# THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 22nd, 2022



### CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1 Church: 905-685-8294

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Bulletin Announcements: Please send to <a href="mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca">secretary@christlutheransc.ca</a>.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com

Parish Assistant:Louise Gondosch(905-329-8579)parish.assistant@christlutheransc.caBusiness Manager:Karen McCumberbusiness.manager@christlutheransc.ca

Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca

<u>Prayer</u>: Lord, because You have promised to give what we ask in the name of Your only-begotten Son, teach us rightly to pray with all Your saints to offer You our adoration and praise; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR UKRAINE: A prayer for peace in the midst of conflict.

Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have been our life in the midst of death, and our peace where there is no peace. Look upon Your servants in Ukraine and Russia with Your grace and assure them that in the darkness of political unrest You remain the Light of the World.

Dearest Jesus, through the cross you defeated all that keeps us from the peace that passes understanding. In these tense days, we pray, be the Good Shepherd of Your flock in Eastern Europe and around the world and give all persons and countries aching from social and political turmoil Your Good News of sins forgiven, and life restored. Holy Spirit, You gather us into Your Church where we are made new by Your Holy Word. Keep us from civil strife, from the aggressive spilling of blood, and turn back all misfortunes that lead to hostility and death. Grant a speedy reconciliation to those on opposite sides of the conflict; soften the hearts of the unmerciful and bring them to the knowledge of You. Triune God, grant peace in our world, especially in Ukraine and Russia, and in Your whole Church on earth, that with one heart and mind we may sing Your praises, and have peace at the last, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Organist**: 9 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz

**Readers:** 9 a.m. – Tom Kuhl 11 a.m. – Fran Porteous **Greeters:** 9 a.m. – Mary Saxton 11 a.m. – Susan Honey

<u>Children's Message</u>: Please be aware that during recorded services the children will be heard but no actual video will be taken as the camera will be focused on a still shot as we do not have permission to video record children.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE TODAY: Psalm 67:1 https://youtu.be/3s3MjtBRqH8

### **DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: John 14: 15-21 Wed.: 1 Cor. 2: 12-16 Friday: Heb. 11: 32-40 Tuesday: John 15: 17-21 Thurs: John 7: 37-39 Saturday: Isa. 41: 17-20

**MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE**: We know each of us should all be working to memorize God's Word! You are invited to listen to our Children's Messages where we are focusing on understanding and memorizing a Psalm verse each week. This week is Psalm 67:1.

### **WORSHIP NOTE:**

- A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\_TKTI9c\_OIBbMqGwLw
- Archived videos of Sunday's service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca "Worship" page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<a href="http://christlutheransc.ca/">http://christlutheransc.ca/</a>), contact Judy Slingerland (<a href="mailto:chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca">chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca</a>) or Pastor Todd (<a href="mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com">pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com</a>). or phone the church office (905-685-8294). May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.



### YOU ARE INVITED TUESDAY, MAY 24, 7 – 9 PM!

**Rev. Dr. John Nunes**, former president of Concordia College, Bronxville NY, is giving a "book talk" work shop style on his 2020 paperback, "**MEANT FOR MORE**". in the sanctuary

### **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

\*\*\*\*POP UP, MYSTERY, BARBECUE & MINI YARD SALE\*\*\*: "With the Lord begin your task, Jesus will direct it!" Looking for volunteers for our Pop Up, Mystery, Barbecue & Mini Yard Sale - Saturday, June 4th, from 9 - 12 noon. (SOUL is tentatively planning for their plant sale for the same day. If anyone is interested in plant-sharing from their gardens, they can call Heather at 905-935-0591). In support of Ukraine.

Call Lorraine Kaija for information on how to participate in setting up a table (905) 964-5837.

**LWML- CONVENTION REGISTRATION**: The convention registration form is in our League Tidings and is also included in the special newsletter on page 6. Zone Presidents will also have copies which they can forward, if you require a copy. Please ensure that **you register on or before May 23rd, 2022**. Our convention committee needs to provide the caterer with the number of meals required. Also, as a note, since our lunches are going to be scrumptious box lunches, you ladies may want to bring a lawn chair so that you are able to take your lunch outside and enjoy the sunshine. Tables will be available in the basement of the church for those who wish to eat indoors.



