

All Saints Lutheran Church

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
August 16, 2025

The Lord Lifts Up the Lowly

"And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard" (Gen. 4:1–15). For unlike Abel, Cain's offering did not proceed from a heart that revered and trusted in the Lord. Thus, the lowly tax collector who prayed*, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"* was the one who went down to his house justified before God, not the respectable, outwardly righteous Pharisee who trusted in himself and his own good living (Luke 18:9–14). *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast"* (Eph. 2:1–10). The one who penitently despairs of his own righteousness and relies completely on the atoning mercy of God in Christ is the one who is declared righteous. For Christ died for our sins and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:1–10). Therefore, *"everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

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Rev. Jeffrey Ware, Pastor
Joshua Pauling, Vicar, Headmaster
Dr. Patricia Parker, Director of Music

Communion at All Saints

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. It is important, therefore, that those who come to the Lord's Table trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Scripture also teaches that Holy Communion is a confession of faith. Those who receive the sacrament together show forth their unity in Christ, that is, a unity of heart and mind accomplished when all who commune together believe the same doctrine and are at peace with one another.

Scripture teaches that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and that Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, we, along with the historic Christian church, practice *Closed Communion.* Any who are not communicant members of All Saints, or another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward during communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest and bow your head, and the pastor will give you a blessing; and know that we would love to share more with you about our teaching and practice.

Prayers of preparation and thanksgiving for receiving the Lord's Supper are found in the LSB hymnal on p. 308.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; John 17:20–23; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Divine Service 3

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Confession and Absolution

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
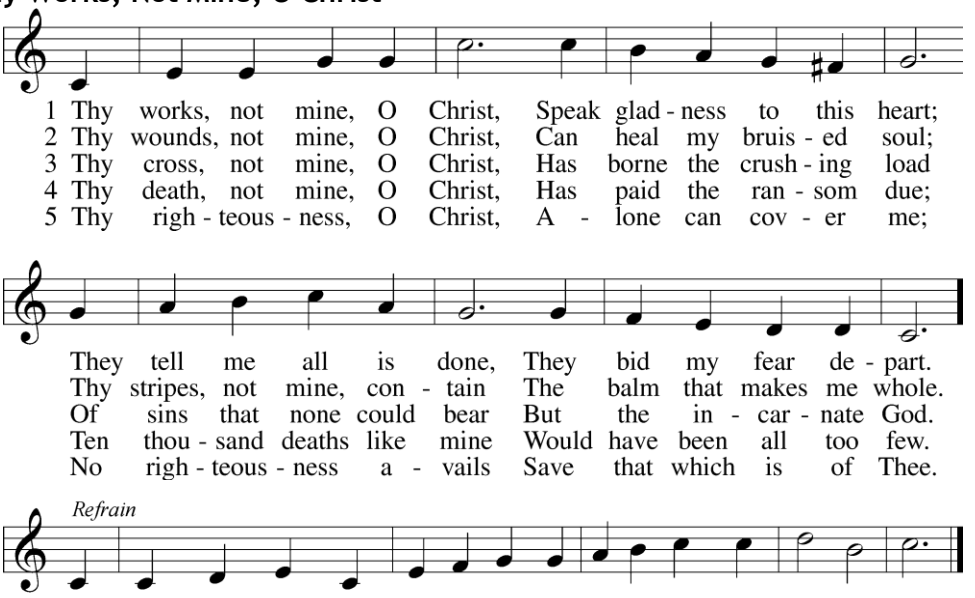
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

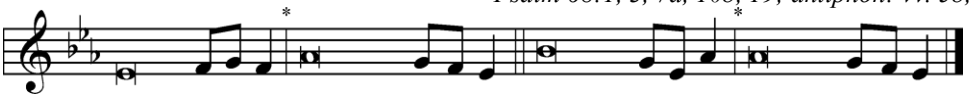
565 Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ



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

Introit
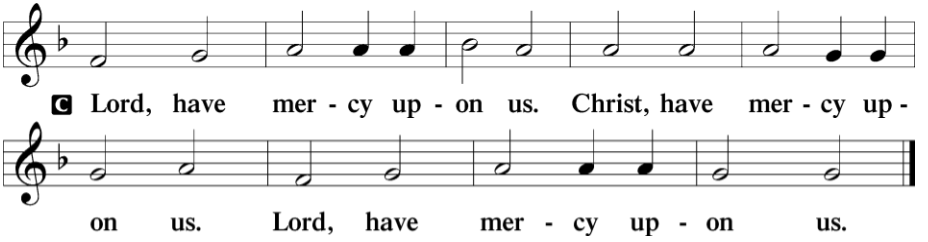
Psalm 68:1, 3, 7a, 10b, 19; antiphon: vv. 5b, 6a, 35b
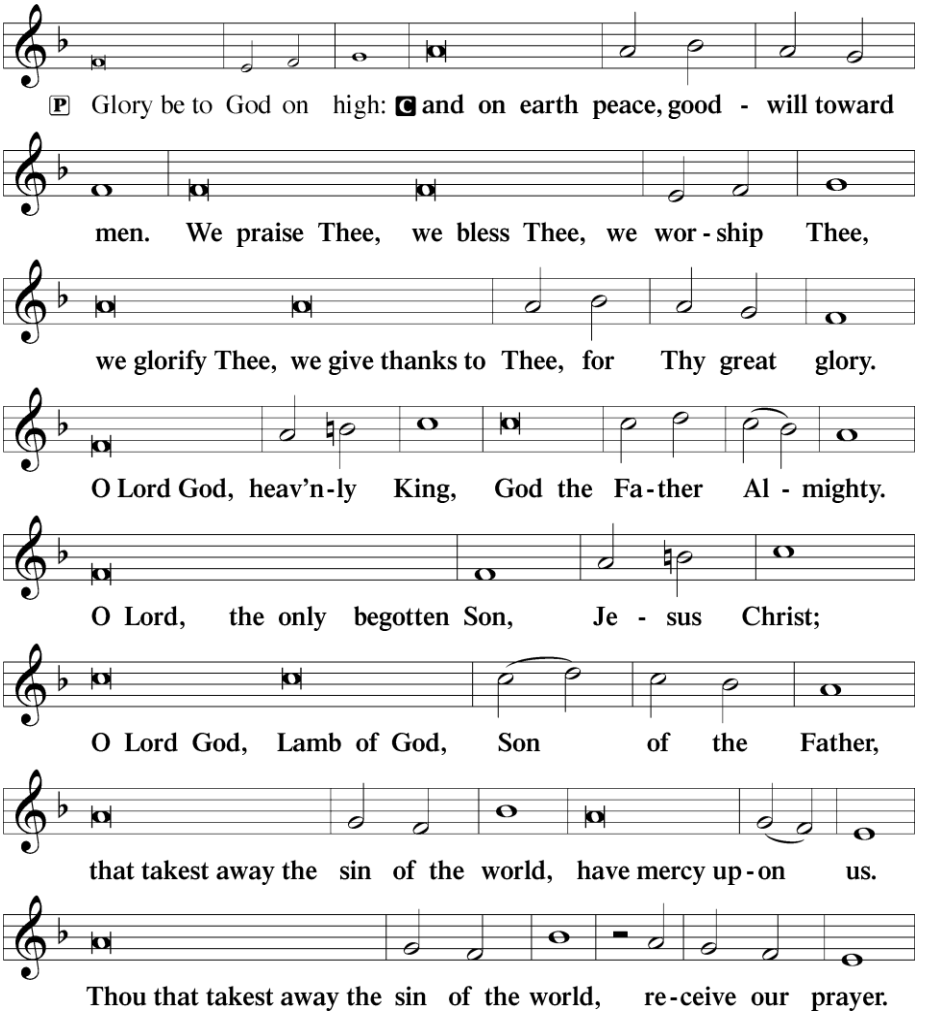


God is in his holy habi- | tation;*
[he] settles the solitary | in a home.
The God of Israel—he | is the one*
who gives power and strength to his | people.
God shall arise, his enemies shall be | scattered;*
and those who hate him shall flee be- | fore him!
But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult be- | fore God;*
they shall be jubilant | with joy!
O God, when you went out before your | people,*
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the | needy.
Blessèd be the Lord, who daily | bears us up;*
God is our sal- | vation.
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.
God is in his holy habi- | tation;*
[he] settles the solitary | in a home.

