FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

THORNS

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.

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.

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.

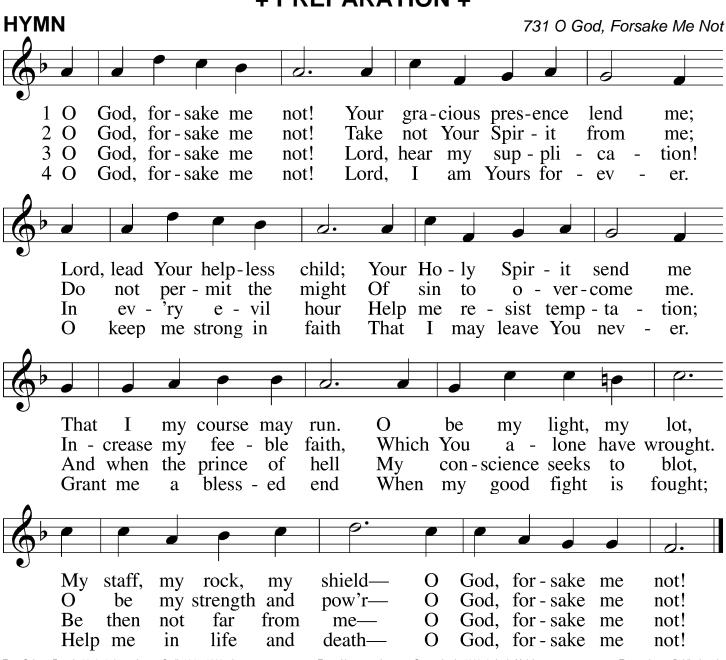
If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so – but please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Liturgy, not out (there are soft toys and books in the nursery, and activity sheets with colored pencils in the fellowship hall which can be brought into the worship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

+ PREPARATION +



Text: Salomo Franck, 1659–1725; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

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↑ INVOCATIONMatthew 28:19b; 18:20

- In the name of the Father and of the

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Matthew 5:16

- Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- L I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- L O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



+ WORD +

INTROIT Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

L Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

KYRIE Mark 10:47

- **L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.





SALUTATION

- **L** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:3-9a

- **I** The Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-eighth chapter.
 - ³"Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.
 - ⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.
 - ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?
 - ⁶"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
 - ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
 - ⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
 - ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"
- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

¹Praise the LORD!

Blessèd is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!

²His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

⁵It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.

⁶For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.

⁷He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

⁸His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

⁹He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 12:2–10

I The Epistle reading is from 2nd Corinthians, the twelfth chapter.

²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 5:1–12

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.
- G Glory to You, O Lord.
 - ¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.
 - ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
 - ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
 - ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
 - ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
 - ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
 - ⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
 - ⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
 - ¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - ¹¹"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.





Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. composite, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Rev Eugene Larmi "Thorns" I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man:

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

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

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

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

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

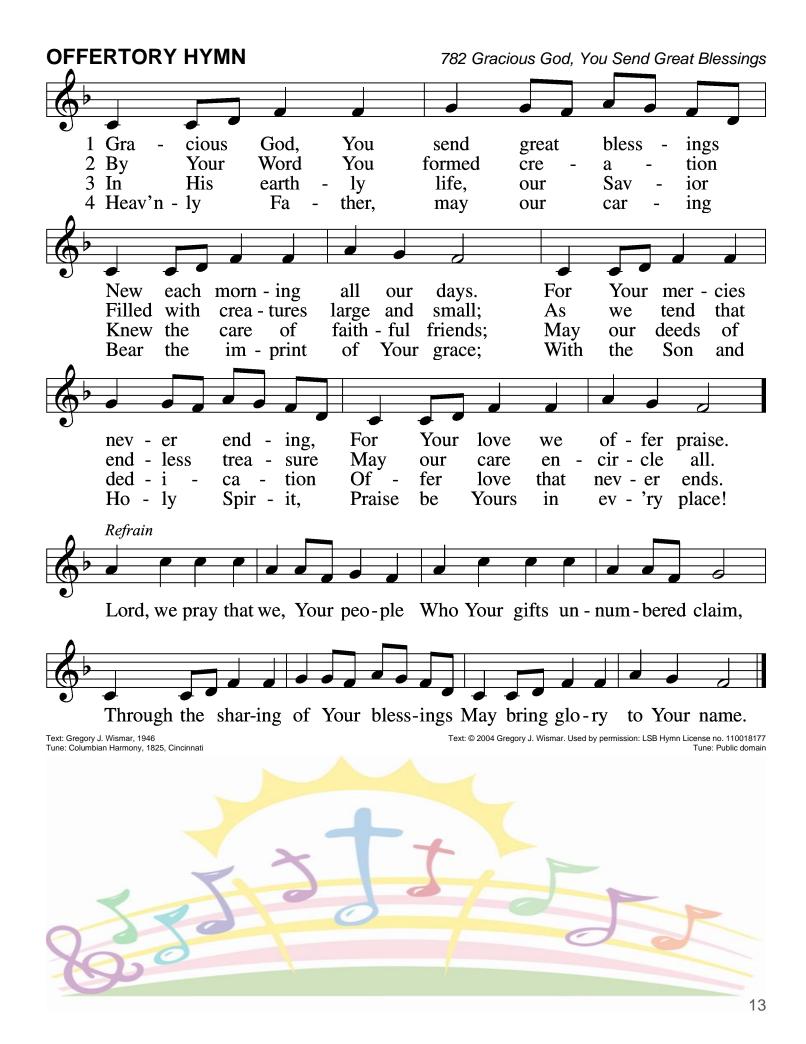
O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Let us pray for all people who call out to God in their distress. For our brothers and sisters who are poor in spirit because of outside oppression or personal problems, that God would remind them of their heavenly citizenship, let us pray to the Lord.
- Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- For those who mourn, [<u>including . . .</u>], that by their faith in Christ's resurrection they would be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.
- Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- For those who are meek as they thirst for righteousness, that God would raise up local and national leaders to provide security and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- For those who reflect the mercy of God as they tend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those under their care, that God would give them wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- For those who single-mindedly focus on sharing God's peace with conflicted people around them, that God would keep them strong in faith to use every opportunity at their disposal, let us pray to the Lord.
- Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- For the Church wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament, that God would alleviate persecution they may be enduring and let the Church grow in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.
- Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.
- For ourselves in every difficulty, that God would remind us of Christ's having done in our stead all that He calls us to do, let us pray to the Lord.
- In grateful thanksgiving, we rejoice this day and look forward to the reward our Savior won for us. To You alone, O Father, be all the glory, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Offering Plates will be passed by ushers Please enter your attendance in the Record of Fellowship





