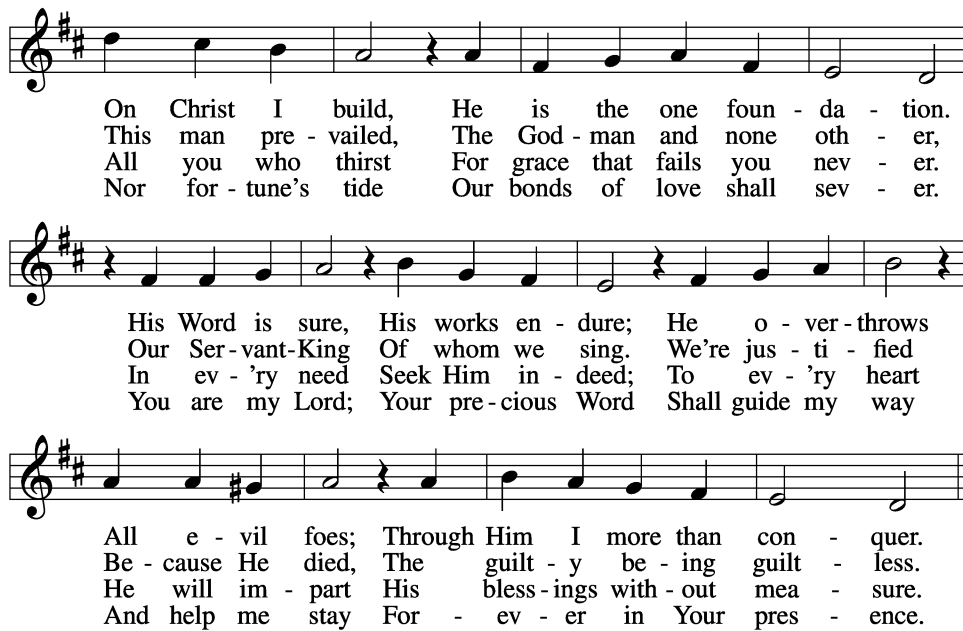
557 Seek Where You May to Find a Way



- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| 1 Seek where you may | To find a way | That |
| 2 Seek whom you may | To be your stay, | None |
| 3 Seek Him a - lone | Who did a - tone, | Who |
| 4 My heart's de - light, | My crown most bright, | O |



- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| leads to your sal - va - tion. | My heart is stilled, |
| can re - deem his broth - er. | All help - ers failed; |
| did your souls de - liv - er. | O seek Him first, |
| Christ, my joy for - ev - er. | Not wealth nor pride |



On Christ I build, He is the one foun - da - tion.
 This man pre - vailed, The God - man and none oth - er,
 All you who thirst For grace that fails you nev - er.
 Nor for - tune's tide Our bonds of love shall sev - er.

His Word is sure, His works en - dure; He o - ver - throws
 Our Ser - vant - King Of whom we sing. We're jus - ti - fied
 In ev - 'ry need Seek Him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart
 You are my Lord; Your pre - cious Word Shall guide my way

All e - vil foes; Through Him I more than con - quer.
 Be - cause He died, The guilt - y be - ing guilt - less.
 He will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.
 And help me stay For - ev - er in Your pres - ence.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt.
 Tune: Johann Stobäus, 1580–1646
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000740
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Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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