FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

EZEKIEL? NOT ME!

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

One way that many people hear about the prophet Ezekiel is through words of an African American spiritual: "Ezekiel saw the wheel way up in the middle of the air." This song from the Black musical tradition was brought to the wider attention of other American listeners by William L. Dawson of the Tuskegee Institute. The song has been recorded by many notable singers, including Louis Armstrong and Bing Crosby. Although Ezekiel's visions make for memorable song lyrics, the prophet's words make for challenging hearing. In today's Old Testament Reading, we are challenged to hear words of warning from the prophet, who is mentoring God's people in captivity. His message for them is an admonition to us that deserves our most careful attention.

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.

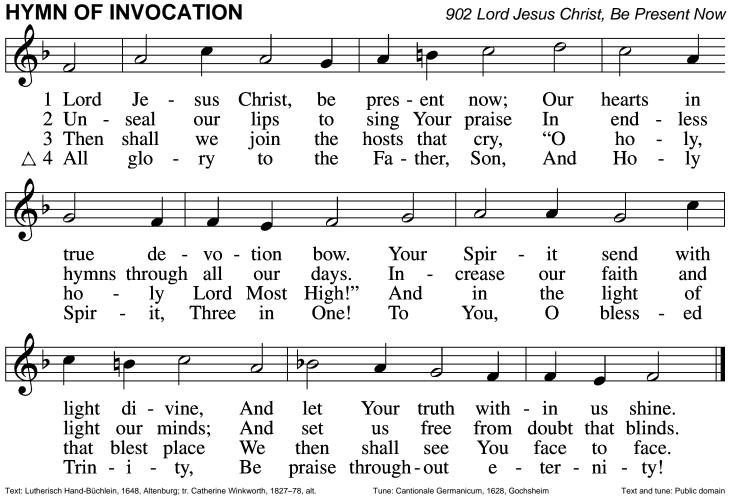
If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so – but please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Liturgy, not out (there are soft toys and books in the nursery, and activity sheets with colored pencils in the fellowship hall which can be brought into the worship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



Tune: Cantionale Germanicum, 1628, Gochsheim

Text and tune: Public domain

O INVOCATION

Psalm 65:1-4

- Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion,
- and to You shall vows be performed. C
- O You who hears prayer, to You shall all flesh come.
- When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions. C
- Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your courts!
- We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your C temple!

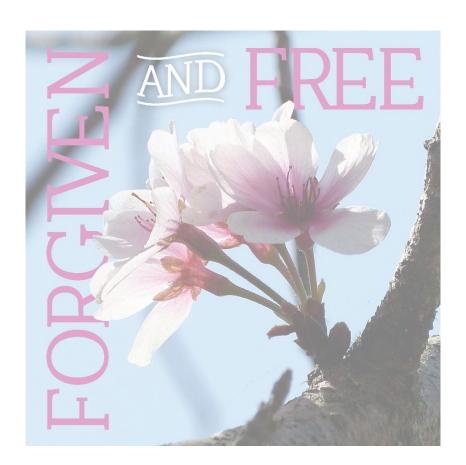
PSALM 65:3

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Yes, the Lord reigns over every nation, language, and people. Yet, we have not loved all people as Christ has loved us. The fruits of our faith are not always evident. But our Lord is gracious and merciful, and He offers His forgiveness to all.
 - Silence for reflection.
- L Heavenly Father,
- we have failed to love others as You love them. We have failed to reflect Your grace to the world in service and sacrifice. We have failed in our actions and in our unwillingness to act. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may follow You in joy. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus Christ into our world to serve and save all people, showing no partiality or favoritism. By His death, He forgives all our sins. By His resurrection, He destroys death forever and offers us eternal life. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We are set free to love and serve our neighbors. Amen.

BLESSING

- Be of good cheer and assured, for God has promised that your sins are indeed forgiven. May the Holy Spirit abide with you as you live at peace.
- C Amen.



+ WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 92:1-4; antiphon: v. 5

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and the harp,

to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;

at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!

KYRIE Mark 10:47

- In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- 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.

L Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to His people on earth.



SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: O God, from whom all good proceeds,
- grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

- **I** The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 33.
 - ⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."
- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 32:1–7

- L Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- Blessed is the man against whom the *LORD* counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- E For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
- L I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;
- I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the *LORD*," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

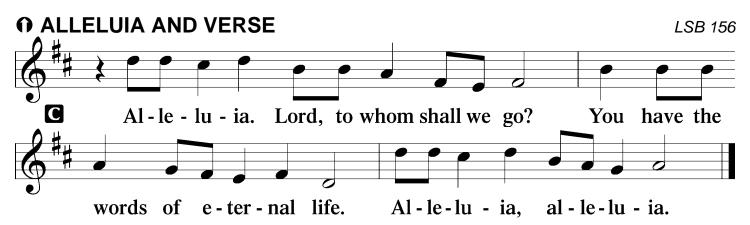
EPISTLE Romans 13:1–10

I The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 13.

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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





HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:1–20

■ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. 11For the Son of Man came to save the lost. 12What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

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

O HYMN OF THE DAY 820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker 1 My soul, now praise your Mak er! Let all with - in me 2 He of - fers His Of jus - tice, truth, all trea sure and Has 3 For as a ten - der fa ther pit - y on his 4 His grace for - ev And chil-dren's chil-dren re - mains er, Who makes you full Of bless His name par - tak er His righ - teous-ness, love be - yond all His mea sure, dren here. God His arms A11 chil in will gath er That God for - sakes them Who yet shall prove nev er dare claim. For - get Him mer - cies more than you whose not yearn - ing pit У o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we Ĥis child - like who are in fear. He knows frail how our in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His your sin, ness Still bears with all Who heals your meek ev - 'ry mer it But sets His an ger by. The poor and con - trite Who but from dust ers. are made. We flour - ish like the ing, His O hosts with might ex dwell rule is ver all; O weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and Finds His com - pas spir it sion nigh; And high as The ers, And e - ven SO we fade: wind but ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -And saved Who less you through the past; care are end

heav'n a - bove us, As dawn from close of day, So their bloom o'er. We through them pass es, And all is Wordyou His Our reign ing, All who hear er



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last. since He has loved He far, us, puts our sins a - way. like the grass - es; Our place knows us with - er no more. sus - tain - ing. Lord! life and all My soul, O praise the

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,

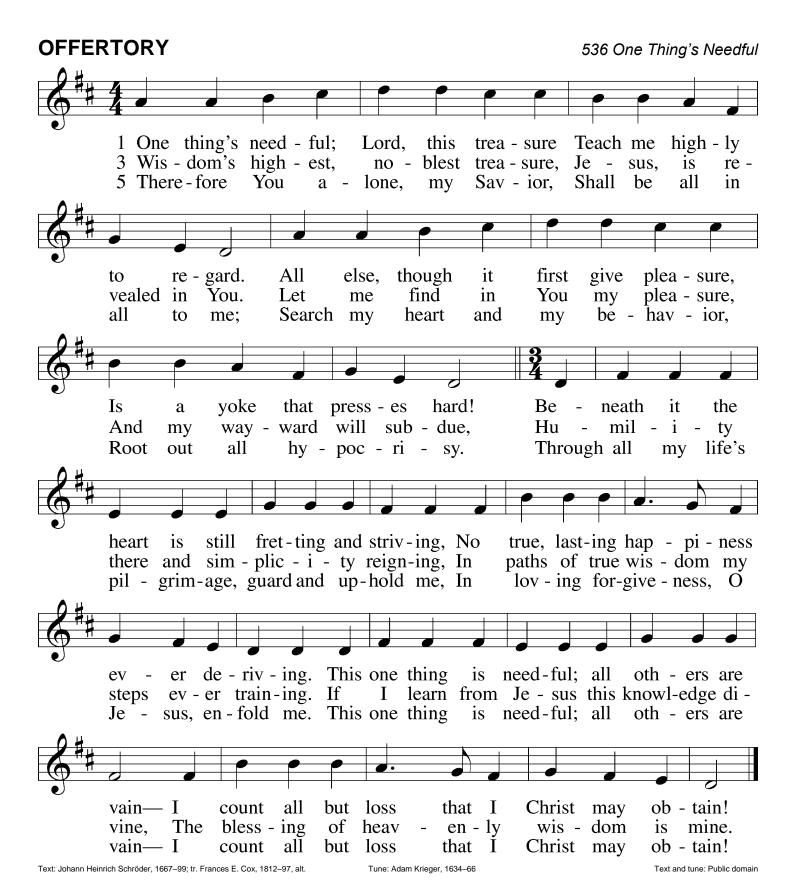
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