**THE MARY MARTHA** is collecting items for Medical Missions that they will take to the Ingathering at the LWML District Convention this coming June, we invite everyone to help by adding items to the container sitting on the Narthex Table. Below is a list of supplies which Medical Missions use on an ongoing basis. Please ensure that you check expire dates to ensure that the dates are well into the future:

Monetary Gifts made payable to "Christ Lutheran Church" and placed in an envelope designated for "LWML Ontario District Medical Missions". Everything appreciated with Thanks

- Antibiotic Ointment (Polysporin, etc.)
- Vicks VapoRub
- Tylenol, Advil, Acetaminophen for Adults and Childen
- Disposable Gloves
- Vitamins for Adults and Children

- Zinc Oxide/Diaper Rash Cream
- Antihistamines Benadryl
- O-Tips
- Voltarin (Arthritic Ointment)
- Band Aids/Adhesive Tape
- ACE Elastic Bandages

**VOTER'S MEETING**: Please note that there will be a Voters Meeting next **Sunday**, **May 29th at 2:00 p.m.** 





We have not seen ALL of our members since early 2020 and currently there are limited activities for all ages.

In-person "POST IT" Brainstorming Sunday, June 5th and Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

- 1. How can we be a more welcoming church?
- 2. What activities do you feel would engage members, families and friends?

We miss you! We want to blow our doors open with activity. Our goal is to:

- Crack the door
- Open a little wider
- Blow the doors off!

you can also: Message on Christ Lutheran Church Facebook

Email: parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca

Text Louise at 905-329-8579.

**FATHER'S DAY DESSERTS**: Sunday, June 19th. Come, celebrate "fathers and father figures" that impact our lives in such positive ways. Treat them to a slice of their favourite pie and coffee, then join in on some special time together between the services. We thank our heavenly Father, for His example and ask that He continue to bless the fathers that support and surround us.

Pie and Bake Sale proceeds will go towards helping to sending our youth to the July National Youth Gathering in Winnipeg.

P.S.—If anyone would like to make a pie or other goodies for the bake sale, sign up sheets are in the narthex.

<u>LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING</u>: Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.** The theme for the gathering is "**IN NOT OF**" from Philippians 3: 20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <a href="http://www.lccnyg.ca">https://www.lccnyg.ca</a>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY</a>

We are so excited to let you know there are 3 youth attending the gathering this July 14th - 19th in Winnipeg, plus 2 adults as ibods (assisting with the details of the gathering itself) as well as Louise as the youth leader. We ask for your continued prayers on the gathering as committee members work to pull things all together and on us as we make plans to travel.

| <u>Last Sunday Attendance</u> : May 15th, 2022 Attn: 9 A.M. – 30; 11 A.M. – 42; Total: 72 |               |             |             |              | Total: 72        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
|                                                                                           | <u>Budget</u> | Weekly Need | Last Sunday | Year To Date | <u>+ or – ()</u> |
| Current:                                                                                  | 283,291.00    | 5,554.73    | 1,463.75    | 85,598.78    | (23,359.30)      |
| LCC Missions                                                                              | 20,000.00     | 392.16      | 48.00       | 5,798.50     | (1,893.81)       |
| Property Improvement:                                                                     |               |             | 172.00      | 2,801.50     | ,                |

**FLOWERS** have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Fran Porteous in honour of the upcoming Lutheran Women's Convention.

**EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED:** we continually need extra people assisting in our services. With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Greeting of Worshippers at entrance and Covid Protocol Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 2) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 3) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 4) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 5) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles

Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided] We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

**GREETERS**: - What a wonderful way to get to know everyone in the congregation and at the same time enjoy a little fellowship! Greet members at the door, encourage hand sanitizing and provide them with a copy of the Bulletin and Worship Folder. It's as easy as that! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and everyone is encouraged to sign up.

Notice to Church Extension Fund Depositors: The Church Extension Fund (CEF) is winding down its operations. All depositors with current addresses have received their deposited funds plus the interest owing. However, we have a number of unclaimed savings accounts and savings certificates as we do not have current contact information for these. If you or someone you know thinks they may have a CEF account which has not been redeemed, please contact Darryll Holland at: 800-465-8179 ext4 or <a href="mailto:dholland@lcceast.ca">dholland@lcceast.ca</a>. Also if you are in possession of God Bank Savings Stamps or Tracky Stamps, these too can be redeemed by returning the books or stamps to: Lutheran East District, 275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3.

### SIMPLE CREATIVE COMMUNION

May 22, 2022 + 9 AM Worship

GATHERING SONG: "Bless The Lord"

Chorus: Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul

**Worship His holy name** 

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 2: You're rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind For all Your goodness I will keep on singing Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus: Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name Worship Your holy name Worship Your holy name.

