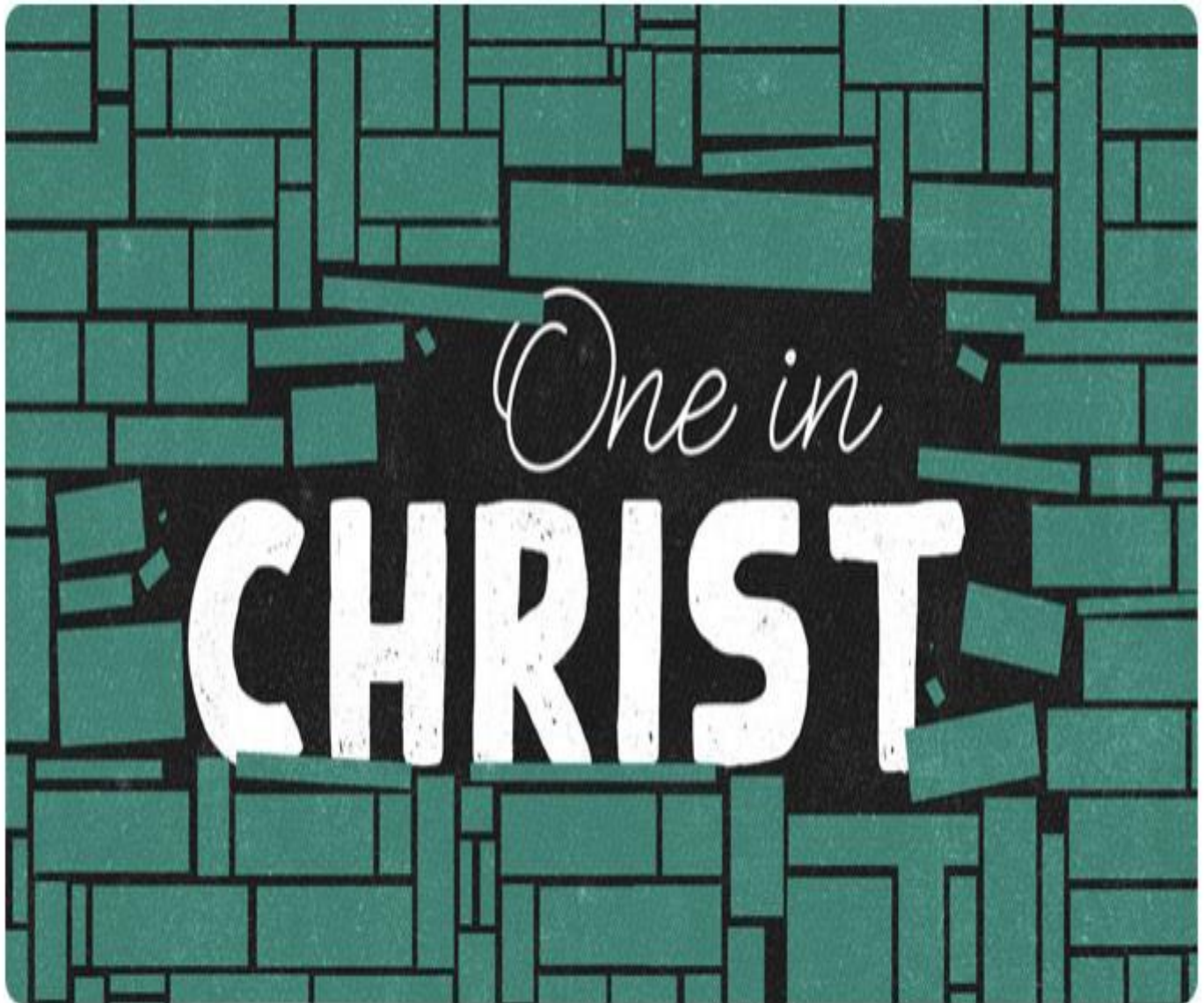


THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
June 19th, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
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.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: O God, whose never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth, put away from us, we entreat You, all hurtful things, and give us those things that are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children’s Message: 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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE TODAY: Psalm 22:22 <https://youtu.be/-fKcpZvXF-g>

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 11 Tim. 3: 14-17 Wed.: Acts 8: 26-35 Friday: Ezek. 3: 22-27
Tuesday: Ezek. 2: 1-7 Thurs: Luke 10: 1-11 Saturday: Isa. 3: 1-7

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 22: 22.

