# THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: TO DIE FOR

### **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**

"All things work together for good," today's Epistle proclaims, "for those who love God" (Romans 8:28). That means us! But how does it happen that we love God? God predestined, called, justified, and glorified us, all because He loves us. He loved us so much that He "did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all" (Romans 8:32). By faith we are part of God's people. By the grace of God, the Kingdom has been revealed to us like discovered treasure in a field or a pearl of great price, as Jesus teaches in two parables in the Gospel. Although as sinnersaints we may not perfectly endure tribulation, distress, and persecution, on the Last Day, by grace we shall be considered righteous because of all that God has done for 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)

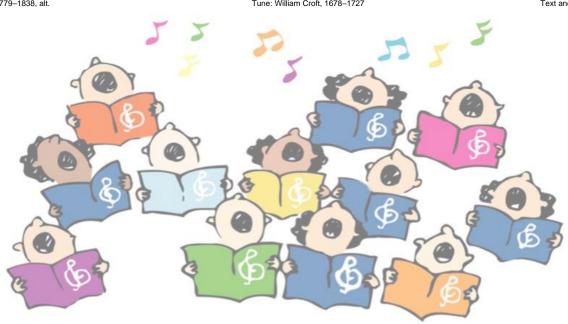
**Remember** that the way we nurture children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

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.

# + PREPARATION +





**↑ 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**

- **L** God's ways are unsearchable; all things and we ourselves belong to Him.
- But we are not righteous, for we have done the evil He forbids. We are not upright in heart, for we have thought to save ourselves. We are not at peace, for we have led others astray in our thoughtless words. We cannot save ourselves. Forgive us and lead us in paths pleasing to You, gracious God.
- Although you have sinned, God still surrounds you with His protection, like the mountains around Jerusalem. He never rests in His seeking to guide your hands to do good. He has sent His Word to turn your thoughts back to His grace and mercy. His peace is made sure for you in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In His gracious love, God declares you to be His good and righteous children. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 
  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen. Thanks be to God!





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shall

Tune: William Croft, 1678-1727

sing

Thy

praise.

Text and tune: Public domain

to

#### **KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

true

ad

0

Lord, have mercy. C

With

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

For God's peace upon us and all who call out to Him, let us pray to the Lord.

ra - tion

- Lord, have mercy.  $\mathbf{C}$
- For peace among this world's people, for whom Christ died, let us pray to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy. C
- For us here and for the Church around the world, gathered around Word and Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy. C
- Help us, heavenly Father, save us, gracious Lord, comfort us, O Holy Spirit, and  $[\mathbf{L}]$ defend us according to Your gracious will, O God.
- $\mathbf{C}$ Amen.

#### **SALUTATION**

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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **L** Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God,
- give us an increase of faith, hope, and love,
- L that, receiving what You have promised,
- we may love what You have commanded;
- through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **G** Amen.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

- L The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy, chapter 7.
  - <sup>6</sup>"You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations."
- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

KNOW THEREFORE THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD;

HE IS THE FAITHFUL GOD, KEEPING HIS

COVENANT OF LOVE TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS.

DEUTERONOMY 7:9, NIV

PSALM Psalm 125

- Those who trust in the LORD
- are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
- L As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
- **G** so the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.
- L For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,
- lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.
- L Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
- and to those who are upright in their hearts!
- L But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
- the LORD will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

EPISTLE Romans 8:28–39

L The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 8.

<sup>28</sup>We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written.

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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



LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 13:44–52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

# Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

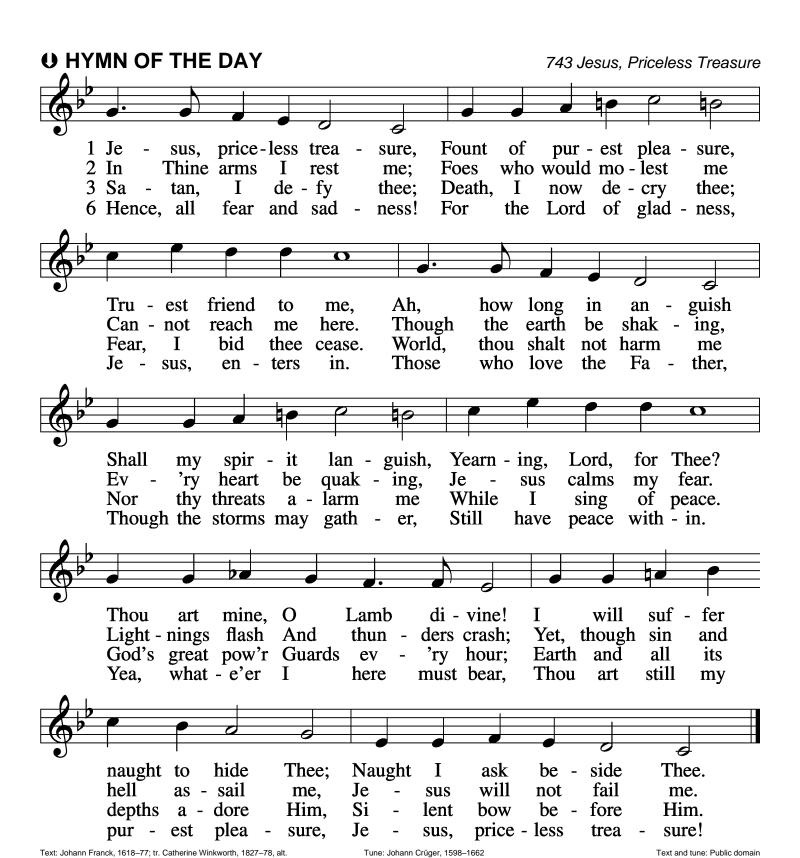
<sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

**L** 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 

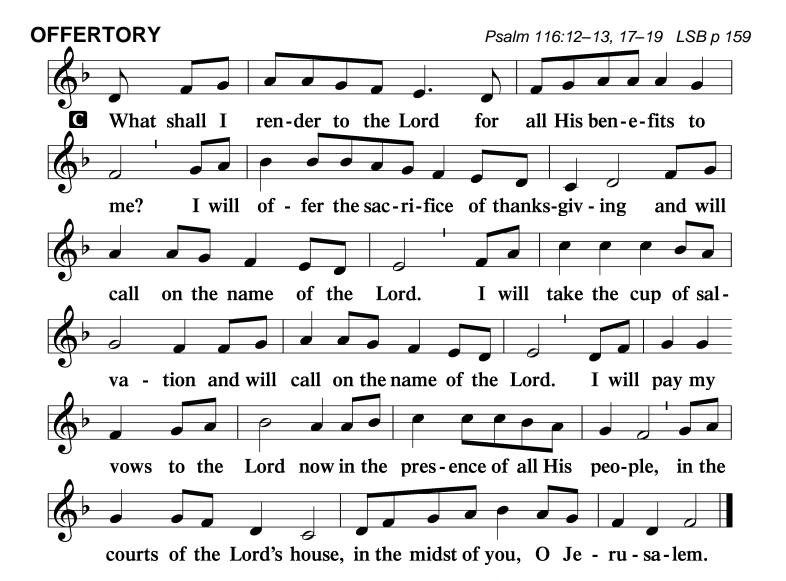
→ of the world to come.

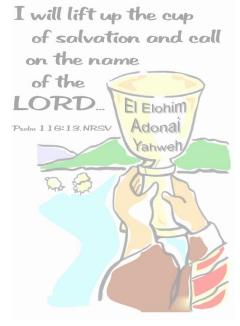
Amen.

### **O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- God has chosen us to be His treasured possession and has given His Son to die for us. Let us go to Him with all our concerns.
  - For the Church around the world, that lay and clergy members alike seek to reveal the invisible treasure of God's love in Christ; for all who seek value in themselves, that they discover God's great love for them, and for all those who will face God's judgment at the end of the age, that they realize the forgiveness He offers in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- For the leaders of the world's nations, that they seek to relieve conflict and ensure justice; for farmers and ranchers that they look for ways that feed us all while caring for God's good earth; for all who go into harm's way in our communities and across the globe; and for all who work to meet the needs of those who are sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- **G** Guide, strengthen, and protect them all, heavenly Father.
- For those near and dear to us in their various crises of health and long-term ills, [including . . .]; the victims of flood, fire, or quake; and those who do not know where to turn, let us pray to the Lord.
- Visit, sustain, and open doors of healing and peace according to Your gracious will, O God.
- E For ourselves, parents and children, singles and couples, young and old, that we strengthen one another in faith and love, in strength and confidence amid the conflicts and turmoil of this world, that God's love and grace be evident in how we care for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, for we call to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.







