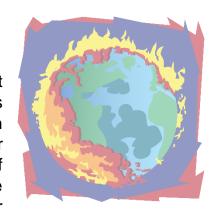
THE END-TIME LIFE: A GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Christ Jesus. As we worship, we pray that you will open your heart in preparation as our Savior comes to us through the word and sacraments. If you are a guest, please sign your name, address and most importantly your phone number in our Guest Book in the entrance and come and worship with us again. If we can be of assistance to you in your spiritual walk through life please let us know. We invite you to join us for refreshments after the service in the room adjoining the worship facility.



AS WE GATHER

This Sunday and next we will consider how we should live between now and the Last Day. Our preparation for it is not a matter of simply believing correctly, for that would make our faith to be a good work. Rather, we are living in the end times, and by grace the Lord has already consecrated His guests. A Gospel-centered life means letting the Good News affect how we live in love today. Paul says we should "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). We are very much like the servants in the Gospel, using the treasure our master has entrusted to us. We dare not keep our talents hidden, for they belong to God and should be invested! The Good News – that our Savior will return on that Day – is reason enough to take risks, investing our faith in loving the people around us.

COMMUNION PRACTICE

Lamb of God celebrates the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see MATTHEW 5:23ff; 10:32ff;18:15-35;26:26-29; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34.

CAUTION

It is prudent and wise to let our church family know you have broken people sitting around you; this is a place for the broken as Jesus describes in the gospels. We have/may have folks in the congregation that have been alcoholics, drug abusers, spousal abusers, formerly violent and even sexual offenders. This is a house for the broken. We certainly understand that this is a Lamb of God Lutheran Church Ministry and have taken diligent steps to create a safe environment for all who would like to worship our Father.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN



We are very happy that you are here today, whether this is your first or fiftieth time with us. If you need a little help, please ask. There are many people here at Lamb of God who will lend you a hand.

Here are some suggestions to help make worship with your children easier:

Relax! Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at Lamb of God.

Please dare to sit toward the front, where your children can easily see the pastor, note the colors, embrace the action at the altar, and wonder at the symbols in the great stained-glass windows. What Jesus does here promises to engage them.

Explain the parts of the Divine Service to your children, encouraging them to chime in on their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy! And with your spirit! I believe! Our Father!* All of this belongs to them, too.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn by following your lead.

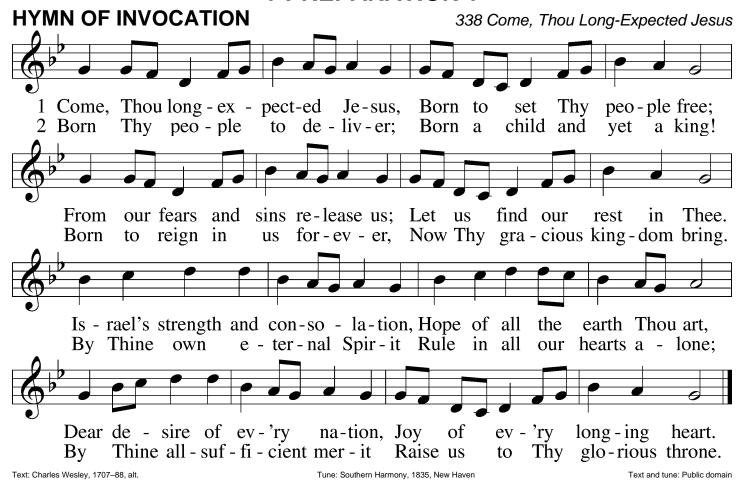
If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so – but please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Liturgy, not out (there are soft toys and books in the nursery, and activity sheets with colored pencils in the fellowship hall which can be brought into the worship hall to help engage your child)

Remember that the way we nurture children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (LUKE 18:16)

We know that your children are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all.





O INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Zephaniah 1:7b; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Matthew 25:29a

- The LORD has prepared a sacrifice
- **©** and consecrated His guests.
- P Encourage one another
- and build one another up.
- P To everyone who has will more be given,
- and he will have an abundance.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8-9; Psalm 90:17

- P 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.
- Let us in all honesty hear His Word again and confess our sins. The Lord has consecrated His guests,
- but we have been more attentive to the things of this world. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.
- P Build one another up,
- but we are used to the darkness of this world and fear His coming like a thief in the night. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.
- P To everyone who has will more be given,
- but we seldom recognize the abilities and opportunities He has given. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.
- The favor of the Lord is on you! Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

+ WORD +

SALUTATION

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You.
- Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting;
- through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