Organist: 9 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz
Readers: 9 a.m. –Daniel Figueroa 11 a.m. – Gloria Meyer
Greeters: 9 a.m. – Frank & Ivy Parkhouse 11 a.m. –

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION STARTING JULY 2022

Beginning Sunday, July 10, Christ Lutheran Church will offer Holy Communion distribution in the manner which pre-dated COVID Pandemic time. Instead of the single file “pilgrim style” method --

- 1) Worshippers will be directed to the communion rail in the inner chancel and kneel to receive.
- 2) Distancing between worshippers will be considered, for the best interests of our people.
- 3) The communion bread/wafer/host will still be given with silver tongs.
- 4) The common cup [or chalice] will be offered along with the tray of individual glasses. Appropriate handling and cleansing will be considered and applied.
- 5) The pastoral blessing will be spoken after each table [rail] communes.
- 6) Worshippers will return to their pew via the outer aisle.
- 7) As always, facemasks may or may not be worn according to comfort level of worshipper.

While the church realizes this is familiar and yet new, after 2 years without this custom, any worshipper who would rather not receive Communion in this manner yet, please alert Pastor Todd or an elder/usher. Adjustments and modifications can be made for the welfare of all of our people. Any questions, comments or concerns, please let Pastor Todd know.
Thank you and peace.

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning by Judy Slingerland in loving memory of her parents, Ed & Helen Voegel.



TODAY--FATHER'S DAY DESSERTS: 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, and join in on some special time together between the services this morning.

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.

LMWL-C/Mary Martha are pleased to invite you to our final gathering before the summer break on **Tuesday, June 21st at 5:30 p.m.** as a pot luck. Kathy DeKouchay has the sign-up sheet for food, so if you can discuss with her what you might bring (appetizer, salad, main course, dessert) that would be helpful. Mary Saxton has graciously offered her home at 28 Emerald Common (go north to Lakeshore & just east off Vine St. turn left onto Willcher, left onto Sapphire & left onto Emerald Common.) Since parking is limited please arrange to carpool. Please also bring with you, your own plates and cutlery plus a lawn chair. We look forward to seeing you and being together.

CONGREGATIONAL/VOTERS MEETING – WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 2022, 7:00 PM

Agenda will include ratification of actions taken by Church Council during Covid restrictions, approval of Budget for 2022, election of Church Council, Reports from Committee Chairs and a discussion of service times for the summer and into the fall. You do not need to be a Voter to attend and everyone is encouraged to be there if possible.

SOUL has resumed its IN-PERSON gathering each Thursday! Approx. 15 people will attend each week with caregivers. We will sing, pray, play Bible Bingo, create crafts, enjoy refreshments and much needed relationship building in lively conversations. Pastor Todd is the current leader and will be assisted by Heather Simons, Louise Gondosch (piano), Betty Vasko (kitchen), Judy Slingerland, Tom Bailey, Judy Mason, Wendy Hyatt and Linda Sowry. Pastor Todd's email address is: pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com. We no longer have a fax number. This is a wonderful start which can only grow and grow as the Lord wills. Thank you for all who support this important and vital ministry



SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH

Services: 9:00 a.m. at Church
11:00 a.m. at Burgoyne Woods, Section "C"

Organized Games & Activities, Fun and Action for all!!
Hamburgers, hotdogs and pop provided.

Necessities to bring: Lawn Chairs, salad, dessert, "utensils" and "plates".

If you plan to attend, please register by Sunday June 19

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING: 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) and myself 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: June 12th, 2022 Attn: 9 A.M. – 51; 11 A.M. – 28; Total: 79</u>					
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current:	283,291.00	5,554.73	1,863.00	93,244.78	(32,057.01)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	392.16	190.00	6,615.50	(2,230.65)
Property Improvement:			114.00	3,195.50	

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



SILVER SPIRE UNITED CHURCH DONATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS

Silver Spire provides showers and laundry facilities for those experiencing homelessness or anyone in need of those services in the area. Our church has helped them in the past by donating laundry soap, body wash, towels, etc., but now they need:

1. Men's boxer briefs
2. Women's underwear
3. Deodorant
4. **\$25 GIANT TIGER GIFT CARDS (for pantry items)**

There will be a laundry basket in the narthex for any of the above items. Judy Mason 905-641-7546 is overseeing this project if you wish to donate, please contact her if you have a gift card.

