# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# **SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

### MY IMPRISONMENT IS FOR CHRIST

#### **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**

When Paul wrote to his co-worker Timothy that he was "bound with chains as a criminal" (2 TIMOTHY 2:9), he knew well the situation he was in. Acts 16 relates the time that he was thrown in jail in Philippi without benefit of a trial. He was later jailed in Jerusalem and then Caesarea and finally at Rome, where he was under a type of house arrest for two years. The final chapter of Acts finds Paul as a captive one more time, accepting this imprisonment as a prelude to his death. He writes to Timothy "the time of my departure has come" (2 TIMOTHY 4:6). In the centuries since Paul gave his prison witness, countless Christian men and women have been imprisoned for their Gospel witness. We are encouraged to be faithful witnesses in our time by Paul, who writes to his young associate Timothy: "Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith" (1 TIMOTHY 6:11–12A). Paul's words from prison are good instruction for every situation!

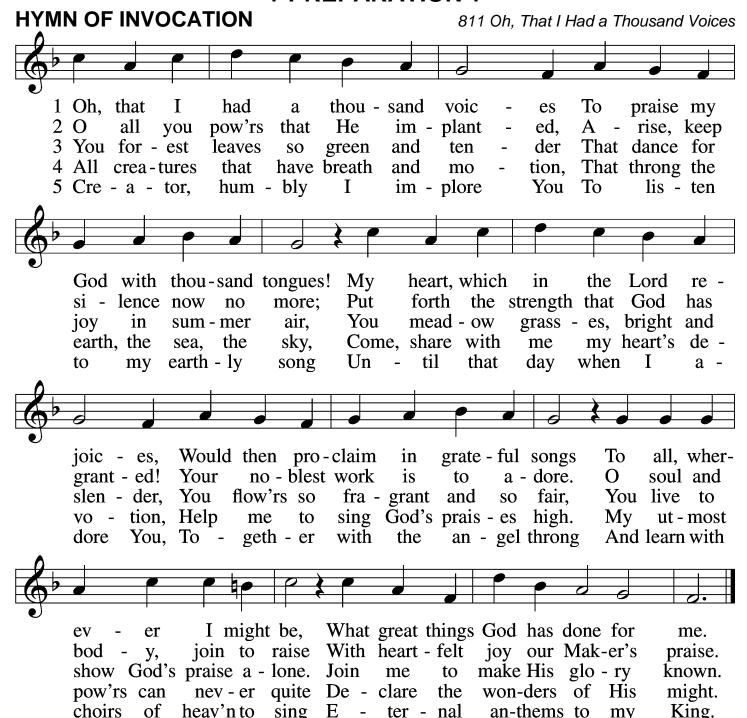
#### **COMMUNION PRACTICE**

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.

### + PREPARATION +



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### **O** INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- In the name of the Father and of the 

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

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

Psalm 67:1-5, 7

- L May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,
- that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.
- Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
- Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
- Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
- God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins and hear the words of absolution that assure us of God's forgiveness. The section on "Confession" in the Small Catechism written by Dr. Martin Luther instructs and directs us with these words:
- Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.
- L Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.
- **I** God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
- C Amen.
- L 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.
- Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your lives reflect His forgiveness. Be at peace!
- C Amen.

### + WORD +

#### INTROIT

Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16; antiphon: v. 17

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

What shall I render to the LORD

for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call on the name of the LORD.

Precious in the sight of the LORD

is the death of his saints.

O LORD, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

**G** 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.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

KYRIE Mark 10:47

- 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.

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



# **SALUTATION**

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

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, our strength and support in all situations, grant us the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit that we may be strong and steadfast in all situations, joyfully witnessing to the power of Your love and continually learning of You in every season; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 55:6-9

■ The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 55.

<sup>6</sup>"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

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

PSALM Psalm 27:1–9; antiphon: v. 4a

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,

my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

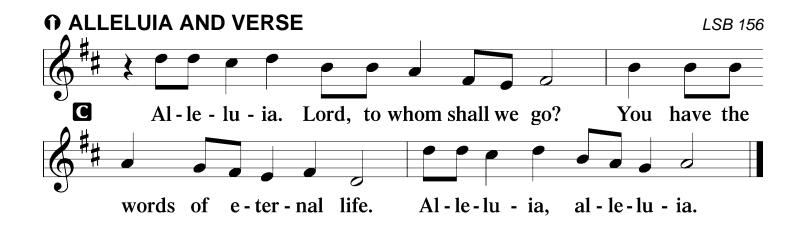
<sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup>You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

- **L** The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 1.
  - <sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .
  - <sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.
  - <sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.
- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 20:1–16

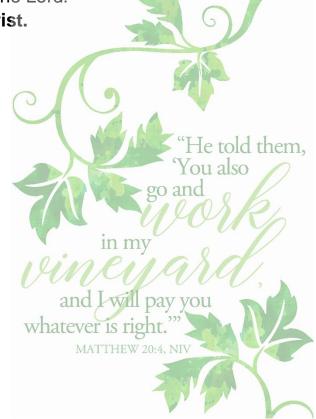
■ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

# **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' 5So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' 8And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' 9And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' 16So the last will be first, and the first last."