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

O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the whole Church, that through it the goodness of God may be shared. And we pray for those who lead the Church, that, mentored by Your mercy, they do so with devotion and humility. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for the nations of the world, asking that voices that call for peace be heard and that the rich bounty of creation be carefully nurtured and thoughtfully shared. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for our families and everyone in them. Remove any sense of envy from among all of us, Lord, that we rejoice in the gifts You have given to each of us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for those whose work is dangerous and for those who feel that what they are doing is not noticed by others. Grant a sense of satisfaction to all people in their various vocations, that together we rejoice in times of prosperity and, in times of adversity, be of support to one another. Bless those engaged in works of Christian mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for those whose lives know burdens and challenges, whose petitions are joined with ours. This day we commend to Your care [names, and] all Your children who are in need of prayer. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- L We pray that our offerings given here this day be sacrifices acceptable to You, O Lord, and that, with Your blessing, they find holy usage to Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- With gratitude, we remember those who have completed their earthly journeys and who by faith now rejoice in Your presence. Grant that their memory among us be blessed. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- These things and whatsoever else we should have asked of You, grant us by Your mercy, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
- C Amen.



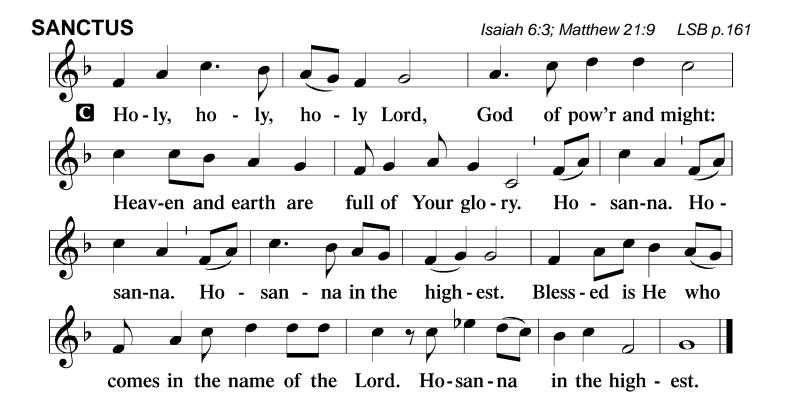
+ SACRAMENT +

O PREFACE

- The Lord be with you.
- **C** 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 proper that we should give thanks to You, merciful Father, for in Your goodness You have given Your only-begotten Son for our salvation. Through the mentoring of Your Spirit, set us on righteous ways and cover us with Your mercy at all times and in all places. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your heavenly kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C Amen.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Bless us and our worship this day through the working of the Holy Spirit that as we gather to receive the holy body and blood of our Lord and Savior we may be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy.
- 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 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