CCLI Song # 6016351 -- Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman © 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). --sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com -- CCLI License # 775293

### INVOCATION, CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joyful are those whose sins are forgiven,

whose wrongs are pardoned.

Joyful is the one whom the LORD does not accuse of doing wrong

and who is free from all deceit.

Ps. 32:1-2

Friends in Christ: let us confess our sins to God our Father, and ask Him to forgive us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. [Brief prayerful silence]

Lord God, our heavenly Father, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from You and have chased after our own sinful desires. We fail in love, neglect firm faithfulness and ignore Your truth. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In Your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again back to You, and uphold us by Your Spirit, so that we may love and serve You in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God has promised forgiveness of sins to all who repent and turn to Him in faith. In the place of Christ and by His Holy Command, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



We pray-- Let us pray: Almighty and merciful God, You send Your Holy Spirit, guiding us to our Resurrected Lord, the light and life of all your people. Open our hearts to receive His riches, so that we may produce the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

### GOD SPEAKS TO US

**The First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**The Second Reading:** St. John's Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

And in the spirit the Lord carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: St. John 5: 1-9

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter:

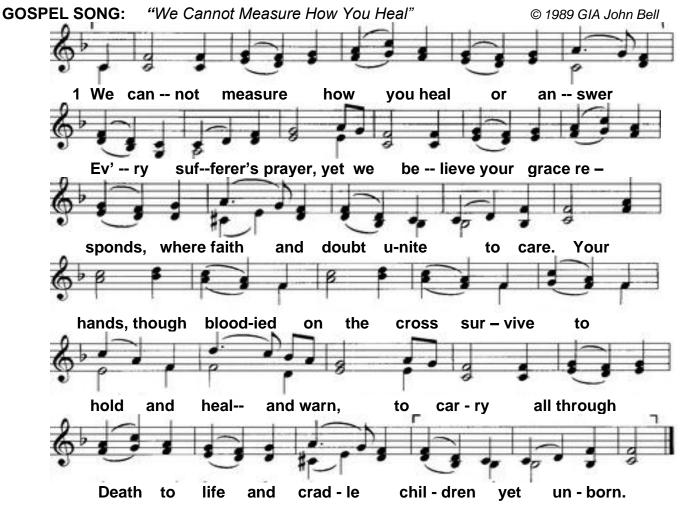
Glory to You, O Lord.

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

### THE 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 the 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 worshipped 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.

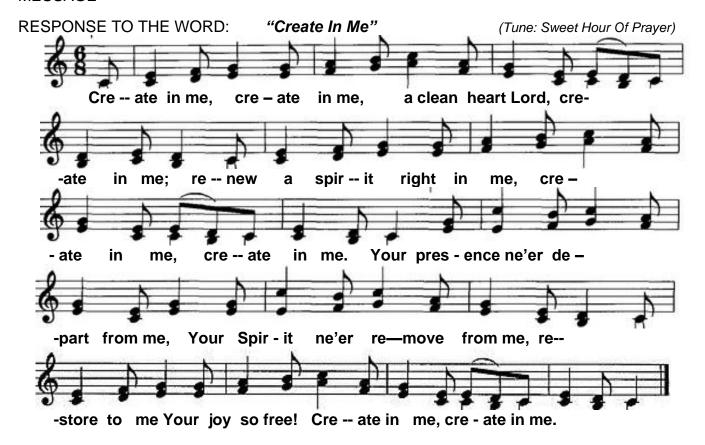


2 The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past, the fear of what the future holds are present as if meant to last. But present too is love which tends the hurt we never hoped to find, The private agonies inside the memories that haunt the mind.

3 So some have come who need your help, and some have come to make amends, as hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends. Lord, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind and soul, to disentangle peace from pain and make your broken people whole.

Words: John Bell and Graham Maule (of the Iona Community, Scotland) 1989. Music: Scottish song 'Ye Banks and Braes' composed by Robert Burns in 1791. GIA Publications © 1989

https://globalworship.tumblr.com/post/129109547265/we-cannot-measure-how-you-heal-song-for



Words: Ps. 51, adapted & arranged by Rev. T. Hoeffs, 2017. Music: William Bradbury, 1861, Sweet Hour, LMD – reprinted: www.hymnary.org/hymn/CGH2010/page/386

### PRAYERS:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for coming and making your home in us, despite our sin. And thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit as our teacher so that we are not alone in our learning. Help us to keep your word in our hearts and minds, and to fully engage in the life of the church as our practical school of faith.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people, that they may know themselves loved and forgiven by you, for Jesus' sake. Teach us by your word and Spirit to receive your love and your presence with joy and gladness, and so to spread your word throughout the world. Support all missionaries and bring fruit to their labours. Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.** 

We pray for the church, that it would love you by loving others. Teach us by your word and Spirit to care for those who are isolated and lonely, that we may be present for them with friendship and faith, and with hospitality and hope.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

We pray for all nations, that there may be peace so that your word can go out unhindered. Turn us to active renewal for any and all wrong-doing and teach us by your word and Spirit to abandon ways which do not promote life or growth.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

We pray for St Catharines and our region, that you may bless our daily work and family life. Teach us by your word and Spirit to honour you in all our relationships, and keep our lives free from sin and destructive behaviour.