Proverbs 19:17: "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

Notice to Church Extension Fund Depositors: The Church Extension Fund (CEF) is winding down its operations and as of now 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 dholland@lceast.ca. 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

BREAD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CREATIVE WORSHIP SETTING

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
June 19, 2022 + 9 AM Father's Day

BEGINNING SONG: **"Take My Life & Let It Be"** www.hymnary.org/ELW



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

PATMOS
7777

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

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

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

that the men and women of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3: 16-17)

Give ear, O My people, to [the Lord's] teaching;

incline your ears to the words of His mouth!

We will not hide them from the children,

but tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,

and the wonders that he has done. (Ps. 78: 1,4)

Father and Lord, we come, humbly before you, as sinners seeking mercy, forgiveness and newness of life! O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,

Hear us when we name our sins and seek Your help. We are rebellious. Whatever good we try to do ends up in spiritual pride or spiritual despair. We are troubled, arrogant and wayward people, in all of the things we do, and in all of the things we fail to do. Even our most valiant attempts at pleasing You are soiled with our sins. Have mercy on us, renew us and guide our feet into the way of peace.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

He has called you by name. You are His. (Isaiah 43:1b)

When the Son of God sets you free, you are really free! (John 8:36)

So in the stead and by the Holy Command of my Lord, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

SPOKEN KYRIE: **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE:

(Tune: "Ode To Joy")



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

Let us pray: Lord God, You protect all who place their trust in You, and without You nothing is strong and nothing is holy: In Your great mercy guide us through the good things of this life, so that in the end we do not lose the gift of eternal life. 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.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *1 Kings 1-4, 8-15*

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.'....He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down

your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Galatians 3:23-29*

[St. Paul writes:] Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 8: 26-39*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 8th chapter: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him. 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.

GOSPEL SONG "Borning Cry"

www.hymnary.orgELW



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

© 1985 John Ylvisaker, 1937-2017 WATERLIFE Used with limited worship permission

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Heavenly Father: thank you for loving us so extravagantly and for forgiving us for Jesus' sake. Show us our sin, and strengthen our faith so that we will gladly face our sin, confess it to you and trust in your mercy and grace; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people, troubled and in need. Bless those who spread the gospel and particularly the work of caring ministries, advocacy, awareness and all manner of serving the needs of others; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all men, fathers, grandfathers, uncles, nephews and all men who give of their time and talent to parent and nurture others. May they live out their vocation and gifts of faith in serving love towards others. May they support and give strength and wisdom as they so receive the same from You, O gracious Heavenly Father; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all whom society regards as 'untouchable', that they may know your love through the church. Curb us from passing quick judgement on others, and bring us to reach out and give ourselves in sacrificial love to others; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the world and its many needs. Dismantle all misuse of power. Uphold and keep safe our nations' leaders. Protect the weak and preserve the rule of law in all societies. Heal all those who have been damaged by sexual abuse within the church; hear us O God; **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are in health-related needs or suffering. Hear all prayers for those struggling and let them be confident in your saving help. In particular we pray for (*insert names*), and others we know to be in want. Be with those in grief or sorrow, depression, anxiety or hurt. Bless those who travel, recreate and all celebration birthdays and anniversaries, as you gladden them with your joyful presence; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

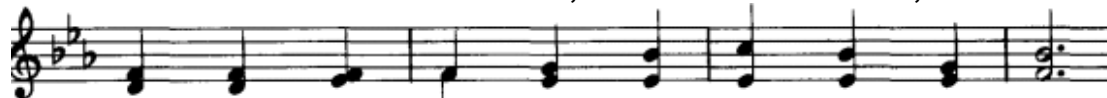
THE SACRAMENT

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

"Lord of All Hopefulness" Slane tune



Ho -- ly Most Ho - ly, all ho -- ly the Lord,
Bles - sed most bles - sed, all bles - sed is He,



In pow' r and wis - dom for - ev - er a - dored!
He makes us whole and His death sets us free;



Earth and the heav - ens are full of your love;
Comes in the name of the Fath - er of light!