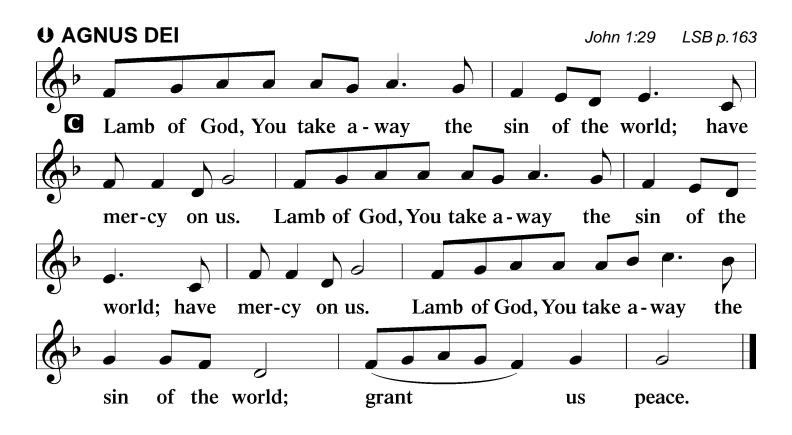
Matthew 6:9–13 LSB p.162

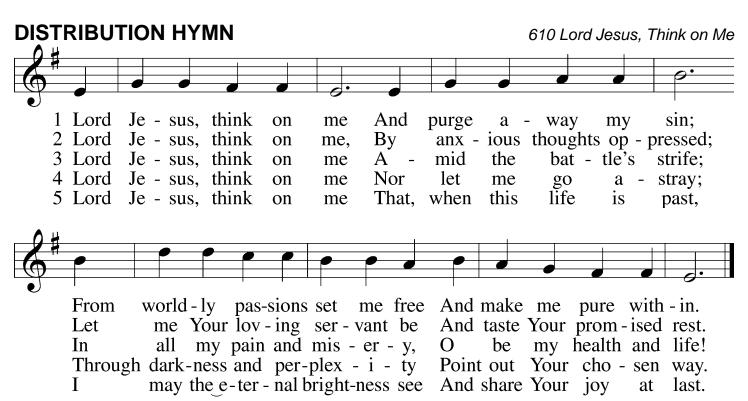
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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





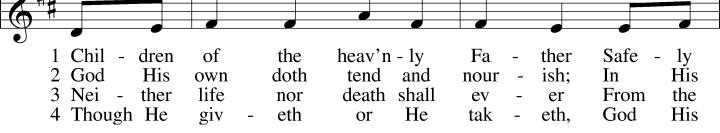
Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365-c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-96, alt.

Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591

Text and tune: Public domain



725 Children of the Heavenly Father





His gath - er; Nest - ling bos - om bird in in nor star courts they flour - ish. From all ho 1y e vil things He chil - dren sev - er; Lord His Un - to His He them grace ne'er for - sak - eth; chil - dren His the lov - ing pur - pose

