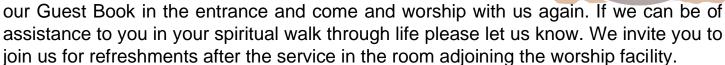
# **EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

# **JULY 23, 2023**

# **GOD'S PLANS**

#### 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



#### **AS WE GATHER**

God's plans are far beyond our understanding. Even His divine existence sends our minds reeling. No wonder that Jesus' disciples, and we who follow them, cannot figure out why He lets His and our spiritual enemies live with us. But because we have been given faith by the Holy Spirit, and although we cannot understand God's plans, in the death and resurrection of Christ, our Lord, we trust His divine wisdom. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit and know that the Spirit intercedes for us. Thus, even in the groans of our prayers, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In sure hope, we wait for the day when we shall "shine like the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

### **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)

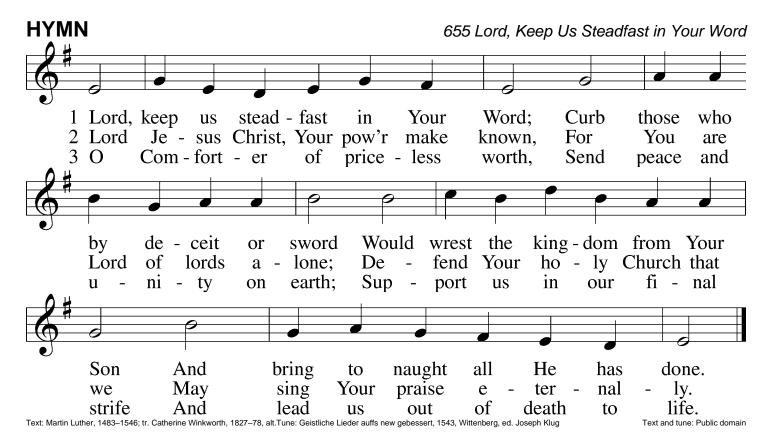
We know that your children are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all.

### + PREPARATION +

# **O INVOCATION**Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- In the name of the Father and of the 

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



### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

1 John 1:8-9

- L 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 then confess our sins to God our Father.
- We confess, gracious God, that we groan not only because of sin in the world, but our failure to trust You for all that we need. We have not waited patiently; we have demanded reasons from You; we have sought to excuse ourselves. Yet You have given us the Spirit, who intercedes for us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to hope not in ourselves but in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where you were redeemed as God's beloved children. 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.

### + WORD +

### **KYRIE**

- L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L For peace and salvation from God above, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For peace in this sin-sick world, growth in the Church, and unity among its members, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For this holy house, ourselves, and all who worship here, 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.
- **C** And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment,
- we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter;
- 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 44:6-8

■ The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 44.

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel

and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

"I am the first and I am the last;

besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me,

since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

<sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any."

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

# **PSALM**

Psalm 119:57-64; antiphon: v. 89

HETH

<sup>57</sup>The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words.

<sup>58</sup>I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.

<sup>59</sup>When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies;

<sup>60</sup>I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.

<sup>61</sup>Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.

<sup>62</sup>At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your just and righteous decrees.

<sup>63</sup>I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.

<sup>64</sup>The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!



LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

- The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup>but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' <sup>28</sup>He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" . . .

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

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



# **SERMON**

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  $\Phi$  of the world to come. Amen

### O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- When we look at the storms gathering around us, many people are in dire straits. Let us pray for them, for the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.
  - For the human powers that be, that God would enable them to make and administer laws to order society within their borders and to establish peace across them, let us pray to the Lord.
- Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.
- I For the disenfranchised and homeless, the forgotten and oppressed, the unemployed and disheartened, that God would protect and defend them, open doors of opportunity for them, and move them to rely on Him for all their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.
- For those near and dear to us in their illnesses, anger, grief, or despair, [especially . . .], and those whom we name in our hearts now, that God would visit, relieve, strengthen, and renew them according to His gracious plan, let us pray to the Lord.
- Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.
- For those who tend flocks and till the soil, who provide transportation and manage shops, who provide protection in their communities and defense of their nation, and who respond to sudden emergencies and work to increase health and wellbeing, let us pray to the Lord.
- Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.
- **L** For ourselves and all who come to the Lord's Table in true faith, that God would bestow on us His forgiveness, life, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.
- L These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father,
- grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.