ODD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 1:7-16

- L The Old Testament Reading is from Zephaniah, chapter one.
 - ⁷Be silent before the Lord GoD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.
 - ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
 - ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.
 - ¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.
 - ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.
 - ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.'
 - ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."
 - ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.
 - ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
 - ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

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

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

I The Epistle Reading is from First Thessalonians, chapter five.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁵For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ³But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁵For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

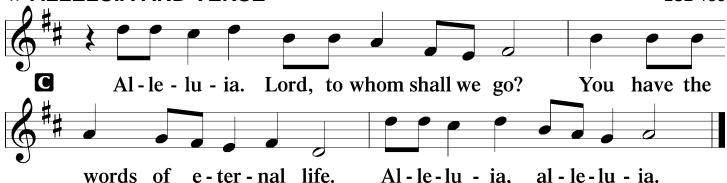
- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



Therefore
encourage one another
and build one another up,
just as you are doing.



LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:14–30

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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

() HYMN OF THE DAY

508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



- draw-ing near When Je sus, God's a-noint ed, 1 The day is sure - ly
- fi nal trum pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
- o pened then to rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing 3 The books are all, A
- 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car nal plea-sures,
- Je sus Christ, do not de lay, But has - ten our sal - va - tion;



His pow - er shall ap - pear In all judge whom God As be - neath the ground Shall from And all who rest their sleep What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was Who here de-spised His pre-cious Word And loved their earth - lv We of - ten trem - ble on our wav In fear and trib - u -



point - ed. wak - en. dwell - ing, trea - sures! la - tion.

Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on in that hour, By But all who live will God's alev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And And all With shame and trem-bling they will stand And hear and grant our fer - vent plea: Come, might - v



flames shall rav - age earth As might - y, bound-less pow'r, Be changed at known as they have been In stern com - mand To Sa - tan judg - e's free From death judge, and us and ev - 'rv set

Scrip - ture long has warned us. His com-mand - ing. thoughts and words and ac - tions. de - liv - ered. be

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532-99; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832-1919, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON



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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

and was made man;

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

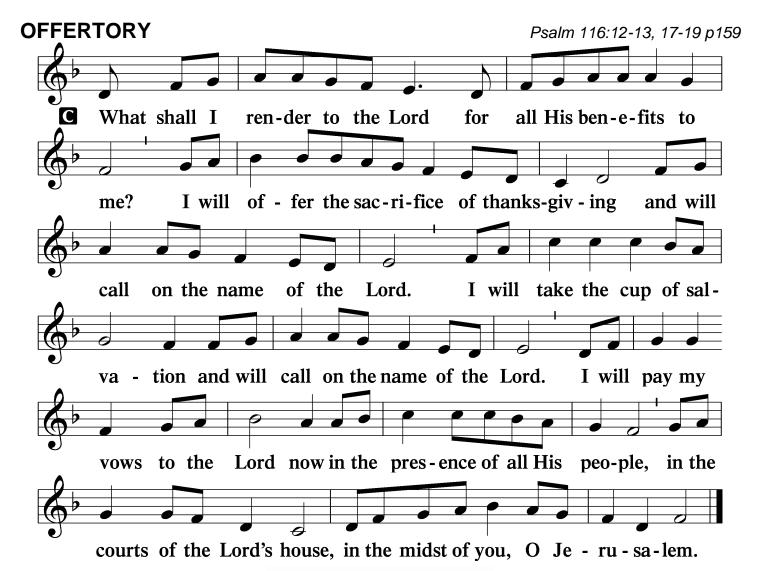
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Let us pray for the Church around the world, for ourselves in this place, for people in positions of authority, for families, and for all in need. Guide and protect Your Church, Lord Jesus, as it endeavors to share the Gospel in the many circumstances of this sin-ridden world. Embolden leaders to speak Your
 - Word with conviction, open the ears of those who hear the Good News in all circumstances, and grant increase of faith and numbers wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament.
- Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we C pray.
- P O Holy Spirit, strengthen this congregation so that we are a beacon of Your gracious love, calling one and all to join us to celebrate the Good News shining in this darkened world.
- Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we C pray.
- $[\mathbf{P}]$ Lord over all, guide and protect the officers of nations; armed forces deployed and police at home; leaders of large corporations; those who work in the media; those who grow, tend, and distribute food; and all who respond in emergencies, that together they work for the common good.
- Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we \mathbf{C} pray.
- $[\mathbf{P}]$ Heavenly Father, grant peace and love in families, give wisdom to parents and willingness to learn to children, and provide faithful congregations, caring friends, and extended relatives to support them through all the changes in life.
- Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we \mathbf{C} pray.
- P Lord our God, hear the prayers of Your people near and dear to us, [including . . .], as well as those known only to You. As fits Your gracious plans for them, give healing, relief, and comfort, so that they may live out each day in peace and joy.
- Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we C pray.
- These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant \mathbf{P} us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.