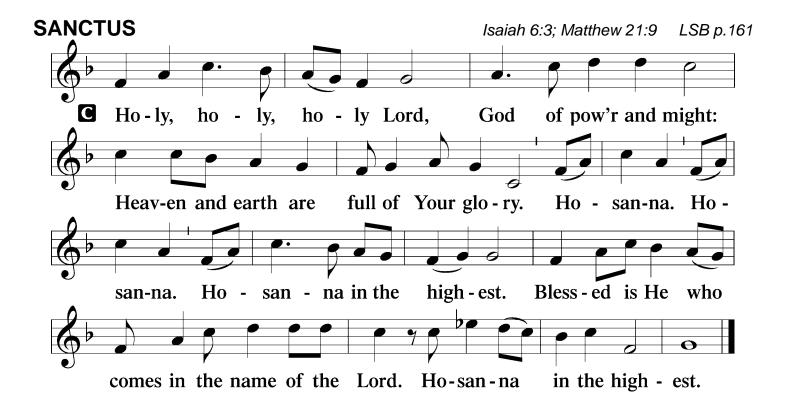
### + SACRAMENT +

#### **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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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 you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

# **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

- 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:

Luke 11:1

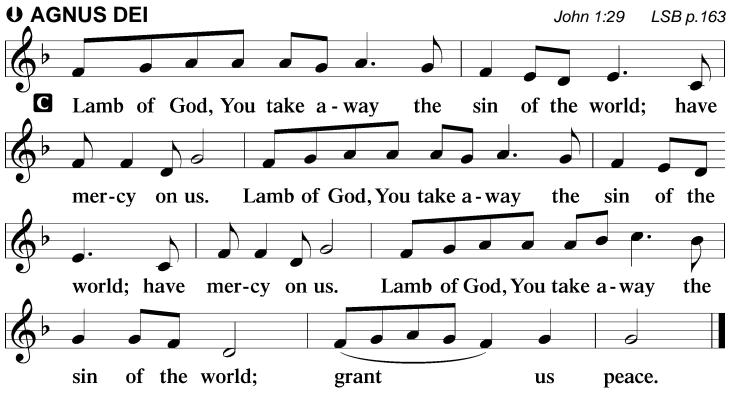
### LORD'S PRAYER

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

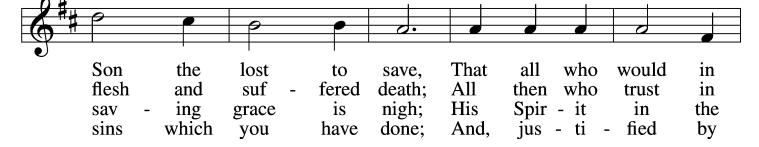


#### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave



- 1 God the He loved world that His SO gave on - ly 2 Christ Je sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
- 3 God would not have the sin ner die; His Son with
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For gives all





Him a - lone chief cor Are built this on ner - stone. Word de - clares How Christ we in are heav en's heirs. sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high est good.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One! To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and tune: Public domain





730 What Is the World to Me



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure

2 The world seeks to be praised And hon-ored by the might - y 3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers

4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord trea - sure! Je - sus, are my they are frail and flight - y. Yet nev - er once re - flects That Though gold should fill Yet is its cof - fers. nev - er con - tent friend, my love, my plea - sure, My life, my health, my wealth, My



You Lord, My soul's de - light shall on - ly, dear - est be; But what Ι tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He, have high - er good, Con - tent with I'll Ι it be: a My my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal ly. joy,



You What world the me! my peace, my rest. is to are My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me! Once more, then, Ι de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Text and tune: Public domain



#### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

536 One Thing's Needful



1 One thing's need - ful; Lord, this trea - sure Teach me high - ly 2 How were Mar - y's thoughts de - vot - ed Her e - ter - nal

3 Wis - dom's high - est, no - blest trea - sure, Je - sus, is re -

Christ. 4 Noth - ing of - fer. You a - lone, my have I, to Sav - ior, 5 There - fore You a - lone, my Shall be all in



re - gard. All else, though first plea - sure, to it give find in - tent word As each she not - ed, joy to You. Let find You vealed in me in plea - sure. my Noth - ing prof - fer high - est good. have I, Lord, to all Search my be - hav - ior, to me: heart and my



Is yoke that press - es hard! a At her Sav - ior's feet re - clined! And my way - ward will sub - due, crim - son - col - ored blood. But Your Root out all hy - poc - ri - sy.