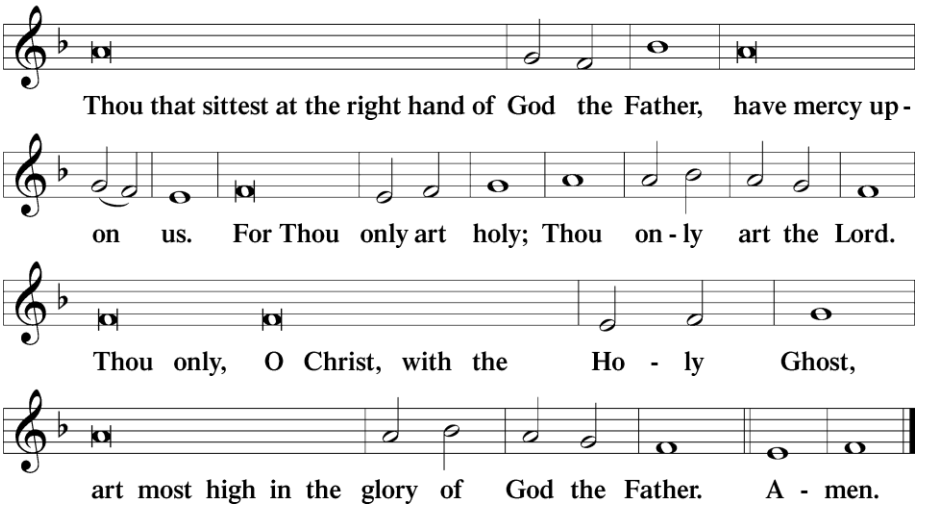
The God of Israel—he | is the one*
who gives power and strength to his | people.

Kyrie
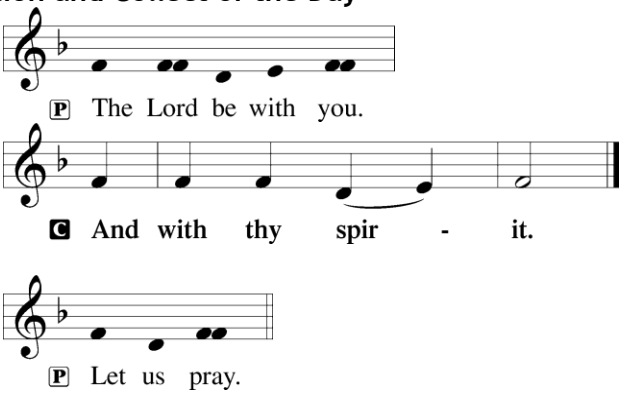


Gloria in Excelsis
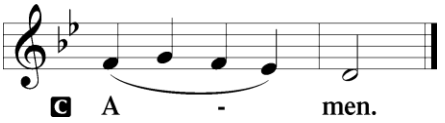




Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Genesis 4:1–15

[1]Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." [2]And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. [3]In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, [4]and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, [5]but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. [6]The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? [7]If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."
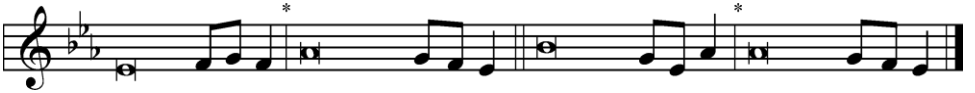
[8]Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. [9]Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" [10]And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. [11]And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. [12]When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." [13]Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. [14]Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." [15]Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 28:7b, 1a, 2a



In [God] my heart trusts, and | I am helped;*
my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to him.