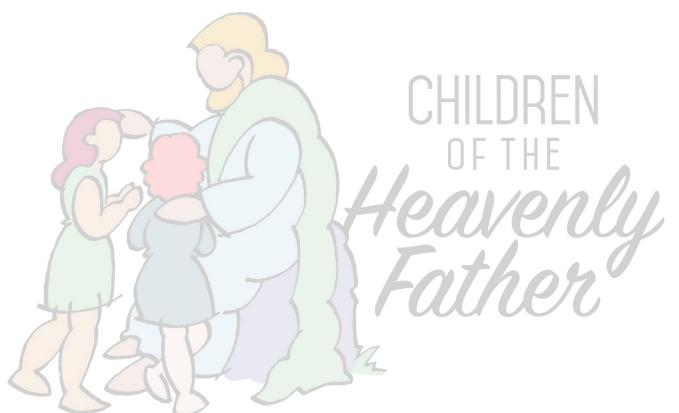


Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga wisor, 1873, Sweden

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain



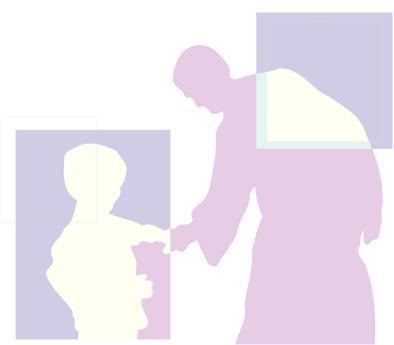


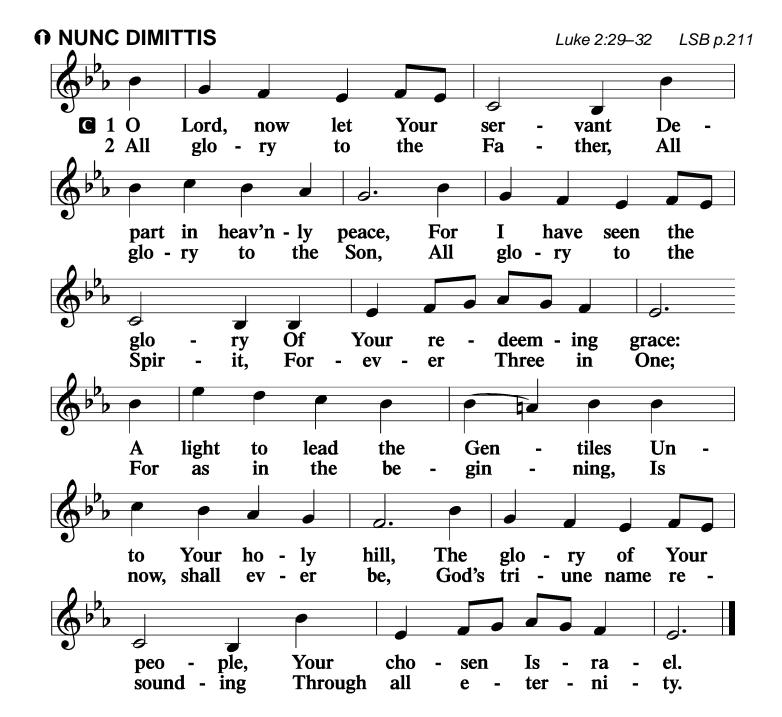
866 Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend



- 5 That all of us, Your children dear, By Christ redeemed, may Christ revere; Lead us in joy that all we do Will witness to our love for You.
- 6 Then guard and keep us to the end, Secure in You, our gracious friend, That in Your heav'nly family We sing Your praise eternally.

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932–96 Tune: William Knapp, 1698–1768 Text: © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018177 Tune: Public domain





POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for having fed us with the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Keep us in Your faith and favor that all we do may be to Your glory. As You live in us, may we also live in You. By Your grace, grant that Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith unto everlasting life. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our loving Savior.
- C Amen.

O ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICTION

- C Amen.



826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying



- 1 Hark, the voice of Je sus cry ing, "Who will go and work to day?
- 2 If you can-not speak like an gels, If you can-not preach like Paul,
- 3 If you can-not be a watch-man, Stand-ing high on Zi on's wall
- 4 Let none hear you i dly say ing, "There is noth-ing I can do,"



Fields are white and har-vests wait-ing— Who will bear the sheaves a-way?" You can tell the love of Je-sus, You can say He died for all. Point-ing out the path to heav-en, Of-fring life and peace to all, While the mul-ti-tudes are dy-ing And the Mas-ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas-ter call-eth; Rich re-ward He of-fers thee. If you can - not rouse the wick-ed With the judg-ment's dread a - larms, With your prayers and with your boun-ties You can do what God com-mands; Take the task He gives you glad-ly, Let His work your plea-sure be;



Who will an-swer, glad-ly say-ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"? You can lead the lit-tle chil-dren To the Sav-ior's wait - ing arms. You can be like faith-ful Aar-on, Hold-ing up the proph-et's hands. An - swer quick-ly when He call-eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Text (sts. 1-2, 4): Daniel March, 1816-1909, alt.; (st. 3): unknown, alt.

Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838-96

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

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