Be neath it the How kin - dled her mil - i - ty Hu -Your death on the life's Through all my



heart is still fret-ting and striv-ing, No true, last-ing hap - pi - ness heart, how de - vout was its feel-ing, While hear-ing the les - sons that there and sim - plic - i - ty reign-ing, In paths of true wis - dom my cross has death whol-ly de - feat - ed And there - by my righ - teous-ness pil - grim-age, guard and up-hold me, In lov - ing for-give - ness, O



ev - er de - riv - ing. This one thing is need-ful; all oth - ers are Christ was re - veal-ing! All earth - ly con-cerns she for - got for her steps ev - er train-ing. If I learn from Je - sus this knowl-edge di - ful - ly com-plet - ed; Sal - va-tion's white rai-ments I there did ob - Je - sus, en - fold me. This one thing is need-ful; all oth - ers are

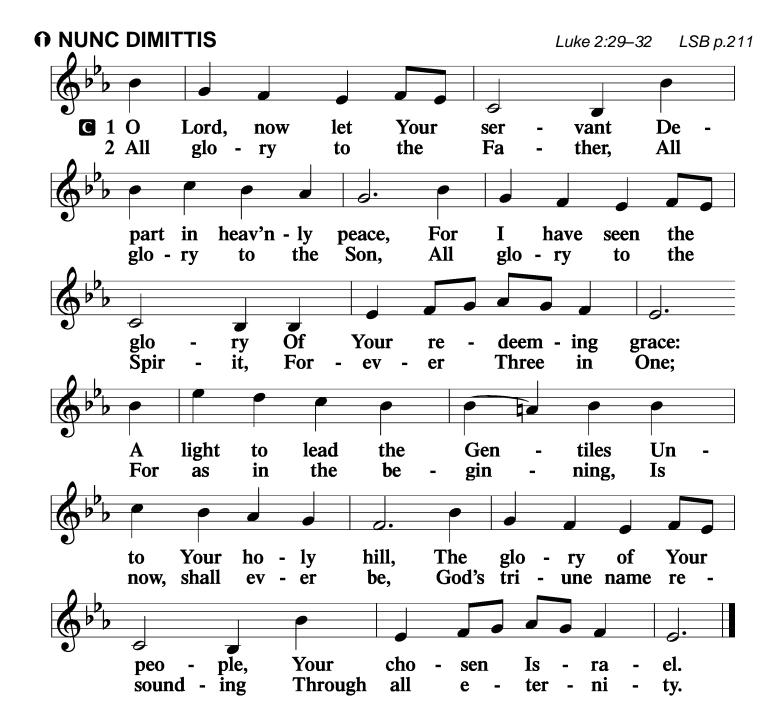


all vain— I count but loss that I Christ may ob - tain! ment in Lord And found her con - tent hear - ing His Word. of wis - dom vine. The bless - ing heav en - ly is mine. You tain, And them in glo ry with Ι shall reign. in that I all but loss Christ may ob - tain! vain— I count

Text: Johann Heinrich Schröder, 1667–99; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.

Tune: Adam Krieger, 1634-66

Text and tune: Public domain



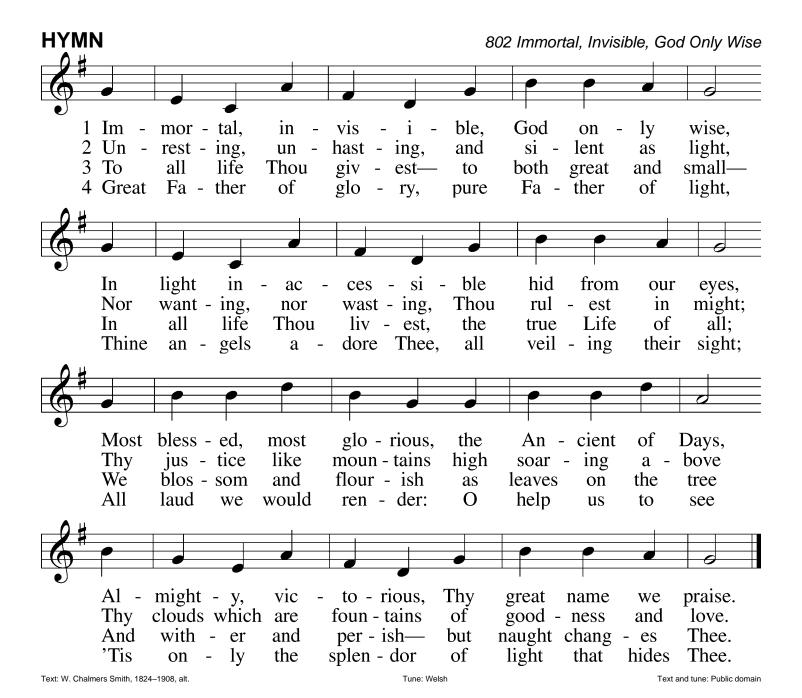
# **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

- 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

#### BENEDICTION

- C Amen.



### **DISMISSAL**

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