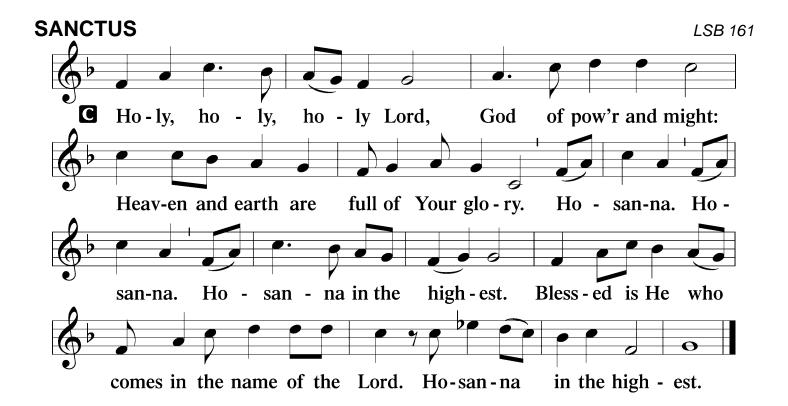
+ SACRAMENT +

O PREFACE

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

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

E Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son to be our light and our salvation. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, liberate, and defend us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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

- L As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood in this Sacrament, You lead us to remember all that You have done for us before we were born, to realize that You are with us today, and to await Your promised return one day to receive us into Your eternal kingdom. So remember us in Your kingdom now and teach us to pray:

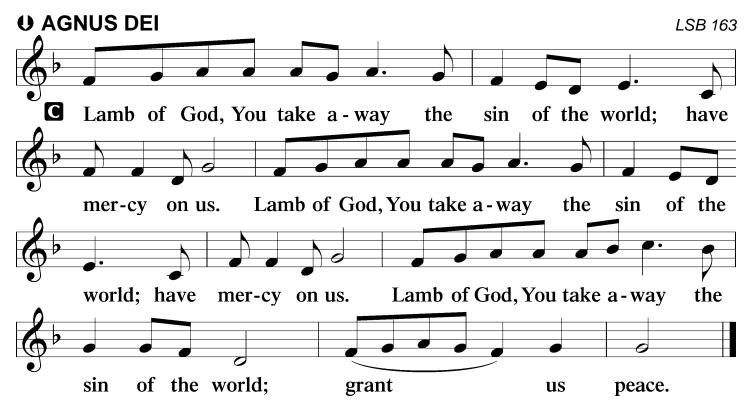
LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13

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

- L The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

WE SHARE THE PEACE







and

bless -

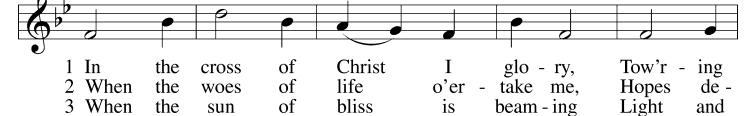
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4 Bane