Joy - ful ho - san - nas re - e - cho a - bove.
End - less ho - san - nas re - sound in the height.

Words: © 1995 Kevin Mayhew Ltd; www.songselect.ccli.com/Songs/5770825/holy-most-holy-slane

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Holy God, Mighty Lord, gracious Father, endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Through Abraham You promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel through the Red Sea flood. By the Prophets' Word You renewed Your promise, and at the right time, You sent Your Son, the Word made Flesh, Who emptied Himself and was obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Since You poured out Your Spirit on Your Church, may all of Your sons and daughters faithfully eat and drink the Body and Blood of Your Son, going forth to proclaim His salvation to the ends of the earth. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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

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.**

LAMB OF GOD:

"Lamb of God"

tune © 1985 Twila Paris

**Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God -- *Chorus:*
Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.**

<https://digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/4230>

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN:

"O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Do Believe"

[Tune: Abide With Me]

**O, Gracious Lord, I firmly do be-lieve,
Your bound-less love will bless each faith-ful soul;
As from this al-tar, we may here re-ceive,
Your Body and Your Blood to make us whole.**

**Lord, I do sin, and countless times offend,
My thank-less thoughts and words and deeds e-rase,
To me Your hand of mer-cy now ex-tend,
O God, my Saviour, I im-plore Your grace.**


**My sin is great, yet at Your table kneel,
Lord, as a guest, I surely am the least.
Un-clean, un-fit, my wrongs I deep-ly feel,
My heart, pre-pare for this most Ho-ly Meal.**

**O Lamb of God, my loving Saviour True,
I can embrace in faith and hope a-new;
Give me the strength to show forth works of love,
A life now hid-den in Your Home ab-ove.**

**Sweet, Heav'nly Bread, my ben-ed-iction now,
This Cup I drink can take away each ill.
Come and re-lieve my soul's affliction now,
Calm ev'ry sigh un-til my heart is still.**


Words: Spanish origin; Trans. S. Starke, b. 1955, alt. Tune: EVENTIDE LSB # 878 W. Monk, 1823-79

Unison




Let Your ser-vant, Lord, de-part in peace, Your Word is filled;


Unison



My own eyes have seen sal-va-tion for the world You willed;



Ev'ry Nat-ion sees Your Light. You are Is-rael's glo-ry bright!



Bles - sed Fath-er, Son and Spir-it, You we praise, A-men.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Pour out upon us Your blessed Holy Spirit, O Lord, that we who have shared in this Holy Communion feast of Your Body and Blood may find strength in the Fellowship and Confession of the One True Faith which sends us forth to proclaim Your redeeming love to the world and prepare us joyfully to see You face to face in glory; Who with the Father and the Spirit You live and reign as one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION:

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 favour + and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG "Precious Lord, Take my Hand"

www.hymnary.orgLSB



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
 2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 When my life is al - most gone,
 And the day is al - most gone.



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
 Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
 At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993

Music: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993

PRECIOUS LORD

669D

Text and music: © 1938 Unichappell Music Inc. (renewed). Assigned to Warner-Tamertane Publishing Corp.
 All rights reserved. Used with permission of Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

Is. 42:6; John 10:1–3, 27–28; Ps. 121:8

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Let us depart in peace & joy, serving our Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE:

LITURGY NOTE: BREAD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CREATIVE WORSHIP SETTING is adapted from the Lutheran Church of Australia website for worship & Holy Communion setting 10 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Augsburg Fortress, © 1997, 2006 & 2011: tunes such as Hymn to Joy, Unser Herrscher, Slane, Puer Nobis & O Dass Ich Tausend Zungen have been used and re-printed with limited permission.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all dads, grandpas, uncles and men who help parent and father others in all sorts of mentoring ways. We pray and hope you can enjoy a day of rest, rejuvenation and recreation with your family or friends.