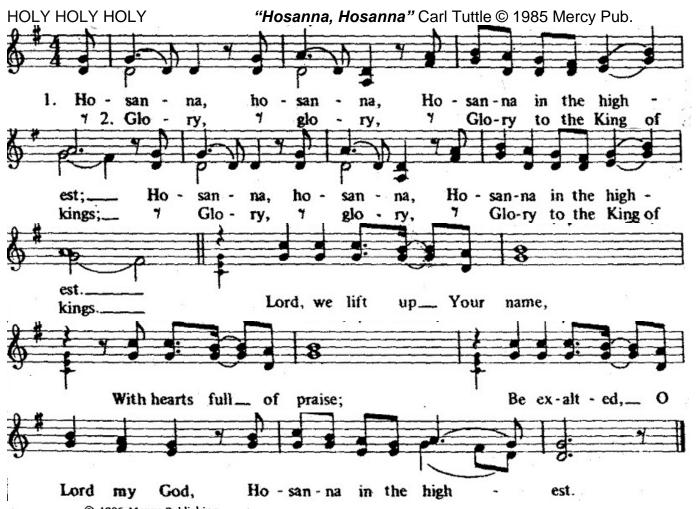
Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need, for the sick and the sorrowing - provide, heal, and comfort them with your lifegiving presence. Teach us by your word and Spirit to be generous in giving, wise in counsel, and persistent in care.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, remembering our Gracious Father's mercy and His present help in time of need, let us commend ourselves, one another, our hopes and prayers, and, indeed, our whole life to Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** 

### THE HOLY MEAL



© 1985 Mercy Publishing

PO Box 277, Anaheim, CA 92805-0227

All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

Used by permission.

CCLI Song # 21545 -- Carl Tuttle © 1985 Shadow Spring Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) the SongSelect® <u>Terms</u> of <u>Use</u>. All rights reserved. <u>www.ccli.com</u> CCLI License # 775293

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

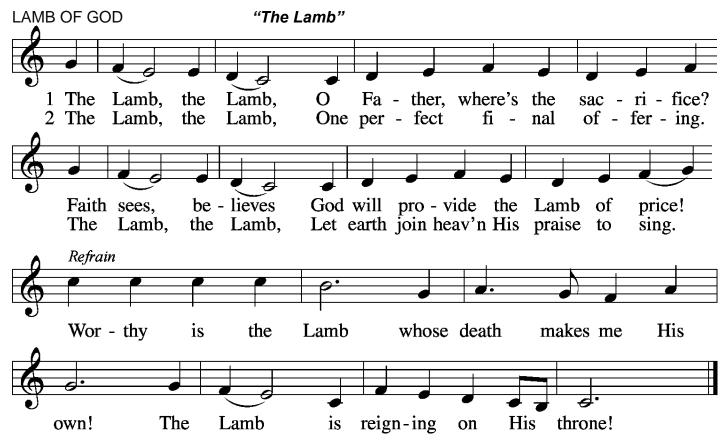
Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you



© 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012803.

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

**COMMUNION SONG:** 

"All Glory Be To Christ"

[Auld Lang Syne melody]

### Verse 1:

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ

### Chorus:

All glory be to Christ our king All glory be to Christ His rule and reign we'll ever sing All glory be to Christ Verse 2

His will be done His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ.

### Chorus:

All glory be to Christ our king All glory be to Christ His rule and reign we'll ever sing All glory be to Christ

### Verse 3:

When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light

And we shall e'er his people be All glory be to Christ.