To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not | deaf to me,*
hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | you for help.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1–10

[1]Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, [2]and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

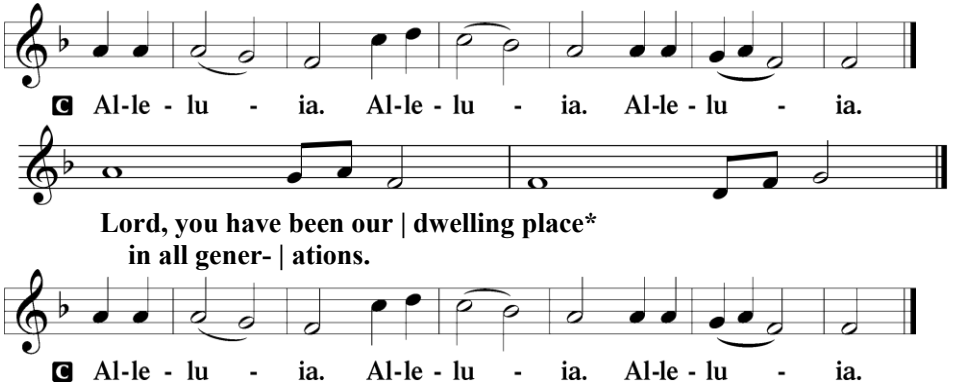
[3]For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4]that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, [5]and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. [6]Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. [7]Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. [8]Last of

all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. [9]For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. [10]But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

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

Alleluia and Verse

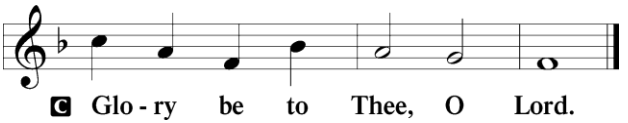
Psalm 90:1



Holy Gospel

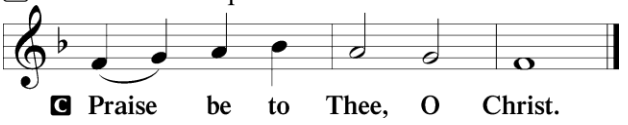
Luke 18:9–14

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



[9][Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: [10]"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. [11]The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. [12]I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' [13]But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' [14]I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
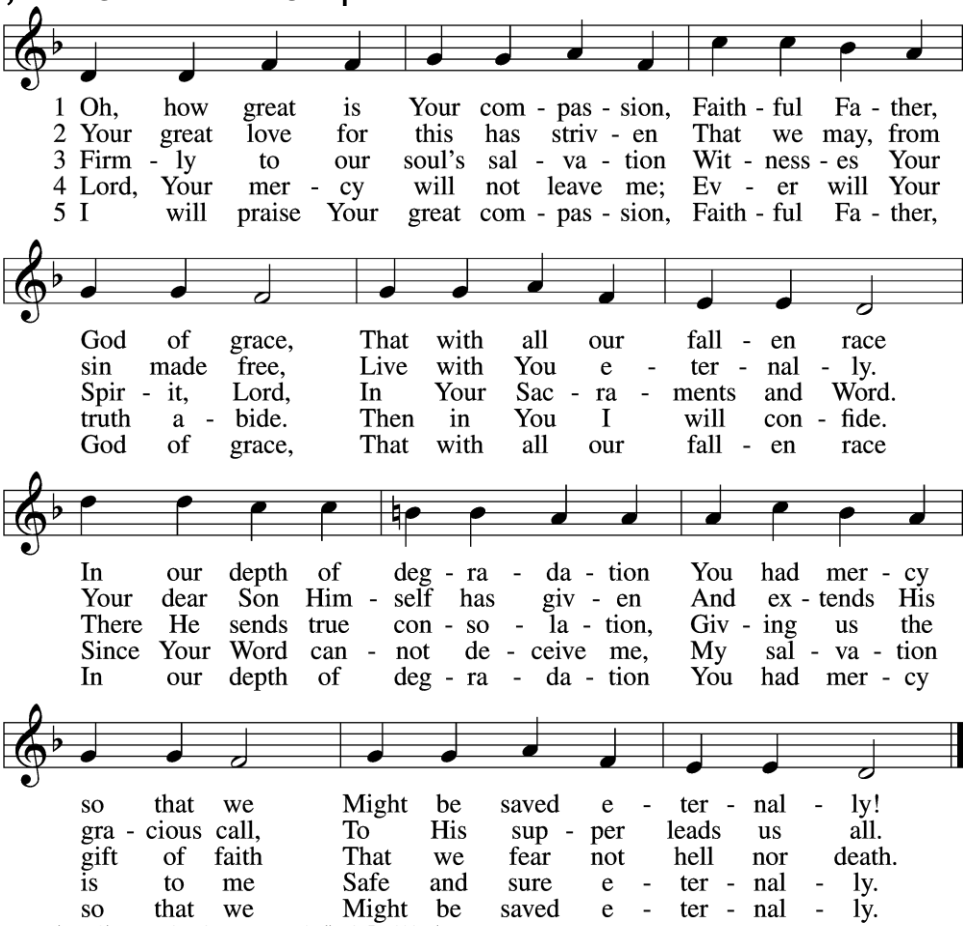