HOLY COMMUNION

BREAD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CREATIVE WORSHIP SETTING

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
June 19, 2022 + 11 AM Father's Day

OPENING HYMN:

"O Savior, Precious Savior"

www.hymnary.orgLSB 527

**O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love!
O name of might and favor, all other names above!
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee, and confess Thee, our holy Lord and king.**

**O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously hast wrought,
Thyself the revelation of love beyond our thought;
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee, and confess Thee, our gracious Lord and king.**

**In Thee all fullness dwelleth, all grace and power divine;
The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine;
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing:
We praise Thee, and confess Thee our glorious Lord and king.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79
Music: Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929

ANGEL'S STORY
76 76 D

Text and music: Public domain

1 Peter 1:8-9; Phil. 2:9; Col. 1:19; Rev. 7:9-14

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

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

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

**that the men and women of God may be complete, equipped for every
good work.** *(2 Tim. 3: 16-17)*

Give ear, O My people, to [the Lord's] teaching;

incline your ears to the words of His mouth!

We will not hide them from the children,

but tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,

and the wonders that he has done.

(Ps. 78: 1, 4)

Father and Lord, we come, humbly before you, as sinners seeking mercy, forgiveness and newness of life! O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,

**Hear us when we name our sins and seek Your help. We are rebellious. Whatever good
we try to do ends up in spiritual pride or spiritual despair. We are troubled, arrogant and
wayward people, in all of the things we do, and in all of the things we fail to do.** Even our

most valiant attempts at pleasing You are soiled with our sins. Have mercy on us, renew us and guide our feet into the way of peace.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

(Romans 8:1)

He has called you by name. You are His.

(Isaiah 43:1b)

When the Son of God sets you free, you are really free!

(John 8:36)

So in the stead and by the Holy Command of my Lord, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

SPOKEN KYRIE

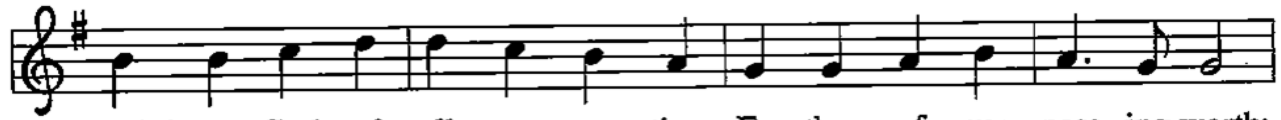
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

(Tune: "Ode To Joy")



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Let us pray: Lord God, You protect all who place their trust in You, and without You nothing is strong and nothing is holy: In Your great mercy guide us through the good things of this life, so that in the end we do not lose the gift of eternal life. 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.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *1 Kings 1-4, 8-15*

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.'....He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food

for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Galatians 3:23-29*

[St. Paul writes:] Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Tune: *LSB # 901*)

S205a



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 8: 26-39*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 8th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most

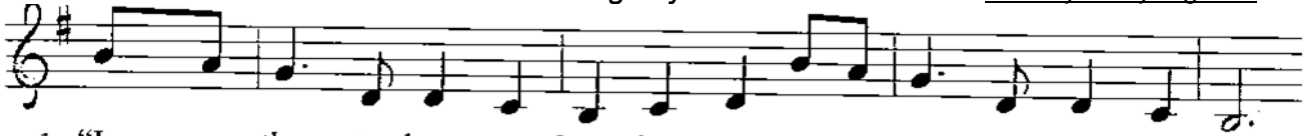
High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

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.



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

© 1985 John Ylvisaker, 1937-2017 WATERLIFE Used with limited worship permission

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Heavenly Father: thank you for loving us so extravagantly and for forgiving us for Jesus' sake. Show us our sin, and strengthen our faith so that we will gladly face our sin, confess it to you and trust in your mercy and grace; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people, troubled and in need. Bless those who spread the gospel and particularly the work of caring ministries, advocacy, awareness and all manner of serving the needs of others; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all men, fathers, grandfathers, uncles, nephews and all men who give of their time and talent to parent and nurture others. May they live out their vocation and gifts of faith in serving love toward others. May they support and give strength and wisdom as they so receive the same from You, O gracious Heavenly Father; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all whom society regards as 'untouchable', that they may know your love through the church. Curb us from passing quick judgement on others, and bring us to reach out and give ourselves in sacrificial love to others; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the world and its many needs. Dismantle all misuse of power. Uphold and keep safe our nations' leaders. Protect the weak and preserve the rule of law in all societies. Heal all those who have been damaged by sexual abuse within the church; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who are in health-related needs or suffering. Hear all prayers for those struggling and let them be confident in your saving help. In particular we pray for (*insert names*), and others we know to be in want. Be with those in grief or sorrow, depression, anxiety or hurt. Bless those who travel, recreate and all celebration birthdays and anniversaries, as you gladden them with your joyful presence; hear us O God;

Your mercy is great.

Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, 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.

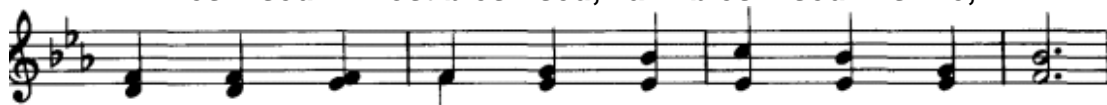
It is truly good, right and a joyful thing that we should at all times and in places give thanks to You O Lord, O holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, on this day over came death and the grave, and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so with the Church on earth and all the hosts of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

"Lord of All Hopefulness" Slane tune



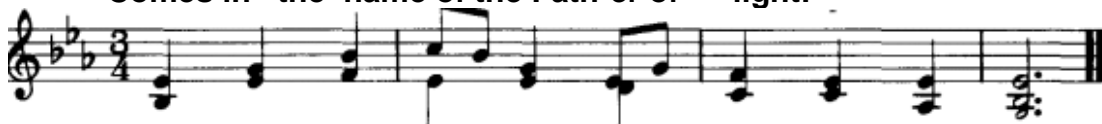
Ho -- ly Most Ho - ly, all ho -- ly the Lord,
Bles - sed most bles - sed, all bles - sed is He,



In pow' r and wis - dom for - ev - er a - dored!
He makes us whole and His death sets us free;



Earth and the heav-ens are full of your love;
Comes in the name of the Fath-er of light!



Joy - ful ho-san-nas re - e- cho a-bove.
End - less ho-san-nas re - sound in the height.

Words: © 1995 Kevin Mayhew Ltd; www.songselect.ccli.com/Songs/5770825/holy-most-holy-slave

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, Mighty Lord, gracious Father, endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Through Abraham You promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel through the Red Sea flood. By the Prophets' Word You renewed Your promise, and at the right time, You sent Your Son, the Word made Flesh, Who emptied Himself and was obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Since You poured out Your Spirit on Your Church, may all of Your sons and daughters faithfully eat and drink the Body and Blood of Your Son, going forth to proclaim His salvation to the ends of the earth. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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

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.**

LAMB OF GOD

"Lamb of God" tune

© 1985 Twila Paris

**Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God -- *Chorus:*
Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.**

<https://digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/4230>

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN:

“O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Do Believe“

[Tune: Abide With Me]

O, Gracious Lord, I firmly do be-lieve,
Your bound-less love will bless each faith-ful soul;
As from this al-tar, we may here re-ceive,
Your Body and Your Blood to make us whole.

Lord, I do sin, and countless times offend,
My thank-less thoughts and words and deeds e-rase,
To me Your hand of mer-cy now ex-tend,
O God, my Saviour, I im-plore Your grace.

My sin is great, yet at Your table kneel,
Lord, as a guest, I surely am the least.
Un-clean, un-fit, my wrongs I deep-ly feel,
My heart, pre-pare for this most Ho-ly Meal.

O Lamb of God, my loving Saviour True,
I can embrace in faith and hope a-new;
Give me the strength to show forth works of love,
A life now hid-den in Your Home ab-ove.

Sweet, Heav'nly Bread, my ben-ed-iction now,
This Cup I drink can take away each ill.
Come and re-lieve my soul's affliction now,
Calm ev'ry sigh un-til my heart is still.

