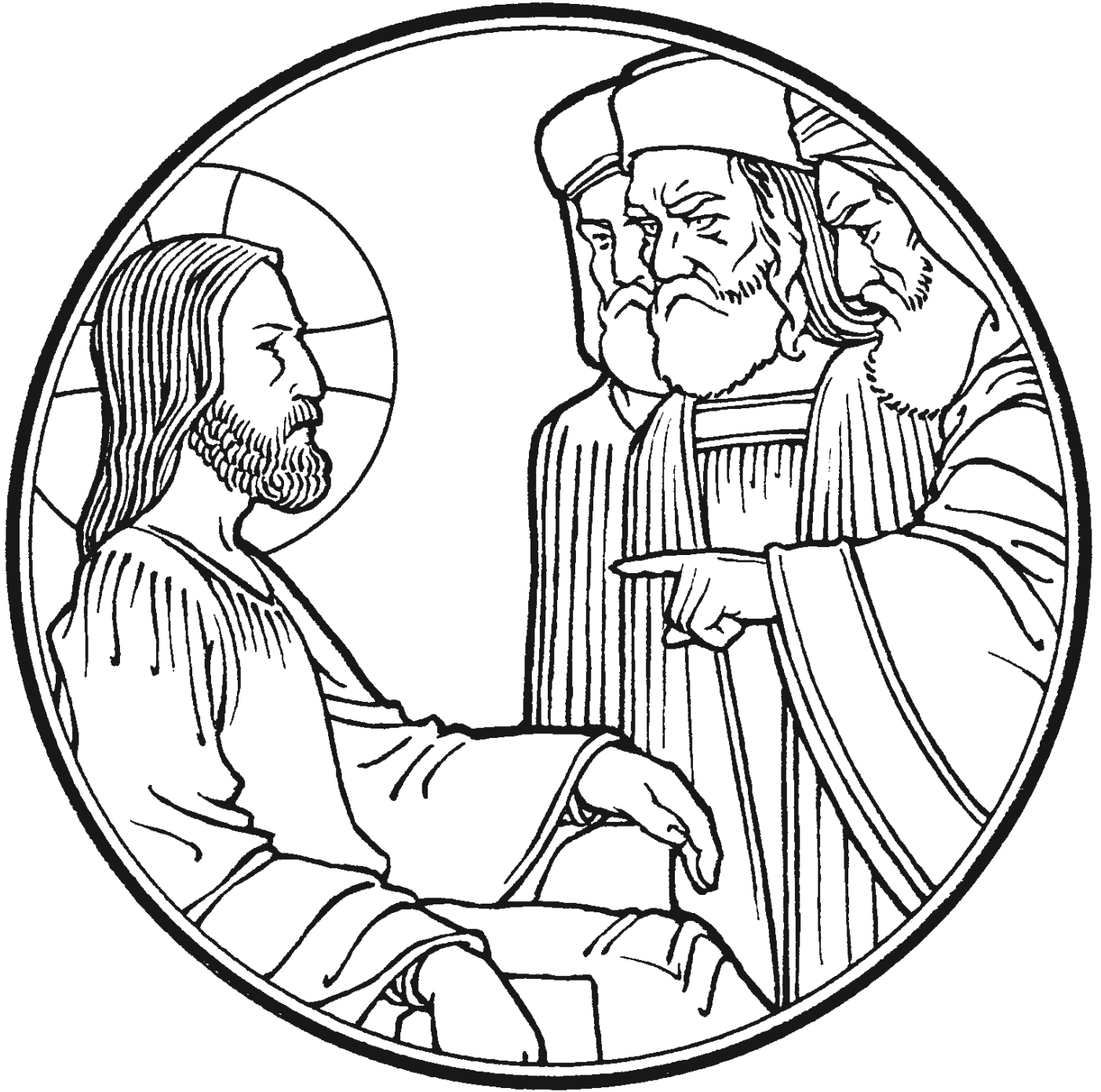


Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026



The Authority of Jesus Challenged

Matthew 21:23-32

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love



- 1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Kneel-ing in her low-ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."
When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.
Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.
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