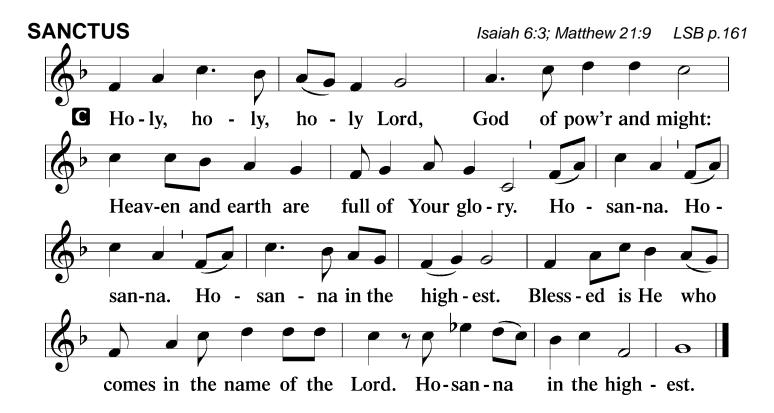
### + SACRAMENT +

### **O** PREFACE

- **L** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- L Lift up your hearts.
- 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 good, 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, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. 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, renew, and strengthen 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.

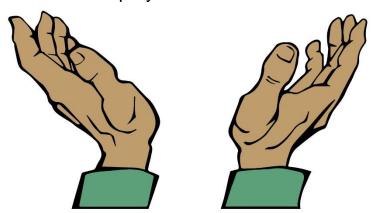
### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- 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 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

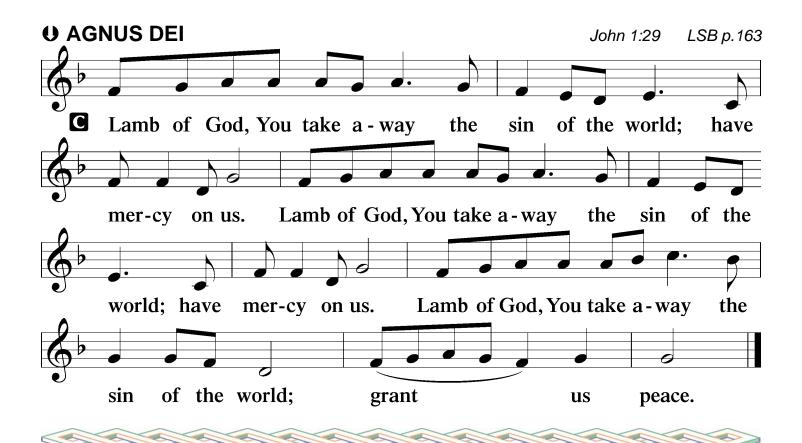
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the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

#### **PAX DOMINI**

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

# WE SHARE THE PEACE







761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



- 1 Rock of A ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my self in Thee;
- 2 Not the la bors of my hands Can ful fill Thy Law's de-mands;
- 3 Noth-ing in my hand I bring; Sim ply to Thy cross I cling.
- 4 While I draw this fleet ing breath, When mine eye lids close in death,

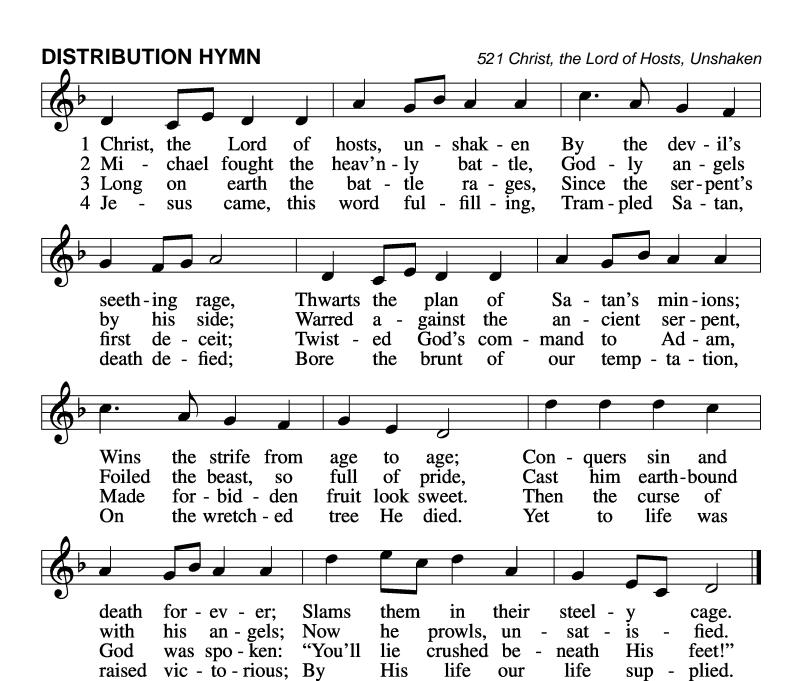


Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed, Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow, Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help-less, look to Thee for grace; When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from Be of sin its guilt and pow'r. a - tone; Thou A11 for sin could not must save, and Thou a - lone. the foun-tain fly; Wash Say - ior. die. Foul. Ι me, T to or Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78 Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872 Text and tune: Public domain



- 5 Swift as lightning falls the tyrant From his heav'nly perch on high, As the word of Jesus' vict'ry Floods the earth and fills the sky. Wounded by a wound eternal Now his judgment has drawn nigh!
- 6 Jesus, send Your angel legions When the foe would us enslave. Hold us fast when sin assaults us; Come, then, Lord, Your people save. Overthrow at last the dragon; Send him to his fiery grave.