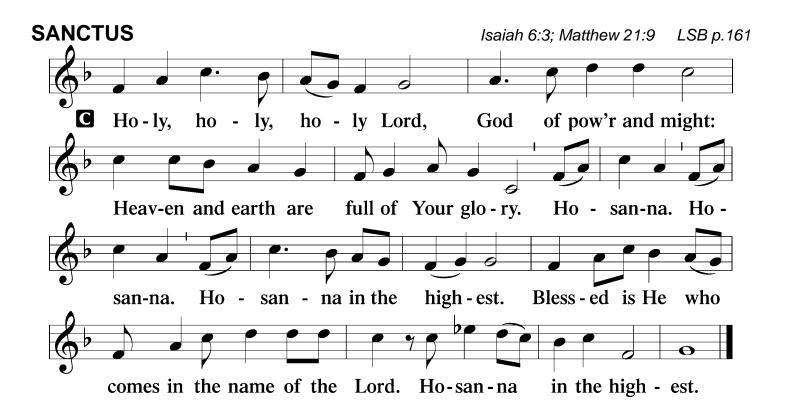
+ SACRAMENT +

O PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose obedient death and glorious resurrection have opened eternal life to us and who is with us that we may share His love until His second coming. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy and sent Your only-begotten Son to be our Savior.

Gathered in His name we ask You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood in these last days. Gather us together, we pray, with all who have heard the Gospel and have come to faith, who with us shall receive Your "well done" commendation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My
→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Part of the company of the power and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

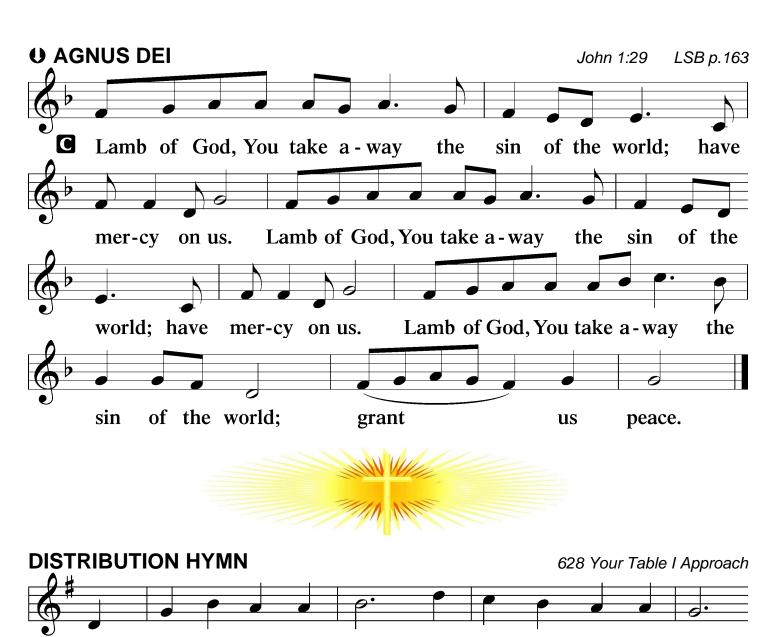
PAX DOMINI

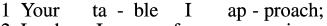
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

WE SHARE THE PEACE







- 2 Lord, I con-fess my sins
- 3 Your bod y and Your blood,
- 4 Search not how this takes place,
- 5 O grant, most bless ed Lord,
- 6 Oh, may I nev er fail

Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer. And mourn their wretch - ed bands; Once slain and shed for me, This won - drous mys - ter - y; That earth and hell com - bined To thank You day and night



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there. A con-trite heart is sure to find For - give-ness at Your hands. Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty. God can ac - com-plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be. May not a - bout this sac - ra - ment Raise doubt with - in my mind. For Your true bod - y and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, Thy My blood and righ - teous - ness beau - ty Cleansed and 2 Bold shall Ι in stand that great day, re -3 Lord. be - lieve Which Thy pre - cious blood, the I at be - lieve, 4 Lord, Ι were sin - ners Than sands more up -5 When from the dust of death Ι rise To claim my 6 Je - sus, be end - less praise Thee, Whose bound - less to