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

By

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o'er wrecks of light the time. All the of cred sa and Nev - er shall an - noy, ceive, fears the cross for -From the cross the love up - on way, diance my ra ti - fied; cross are sanc Peace is there that knows no

and

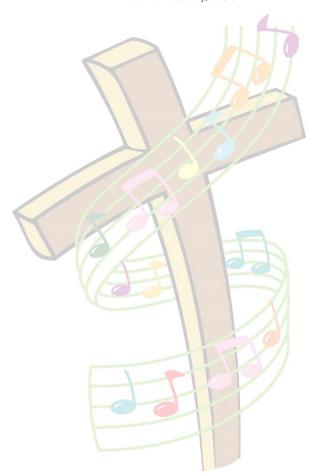


Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-67



the





719 I Leave All Things to God's Direction



2 God knows what done save me; His love for must be to 3 My God de - sires the soul's My soul He, sal - va - tion; things in 4 My God has all His keep-ing; He is the



both in joy and woe. me will nev - er cease. too, de-sires to save. ev - er faith - ful friend. His will is good, sure His af -Up - on His hands He did en -There-fore with Chris - tian res - ig -He gives me laugh - ter af - ter



fec - tion; His love ten - der is I know. true, With pur - est grave me gold of lov - ing grace. na - tion All earth - ly trou - bles I will brave. in bless - ings end. weep-ing, And all His ways

My for-tress His will su -His will be His love en -



and my rock is He: preme must ev - er be: done e - ter - nal - ly: dures e - ter - nal - ly:

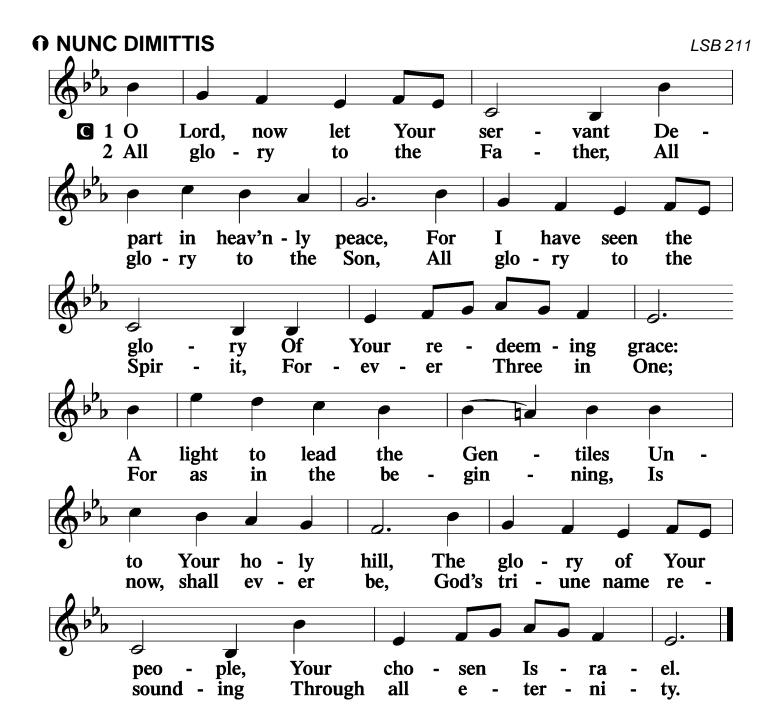
What pleas-es God, that pleas - es me. What pleas-es God, that pleas - es me. What pleas-es God, that pleas - es me. What pleas-es God, that pleas - es me.

Text: Salomo Franck, 1659-1725; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: Georg Neumark, 1621–81

Text and 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.

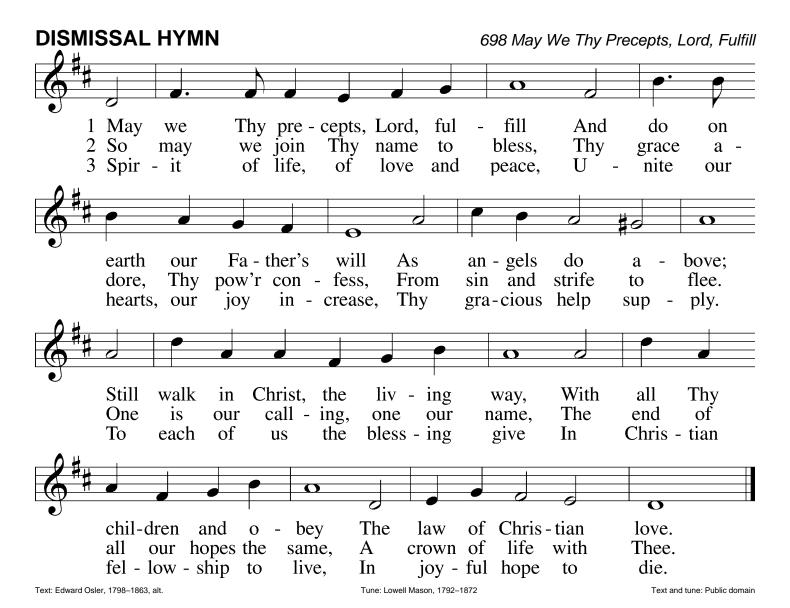
O ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICAMUS

- L Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- Amen.



DISMISSAL

- Co in peace as you serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Amen!