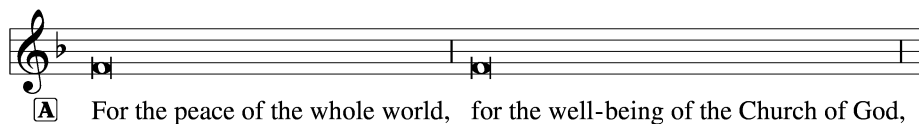
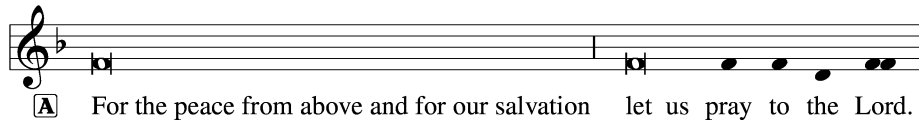
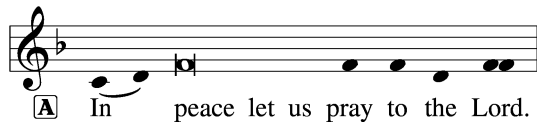
Introit

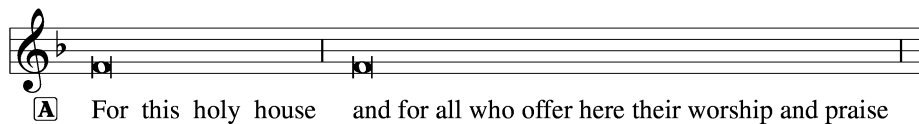
Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.
The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.
He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.
He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.
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.
The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

Kyrie

LSB 152





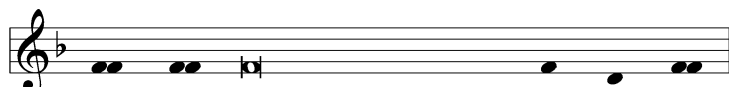
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



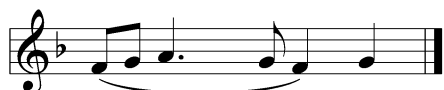
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 155



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



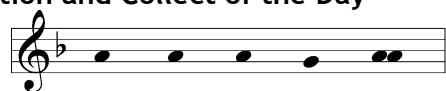
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.
Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast

to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

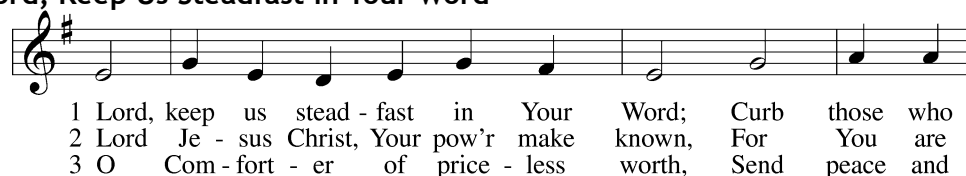
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



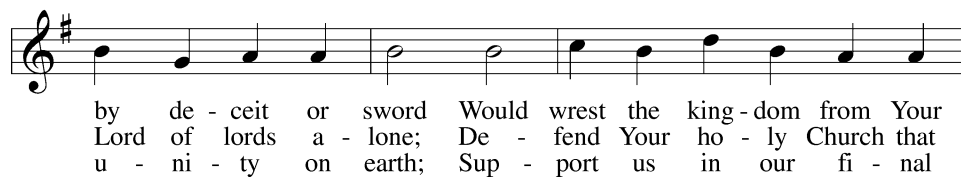
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159