Words: Spanish origin; Trans. S. Starke, b. 1955, alt. Tune: EVENTIDE LSB # 878 W. Monk, 1823-79

POST COMMUNION HYMN

(Tune: LSB # 811)



C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es



tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your



bod - y and Your blood Be for my ' soul the high - est good!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Pour out upon us Your blessed Holy Spirit, O Lord, that we who have shared in this Holy Communion feast of Your Body and Blood may find strength in the Fellowship and Confession of the One True Faith which sends us forth to proclaim Your redeeming love to the world and prepare us joyfully to see You face to face in glory; Who with the Father and the Spirit You live and reign as one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION:

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 favour + and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Take My Life & Let It Be"

www.hymnary.orgELW



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

PATMOS
7777

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us depart in peace & joy, serving our Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

LITURGY NOTE: BREAD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CREATIVE WORSHIP SETTING is adapted from the Lutheran Church of Australia website for worship & Holy Communion setting 10 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Augsburg Fortress, © 1997, 2006 & 2011: tunes such as Hymn to Joy, Unser Herrscher, Slane, Puer Nobis & O Dass Ich Tausend Zungen have been used and re-printed with limited permission.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all dads, grandpas, uncles and men who help parent and father others in all sorts of mentoring ways. We pray and hope you can enjoy a day of rest, rejuvenation and recreation with your family or friends.

Rev. Todd Hoeffs
Pentecost 2 [Father's Day]
Galatians 3:23-29
June 19, 2022

In many different areas of Winnipeg children would walk to school together hand in hand, creating a human school bus. Often stopping by homes and apartments where kids might be neglected or where parents are too busy to even take their kids to school...the line of children [often with an adult] would create a safe convoy to school. Step by step, led to school across busy streets or vacant lots.

This kept kids safely guarded on the way to school in all kinds of weather. Once at school breakfasts may even need to be served before learning takes place.

Being ready for the day is important.

I'm sure there are dads or brothers or uncles here who might do this for their families. Keeping the family moving forward. Safe. Guarded. Protected.

This is the schoolmaster/tutor Apostle Paul describes for the Galatian church and us today.

A very understandable image for them, a church made up of Jewish Christians and a multicultural Arab and Roman blend from the bustling city centre in what's not called Turkey.

You, see, the Law of God was perfectly normal to the Jewish Christian, other than thinking they still needed to work at living up to it. And for the other groups of people, the Law was merely Roman or Greek civil law.

So Paul calls the Law a tutor. The Greek word he used we have for a term in education: pedagogy. Which is not only what is taught but how subjects get taught. Only upper classes went to school in the ancient world, and only male kids. Roman slaves were called pedagogues and they led male children by the hand on the way to school [like the human school bus]. Sometimes even stayed all day nearby. Watching out for their best interests. These slaves guarded the kids from all kinds of danger to the age of accountability [13 or 14].

Keep on the straight and narrow is a saying coming out of this.

That had been God's idea of the Law.

The 10 Commandments are such a guardian and tutor.

The Law literally led people by the hand up to the era where the Christ of God would be born. Sinners need guarding.

Sin infested the human race so badly that even a Lawful guard could not change how deeply ingrained rebellion is in our human fabric. The Law could not lead us to the Heavenly Kingdom. If the law guards and guides, it can't change what's inside so that we CAN be seated at our Father's Table.

The Law only wound up divided people into various categories. God didn't when He gave the Law, but the religious establishment interpreted in divisive ways to ensure THEY got in and others remained OUT. The divide separated Jews from Greeks, slave from free, male from female, sick from healthy. Jews observed the Mosaic law; Gentiles did not; some laws were for slaves and some for free people; circumcision was for men and other rules applied to women. Men got away with very much, women were tied to their husbands and his reputation.

Paul is here to re-emphasize what Christ Himself not only said but lived. The old distinctions have all given way before a greater LAW of LOVE, binding us all together by faith in Christ.

This could be very confusing. Like the rules of the game are changing in mid-play.

Apostle Paul reminds them no one is under any Old Covenant. The gathering of animals for sacrifices on certain days of the month are over. Separate seats in the Temple have given way to welcoming all in through the new sanctuary in the heart of everyone redeemed by Christ. Because Christ our Lord is the New Covenant Who poured out His life in Blood and sealed the promise by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Law can only confront us with how sinful we are. It cannot save us from its hard convicting words. There's no divine traffic signal keeping us from running life's red lights. When the Law of God uncovers the wrongs we try to hide its done its job.