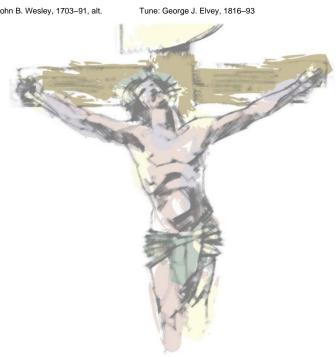
glo rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in are, my debt Ful ab - solved deemed, no to pay; ly through of Pleads for tives' God the seat cap mer cy Thou for the o cean shore, hast all a on This shall sion in the skies, then man be my For hath for and all Thy mer _ cy me, me,



these With joy shall Ι lift head. ar - rayed, up my these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame. shed love for lib er - ty, Was al - so in me. full ran - som paid, For all a a tone ment made. 1y sus hath lived died plea: Je and for me. hands have made, An ev - er - last - ing ran paid. som

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700-60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703-91, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

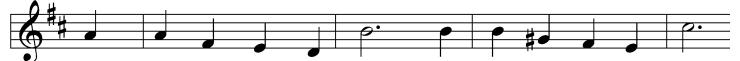
829 Christ the Eternal Lord



- 1 Christ the e ter nal Lord, Whose prom ise here we claim,
- 2 Christ the un-chang-ing Word To ev-'ry pass-ing age,
- 3 Christ the re-deem-ing Son, Who shares our hu-man birth,
- 4 Christ the un fad ing Light Of ev er last ing day,
- 5 Christ the as cend ed King Ex alt ed high a bove,



Whose gifts of grace are free-ly poured On all who name Your name; Whose time-less teach-ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip-ture's page; And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth; Our Morn-ing Star in splen-dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way; Whose praise un - end - ing a - ges sing, Whom yet un - seen we love;



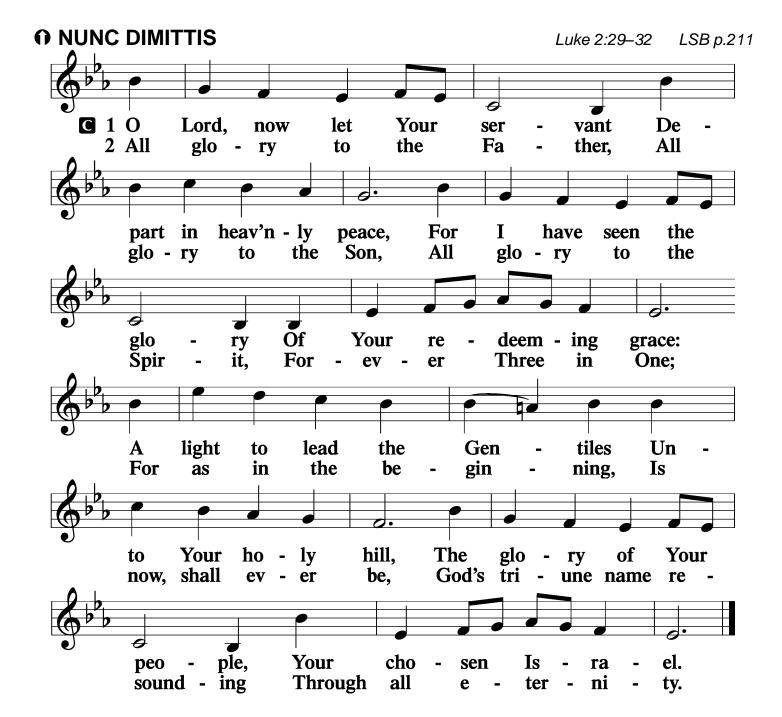
With thank-ful-ness and praise Trans-form our thought and mind, In - spire our hearts, we pray, That light of truth You give When mor-tal life is past We stand be - fore Your throne, En - light - en all who read, To tell Your love a - broad, To ser - vants as to friends, Your voice from heav-en's throne



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo-ry known. With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed. That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord. Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour-ney ends. Shall call Your chil - dren home at last To know as we are known.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text: © 1999 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018177
Tune: Public domain





POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

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

O ANNOUNCEMENTS and BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICTION

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 - The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
- **G** Amen.

DISMISSAL HYMN

783 Take My Life and Let It Be



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se-crat-ed, Lord, to Thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im-pulse of Thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with hold;
- 5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no long er mine; 6 Take my love my Lord L pour At Thy feet its trea-sure store:
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its trea-sure store;



Take my mo-ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise. Take my feet let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful and Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee. Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose. is Thine own, It Take my heart, it shall be Thy rov - al throne. Take my-self, I will all and be on - ly, for Thee. er.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79

Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