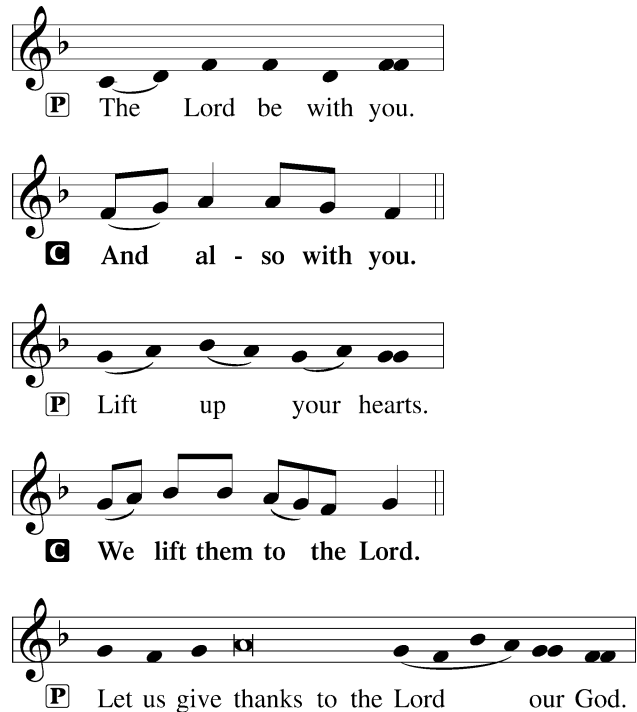


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple,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



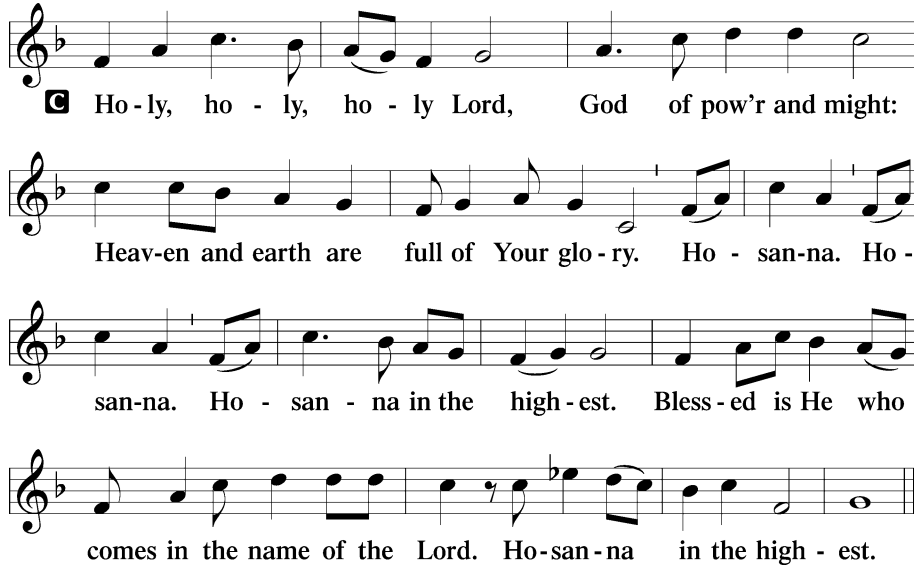
P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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.

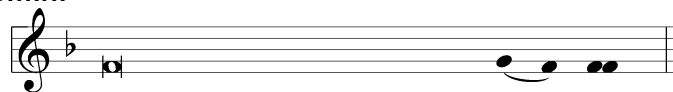
The Words of Our Lord

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

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-ph'ant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