Nicene Creed

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

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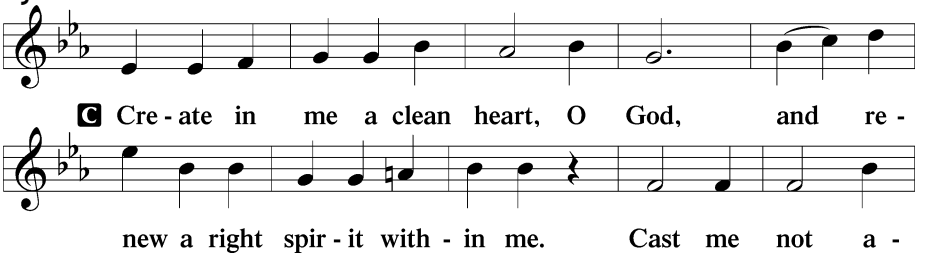
559 Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion
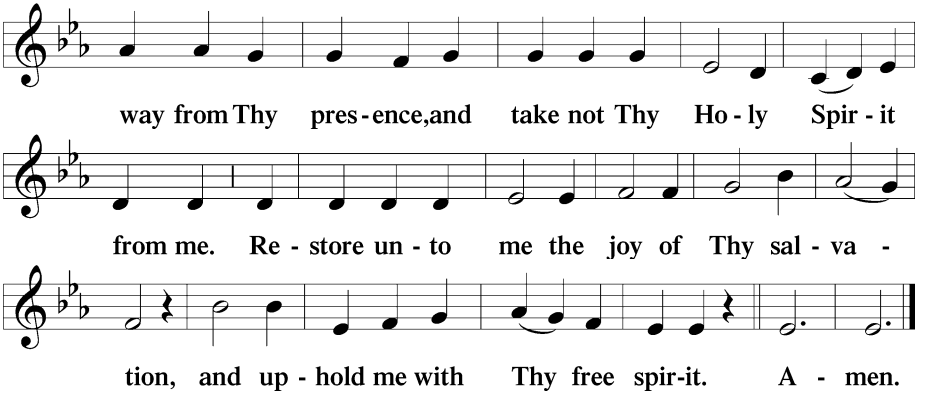


Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Schäffer-Belustigung . . . Hirthen-Lieder, 1653, Altdorf
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon
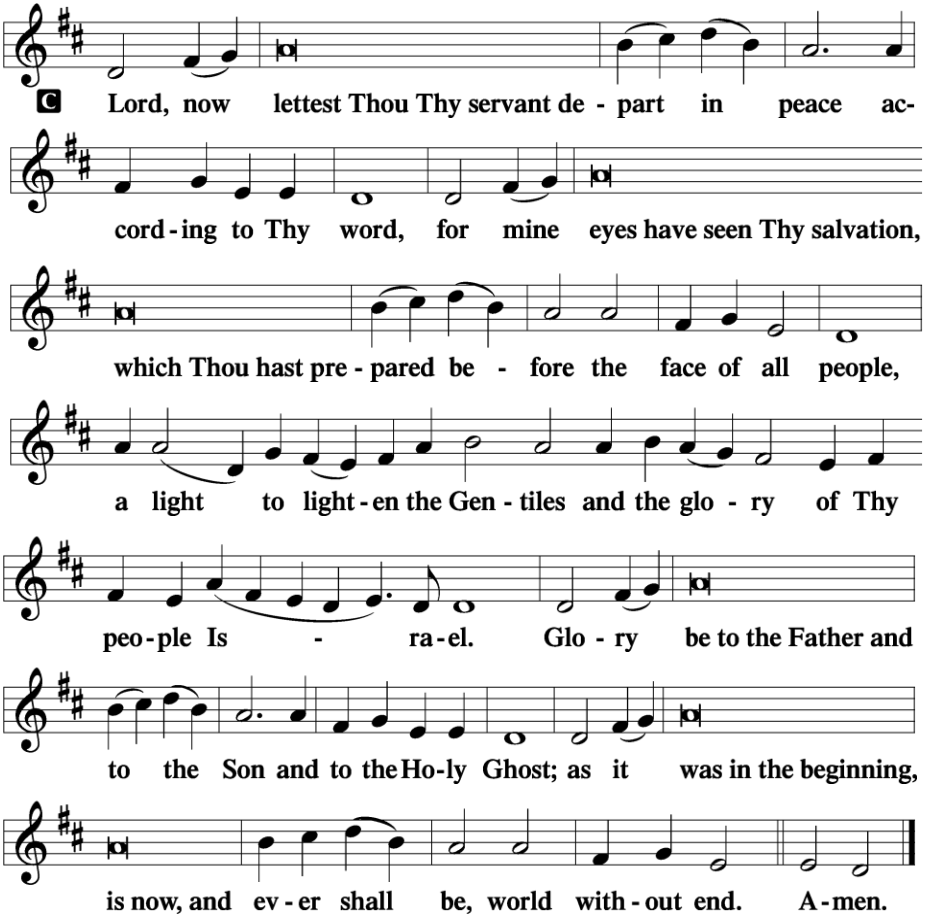
Offertory