Chorus:

All glory be to Christ our king All glory be to Christ His rule and reign we'll ever sing All glory be to Christ

CCLI Song # 7008232 --Dustin Kensrue; © 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect® <u>Terms of Use</u>. All rights reserved. <u>www.ccli.com</u> --CCLI License # 775293

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: We pray: Almighty God, Who has given Jesus Christ, Your only Son, to be for us both a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

### **BLESSING:**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace.

Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** 

"Soon & Very Soon"

www.Hymnary.orgAGPS © CP

B♭/C F 1 Soon and ver - y soon 2 No more cry - ing there, we are going to see the King! 3 No more dy - ing there, C7 F Soon and ver-y No more cry-ing there going to see the King! we are No more dy-ing there, B♭/C F Soon and ver-y soon Nomore cry-ing there, we going to see the King! are Ha-le-Nomore dy-ing there, F7/A  $\mathbf{B}_{r}$ B♭m/G Bb m/Db 1-2<sub>F/C</sub> Am/CGm/C B♭/C lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King! F Am/C Gm/C going to see the King!

## HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK SETTING ONE

May 22, 2022 + 11 AM Worship

FIRST HYMN:

"The Saviour Calls, Let Evr'ry Ear"

[O For A Thousand Tongues tune]

- 1. The Savior calls; let ev'ry ear, attend the heav'nly sound. all troubled souls, dismiss your fear; Hope smiles reviving round.
- 2. For ev'ry thirsty, longing heart, here streams of bounty flow And life and health and bliss impart to comfort human woe.
- 3. Here springs of sacred treasures rise to ease your ev'ry pain; A joyous fountain, full supplies! You shall not thirst in vain.

Anne Steele, 1780, public domain; The Lutheran Hymnal 1941 alt.

### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:**

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [Brief silence for reflection]

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 neighbours 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.

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

### SPOKEN KYRIE:

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, hear us and give us Your peace. Amen.





### SPOKEN GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you: And also with you.

Almighty and merciful God, You send Your Holy Spirit, guiding us to our Resurrected Lord, the light and life of all your people. Open our hearts to receive His riches, so that we may produce the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

### GOD SPEAKS TO US

The First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 16: 9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

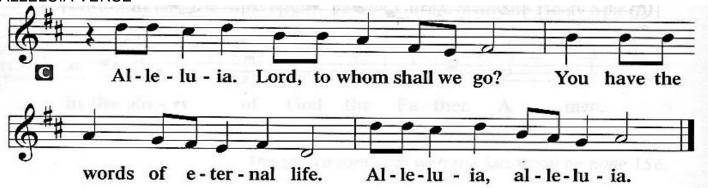
### The Second Reading:

St. John's Revelation 21:10, 22 - 22:5

And in the spirit the Lord carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

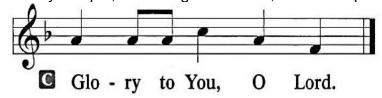
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.





The Holy Gospel: St. John 5:1-9

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter:



After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. .



### THE 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 the 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 worshipped 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.



- 2 The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past, the fear of what the future holds are present as if meant to last. But present too is love which tends the hurt we never hoped to find, the private agonies inside the memories that haunt the mind.
- 3 So some have come who need your help, and some have come to make amends, as hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends. Lord, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind and soul, to disentangle peace from pain and make your broken people whole

Words: John Bell and Graham Maule (of the Iona Community, Scotland) 1989. Music: Scottish song 'Ye Banks and Braes' composed by Robert Burns in 1791. GIA Publications © 1989 https://globalworship.tumblr.com/post/129109547265/we-cannot-measure-how-you-heal-song-for

### **MESSAGE**

Victoria Day recognition – "God Save The Queen"

God save our gracious Queen, long live our noble Queen, God save the Queen.

Send her victorious, happy and glorious, long to reign over us,

God save the Queen.

### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for coming and making your home in us, despite our sin. And thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit as our teacher so that we are not alone in our learning. Help us to keep your word in our hearts and minds, and to fully engage in the life of the church as our practical school of faith.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people, that they may know themselves loved and forgiven by you, for Jesus' sake. Teach us by your word and Spirit to receive your love and your presence with joy and gladness, and so to spread your word throughout the world. Support all missionaries and bring fruit to their labours. Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

We pray for the church, that it would love you by loving others. Teach us by your word and Spirit to care for those who are isolated and lonely, that we may be present for them with friendship and faith, and with hospitality and hope.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

We pray for all nations, that there may be peace so that your word can go out unhindered. Turn us to active renewal for any and all wrong-doing and teach us by your word and Spirit to abandon ways which do not promote life or growth.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

We pray for St Catharines and our region, that you may bless our daily work and family life. Teach us by your word and Spirit to honour you in all our relationships, and keep our lives free from sin and destructive behaviour.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need, for the sick and the sorrowing - provide, heal, and comfort them with your lifegiving presence. Teach us by your word and Spirit to be generous in giving, wise in counsel, and persistent in care.