Text: Peter M. Prange, 1972 Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929 Text: © Peter M. Prange. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018177 Tune: © 1967 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018177

#### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

636 Soul. Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, dorn with your - self glad - ness, Leave the a 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with

pre - cious trea - sure 3 He who Nei ther craves a

4 Now hum - bly pon - der in faith Ι  $\mathbf{O}$ ver



Come in haunts of sad - ness, the day-light's gloom - y to lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im price - less gifts mea - sure; pain will But the of cost nor pass - ing bread of this won - der That the life is sur



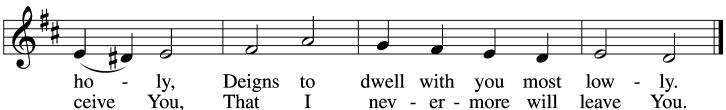
There der. splen - dor, with your prais - es joy ren is knock - ing mor - tal He at tal. your por free - ly heav - en God to us has giv en. bound-less Though the souls it feeds are count less:



the One whose grace un-bound - ed Bless This a - maz - ing pen wide the gates be-fore Him, Say - ing, as you earth were prof - fered, None Though the wealth of could buy the wine of heav - en the choic - est Christ's own blood With to



ban - quet found - ed: He, though heav'n - ly, high, and a - dore Him: Grant. Lord. that there Ι now re gifts here of fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you Oh, glo - rious is giv us en. most con - so -



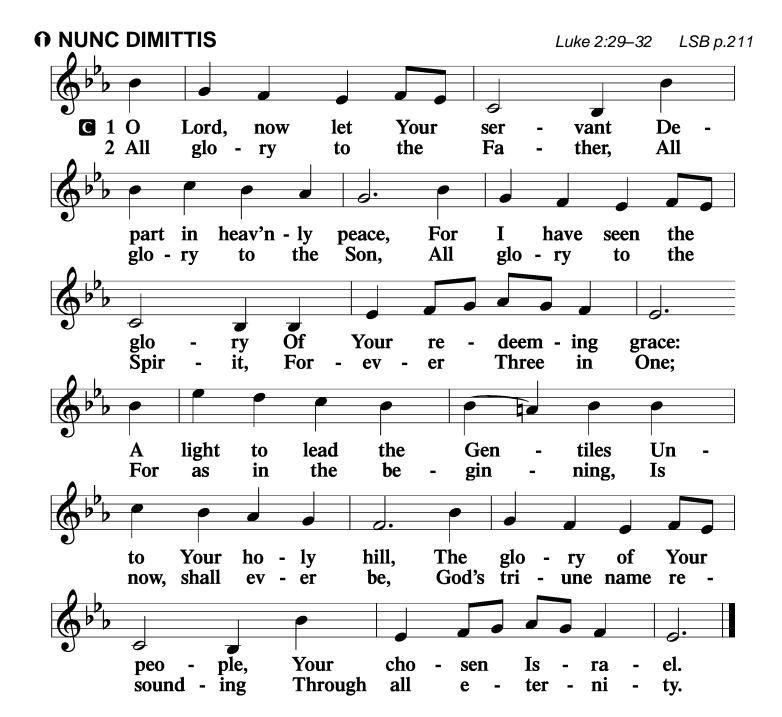
And His blood, you once giv riv en, for en. la Pledge and seal of my sal - va tion! tion.

- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure, Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding: Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You; Worthily let me receive You And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender, Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring: At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker Of this blessèd food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish. To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness. By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You. By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited; By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure. Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

  Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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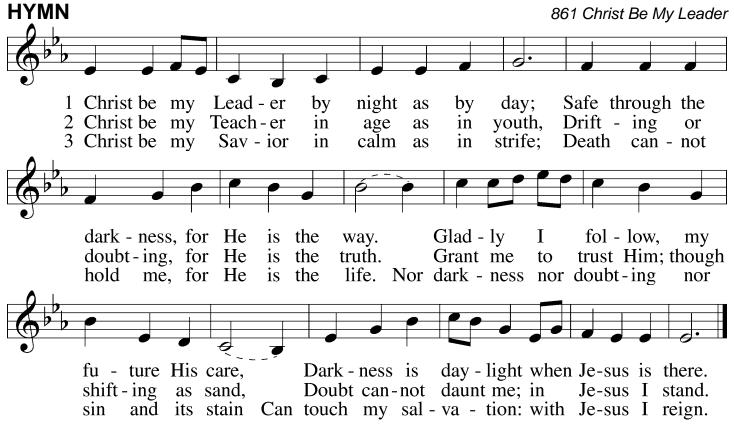
### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

- Let us pray: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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**

- C Amen.



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### **DISMISSAL**

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