Grace takes over to bring us into a right relationship with God. Forgiveness leads to repentance. Not as a pre-requisite for new life. Repentance rightly and freely grows out from a life that has been transformed in the blood of Christ. The pedagogy school master guardian is out of work.

We are no longer led to Christ by an ancient understanding of the law.

We don't read the Old Testament as either a forgotten history or as a map for living life on earth. Its not a rule book to be a better believer. The point of the Old Testament is recognizing the reason for Christ to come and redeem the world God so loved. Christ is the heart of the Scriptures and the only justification for getting us right with our Father. And we need to be made right with God. Every prayer and reading of Scripture and worship service brings us again and again around the throne of our God.

While a guide and schoolmaster is a thing of the past, a clothing item is needed.

And not the preverbal Father's Day necktie either or golf shirt. No special earthly things to make us look better.

No, all must be clothed with Christ.

You can't clothe yourself either. You can't buy the garment nor live a life of faith in Jesus without it. All of you are clothed with Christ BECAUSE YOU ARE BAPTIZED WITH CHRIST!

Simple as that.

Baptism saves you.

Baptism makes you God's child and Jesus' sibling.

Baptism makes siblings of us all across all global boundaries. Baptism doesn't lead us anywhere, but covers over us as we journey on earth.

We are dressed in Jesus' Body made pure from all evil.

We wear exactly what Jesus displayed on the cross without covering of clothing.

His garment was a bloody wash that flows into every single little baptismal font when the Holy Trinity is invoked in Baptism.

We wear His Righteousness, His Wisdom, His Power, His salvation and His new Life.

Peace and Comfort is draped on our shoulders. (not "Levi's") because there is nothing that Forgiveness and God's Favour mark our place in the Kingdom.

THIS IS NOT an IN CROWD invite.

Being in the Body of Christ in the church is not another guide leading us to a better seat in life's pathway.

Being baptized into Christ means WE HAVE WHAT HE HAS.

HE lives in us.

We aren't brought near to Him, He are IN HIM as He is IN US.

Being clothed with Christ is not a costume party where we wear masks and pretend to be what we are not.

All facades crumble as all obstacles blocking the way to God are gone because of Jesus.

We are simply sons and daughters in a family our eyes rarely see but our faith trusts is there.

This baptismal life is not just a one-time past event either.

It is a present reality that we return to each day.

As we see our need for God and trust in His love and forgiveness.

When Jesus' clothing feels like its wearing thin,

the Spirit sews up the holes with the memory of God's goodness

and the comforting message that we are seen and loved and well-protected.

When our strength is barely palpable, when we feel too tired to even pray,

Jesus' Flesh and Blood is available to eat and drink to physically assure us that His life of love is our too.

A blessed communion reminder we are not alone.
When we don't feel like we're good enough, or when we feel better than others
Or more deserving and that sinful privilege rears its ugly head,
The Gospel assures us that we're not a part of Jesus' Body because of US.
We are part of Him because HE has washed us in.
This is why Paul strongly affirms NOW, as a believing body of Christ, baptized and clothed in Him,
*"There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female.
For you are all one in Christ Jesus."* (Gal 3: 28)
This is a dramatic shift. For the Galatian church. When the entire ancient world economy thrived on
such hierarchal differences. And still a dramatic shift for the church today.
When we think a shifting world is not good enough to spend eternity with us so we either ignore or
deride. Sometimes the haunts of the past come full circle and the life we think we've overcome or
outgrown is there again. Calling out for justice and healing and Gospel centering.
That's where our witness as the Body of Christ lives freely.
Life in Christ is beyond gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and ownership.
Instead, those made righteous by faith in Christ are literally ONE in Him.
It doesn't mean we live colour blind.
It doesn't mean we pretend we are not unique or different.
Those are realities. Those are also realities to protect and celebrate and treasure.
But it means these differences don't make us better. Christ has given us all a new identity.
And we all share in God's inheritance promised first to Abraham.
ALL believers are related to Abraham. Because our guardian has stopped.
Christ is ours. We are His. No matter what era or trend we live in,
Christ clothing is on our bodies to stay. It never goes out of style.
And it makes us all one well-dressed family reunion around the Heavenly table.
Amen.