Hear us, O God; Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, remembering our Gracious Father's mercy and His present help in time of need, let us commend ourselves, one another, our hopes and prayers, and, indeed, our whole life to Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** 

### THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

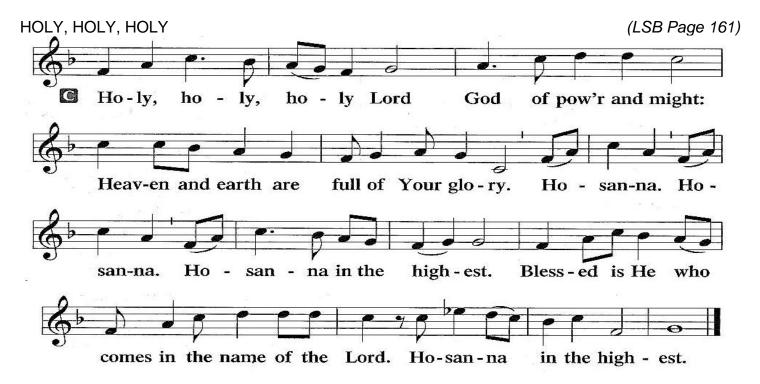
Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

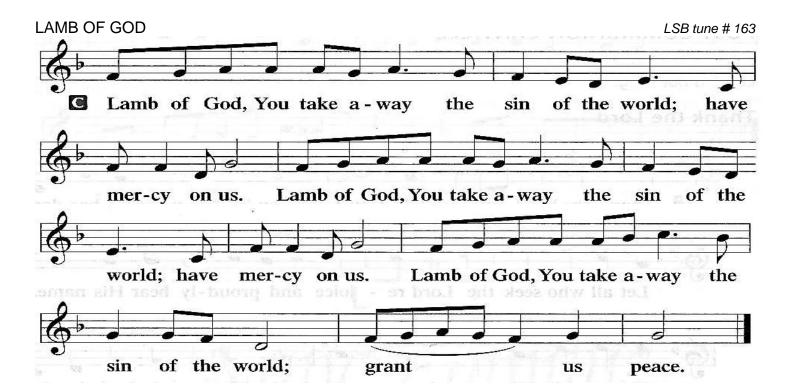
It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God: but chiefly are we bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for He is the very Paschal Lamb, Who was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By His death He has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again He has restored to us everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your glorious name and join their un-ending hymn:



THE LORD'S PRAYER Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name....

### WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.** 



### THE COMMUNION

**COMMUNION HYMN:** 

"All Glory Be To Christ"

[Auld Lang Syne melody]

Verse 1:

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ

### Chorus:

All glory be to Christ our king
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

### Verse 2:

His will be done His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ.

### Chorus:

All glory be to Christ our king All glory be to Christ His rule and reign we'll ever sing All glory be to Christ

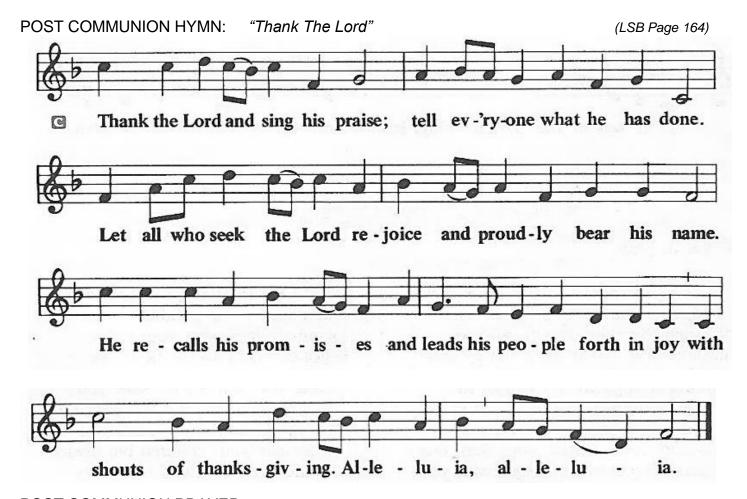
### Verse 3:

When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er his people be
All glory be to Christ.