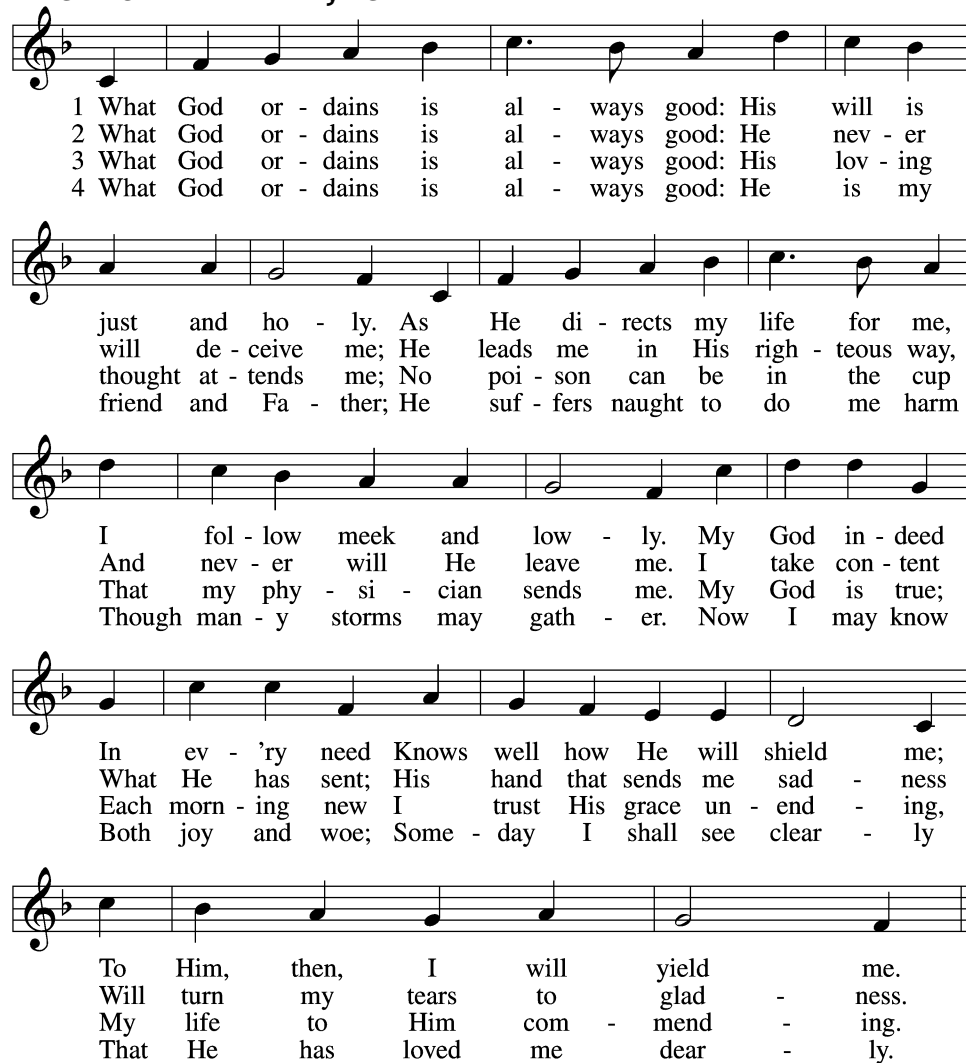
6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice
Text and tune: Public domain

760 What God Ordains Is Always Good



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is
2 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He nev - er
3 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing
4 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He is my

just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,
will de - ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way,
thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup
friend and Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm

I fol - low meek and low - ly. My God in - deed
And nev - er will He leave me. I take con - tent
That my phy - si - cian sends me. My God is true;
Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now I may know

In ev - 'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
What He has sent; His hand that sends me sad - ness
Each morn - ing new I trust His grace un - end - ing,
Both joy and woe; Some - day I shall see clear - ly

To Him, then, I will yield me.
Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
My life to Him com - mend - ing.
That He has loved me dear - ly.

- 5 What God ordains is always good:
 Though I the cup am drinking
 Which savors now of bitterness,
 I take it without shrinking.
 For after grief
 God gives relief,
 My heart with comfort filling
 And all my sorrow stilling.
- 6 What God ordains is always good:
 This truth remains unshaken.
 Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
 I shall not be forsaken.
 I fear no harm,
 For with His arm
 He shall embrace and shield me;
 So to my God I yield me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Severus Gastorius, 1646–82, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain
 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960
 Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

579 The Law of God Is Good and Wise



1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His
2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge
3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in
4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's Law shall



will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -
of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -
works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -
then in sin re - main; Its ter - ror in their ear re -



ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.
tate And turn from sin be - fore too late.
light And should be done as good and right.
sounds And keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

5 The Law is good; but since the fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no pow'r to justify.

6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



☐ 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

☐ Let us pray.

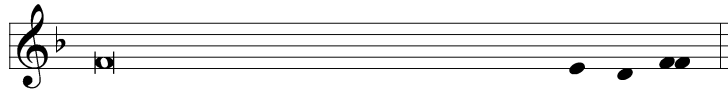
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

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.



A - men.

921 On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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