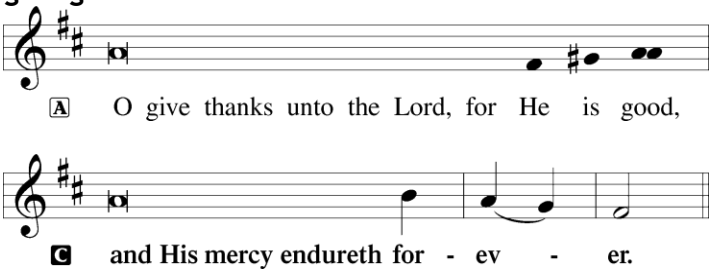


Prayer of the Church

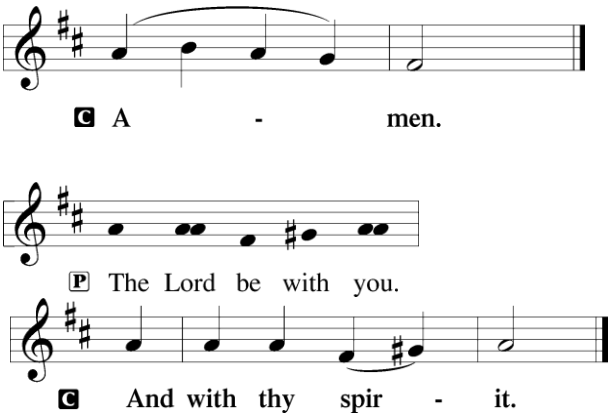
Nunc Dimittis



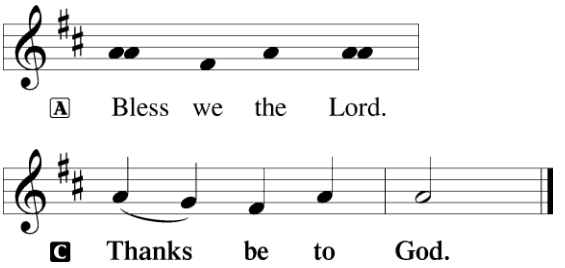
Thanksgiving



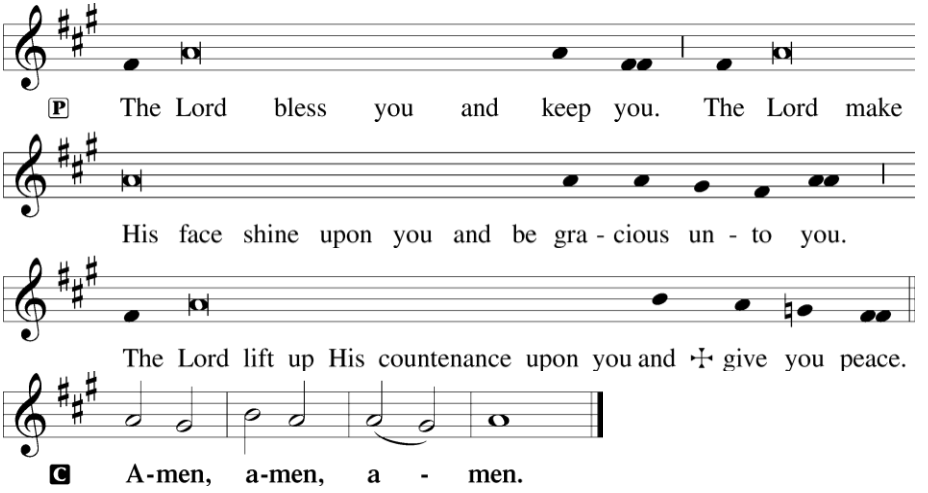
P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and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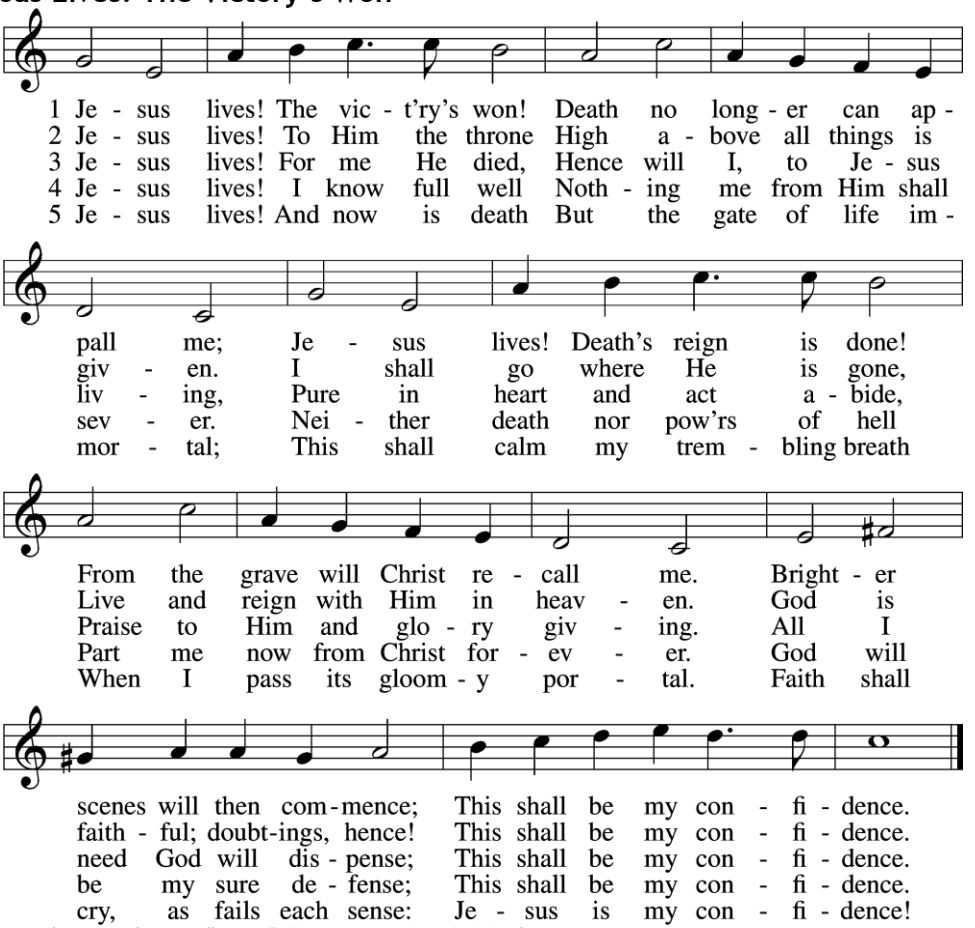


Benedicamus



Benediction



490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won



Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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