### Chorus

All glory be to Christ our king
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ

CCLI Song # 7008232 --Dustin Kensrue; © 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect® <u>Terms of Use</u>. All rights reserved. <u>www.ccli.com</u> --CCLI License # 775293



### POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

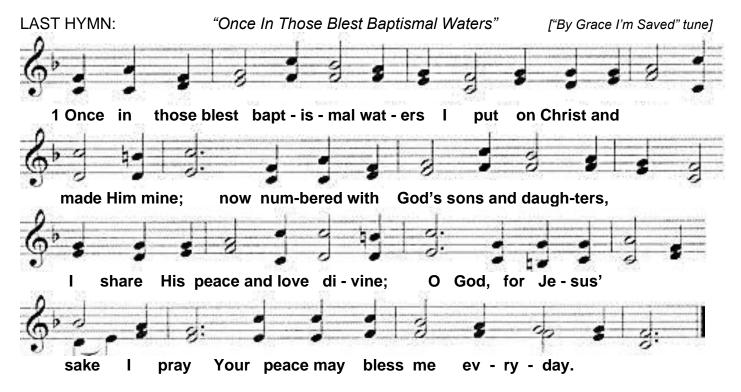
Let us pray: Almighty God, Who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

### **BENEDICTION:**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace.

Amen.



- 2 His Body and His Blood I've taken in His blest Supper, feast divine; Now I shall never be forsaken, for I am His and He is mine; O God, for Jesus' sake I pray, Your peace may bless me ev'ryday.
- And now I live in God contented and die without a thought of fear.

  My soul has to God's plans consented, for through His Son my faith is clear.

  O God, for Jesus' sake I pray, Your peace may bless me ev'ryday.

Words: Emilie von Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, 1637-1706; trans. 1941 © Concordia Publishing House Music: Cornelius Dretzel, 1697-1775; trans. 1941 © Concordia Publishing House PUBLIC DOMAIN reprinted with limited worship use permission www.hymnary.orgLSB

REV. TODD HOEFFS EASTER 6 (series C)

Scripture: St. John 5:1-9

May 22, 2022

"Diving into the Deep End of New Life"

The talented and troubled painter Vincent Van Gogh coined the phrase, "sometimes the cure is worse than the disease." He lived this truth. Having suffered from a mis-diagnosed epileptic seizure disorder. Only to be treated wrongly in a time when issue related to the brain was experimental at best, cruel at worst. The man in need of healing in John's Gospel has suffered from neglect. Very little help was given to alleviate pain and illness in Biblical days. Sick and lame people crowding around a special pool day after day, year after year. Hoping for a feeling of rejuvenation, even if fleeting. The lame man's name isn't given. He doesn't even show much gratitude for the healing. Later in the chapter he claims, "some man healed him". In fact, it's like the healing itself isn't even that important! Coming to grips with our deepest need in casting aside all our personal crutches & supports which don't work is crucially important. This Bethesda pool sits in Jerusalem, near the sheep gate. In Hebrew Bethesda means 'House of Mercy'. The people of the day believed this pool held miraculous healing properties caused by an angel stirring up the waters (causing the spring to bubble). When this happened, people believed the first person to get in to the water would be healed from whatever ailment they had. Jesus comes by, very unassuming. Jesus' presence doesn't inspire any awe or shock. No one seems to care who he is. That lame man is very concerned about getting help into the pool. If he's too slow, he won't be the 1st in and he won't be healed. It's a troubling life-sentence of disappointment day after day. He's been like this for 38 years. He's more than used to it. That's a long life in ancient times. When many didn't reach much older than 50. Water is soothing. The mineral springs in Moose Jaw SK made a great honeymoon spot resting for us in those soothing pools. Calm, relaxing, but not necessarily healing. Not for any major disability. And if nothing helped this poor man in 38 years one more try isn't gonna work either. Not like putting that last coin into the slot machine after you've stood there playing it all day. He kinda wasted his life away hoping that the pool water could heal.

But that's expected isn't it? Change is hard. We grow accustomed to a past pattern, its tried and true, And meets expectations, even if it isn't healthy for us. We like the enemy we know better than the enemy we don't know. It's a trust issue. Trusting in some magical nature of a supposed healing pool. So many missed opportunities only fed his desire. It's one little measure of his life that in his control...only he really isn't. He's missed out on being the 1<sup>st</sup> in. And in Jesus' eyes, that doesn't matter. His life doesn't make him worthy or unworthy of healing. Our Lord blesses both the devout faithful & the reluctant doubter. We usually think faith happens before or during a healing encounter

with Jesus. That's not a far-fetched idea. You'd think we'd all be brimming over with faith if Jesus straightened out our crooked lives.

But...didn't Jesus come to His own people & they received Him NOT!? The world would never be ready to welcome him. He comes anyway, in spite of people's cluelessness. He comes to meet our deepest needs. He not only fixes what's broken but renovates our entire lives from inside out. The pool episode gives us a snapshot that life then was no different than life today. Jesus comes up alongside of our crutches, let's us limp along trying it over & over until it fails....and that can take a long time. But He never removes His presence. His Word echoes in our ears..."trust in the Lord & lean not on your own understanding...." We advise others to stop doing what doesn't work and yet do we fail to take our own advice. A good definition of insanity is doing the same thing over & over & expecting different results. We like what's Familiar & Predictable. It worked once before. Why not now? 38 years of trying that pool. Maybe this time...it'll work. Shows just how desperate & persistent halfhearted tries can survive. Imagine his longing, his sense of desperation, the incredible suffering and severe limitation that his condition imposed upon his life.

Imagine his despair. His loneliness. He's crippled. No one willing to help. And no one has told him that he doesn't need the pool. The promised Healer is coming to make the lame run, the crooked paths levelled straight, the proud made low and the low lifted up to Heaven. Jesus comes to him, because his condition and his trying has made him low....he's about to be lifted up. Right to the very heights of heaven. While many Christians chagrin our current culture & society, we, as the church are actually well positioned. Our work is cut out for us.

All the old methods of evangelizing have proven not to work. Programs, door to door campaigning, fliers, etc....all really ineffective. What does? Simple calm faithful friendly witnessing to the hope of Christ in us. But that means we must interact with people.

All people. Like those by the Bethesda pool. Like all the people Jesus encountered. Stepping out of what's known and comfortable and trusting that Christ will be enough, that His healing life flowing in ours will not only transform is but transform those we encounter. Jesus' miraculous healing is truly a picture of the complete healing which comes at His Easter Resurrection and our complete healing on the Last Day. When all bodies and souls are reunited, free from disease, death and decay. Because Jesus' miracle 1st depicts the glory of His cross. There He takes upon himself the pain and suffering of the whole world. He embraces the brokenness of all creation

with his outstretched arms and nailed hands. Jesus in fact took into His perfect body every disease, evil thought, broken promise, every single sin... bathed in a blood bath of suffering until all of that died in His cruel death. And it's not like this gives us a better chance to dip into the healing pool. He

doesn't help us try harder or better. He doesn't turn a blind eye to our shortcomings and rebellious attitudes. He washes away the stains of stubbornness.

He gives us clean hearts and full lives. Overflowing, never-ending life. In Jesus you are cleansed and forgiven and can stand upright before God with a clean conscience. And yet, sometimes we fear the cure more than the illness. When we cease being a victim – "I can't get to the water Jesus; there's always someone else who gets there first" – and start being confident in Jesus' healing presence—then our legs are strong enough for us to walk beside others who are in pain and need help. Our arms are empowered to embrace our enemies and the outcasts. We no longer make excuses; instead we walk forward in Jesus' healing life and go on to another day,

serving, healing, helping, hoping, and living a life of joy and peace. And this doesn't come about because of some Bethesda mercy pool. Our mercy pool is the Baptismal font. God said you're fully in His Kingdom when the Holy Spirit descended upon you the day of your baptism.

Jesus takes His place with you, throws away your self-righteous crutch and unites Himself with you. Your old life is washed away in the tidal wave of renewal and what washes up to the new shore is a new person remade in Jesus' image and life. You're one with Him in His cross and one with Him in His empty tomb. In this hope you stand up and walk in faithful confidence.

Jesus doesn't always change our outer circumstances. Sometimes we walk with renewed energy. Sometimes the disease is healed. Many times not. We learn to cope or suffer through it in hope. AS JESUS IS ALWAYS CHANGING US. He takes us into a new way of being, seeing, acting, speaking, thinking. We soon discover that the bad circumstances have somehow changed. That doesn't necessarily make life easy or that we'll always have a quick rescue.

But His presence makes our circumstances more manageable and we engage them from a different place and position. The magical pools like Bethsaida we would rather rely upon

Are all drained of their power over us. There is freedom from needing a crutch to lean on in a rut of life. What was once familiar is not always good. That can stagnate us. Once stagnant life waters now bubble up with new invigorating life. Like the invigorating medicine of eternal life which brings Jesus' presence ever nearer. His Holy Communion, where united we kneel and receive Him, is the food ensuring we remain in His nourishing Body. Jesus' Word "take up your mat and walk" gives way to "Take and eat...drink of it all of you..." this "New Testament" means new life, Jesus' powerful Body and Blood filling your whole being. Making your words, peace, your life a witness, your attitude one of hope, your presence a joy and blessing.

All because Jesus' cure is so much better than the disease, the sin-disease now eliminated and the life we live, we live and stand and walk anew to God.

Amen.