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.





# **○ CREED** Nicene Creed LSB p.158

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**

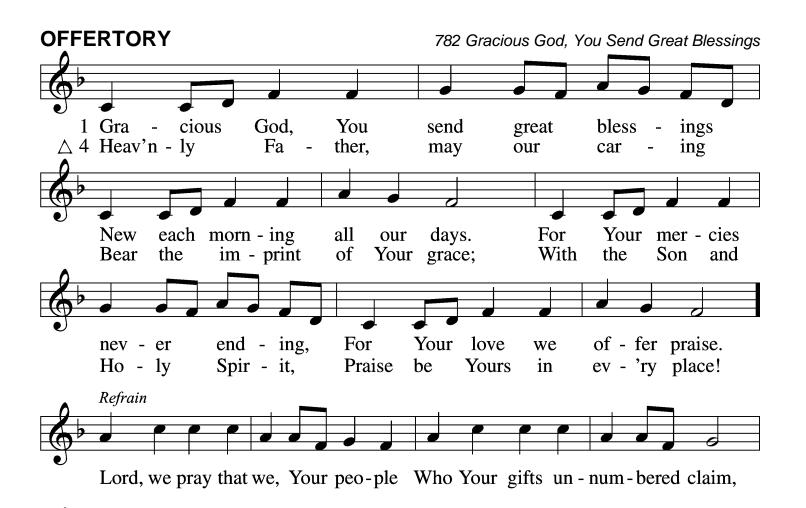
- Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.
  - God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

- Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- L And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

# **OFFERING**

Offering Plates passed by Ushers Please enter your attendance in the red Record of Fellowship





Through the shar-ing of Your bless-ings May bring glo-ry to Your name.

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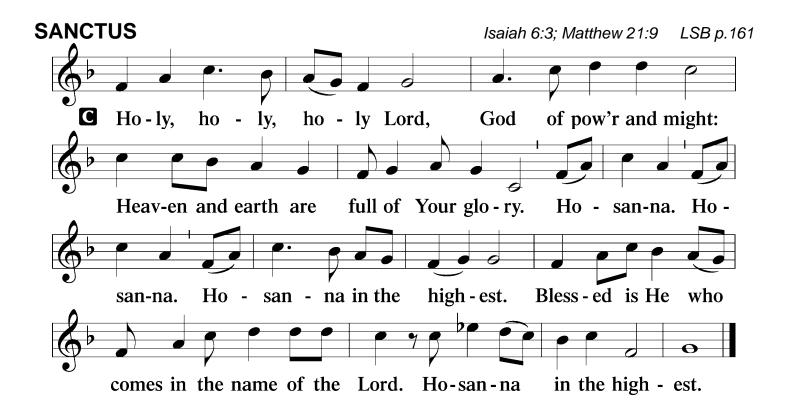
## + SACRAMENT +

#### **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, Lord our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Confident of His compassion for us, faithfully and continually learning of Him, and rejoicing in the company of the saints on earth and those above, we laud and magnify Your holy name.



#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- E Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You graciously invite us to call upon You with all boldness and confidence. Gathered at Your Table, grant that we receive Your body and blood, and through this sacred eating and drinking be strengthened for lives of witness and service. Unite us with thankful hearts in the unending praise of Your glory and grant us in this blessed Sacrament a foretaste of the feast to come.
- 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.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

#### LORD'S PRAYER

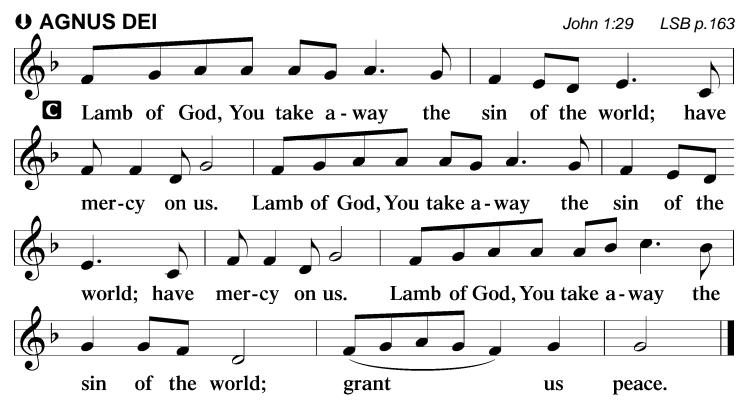
Matthew 6:9–13 LSB p.162

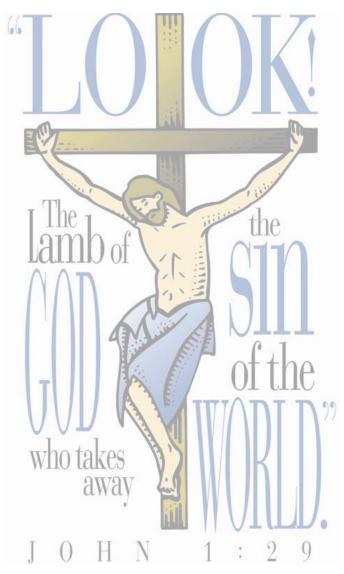
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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



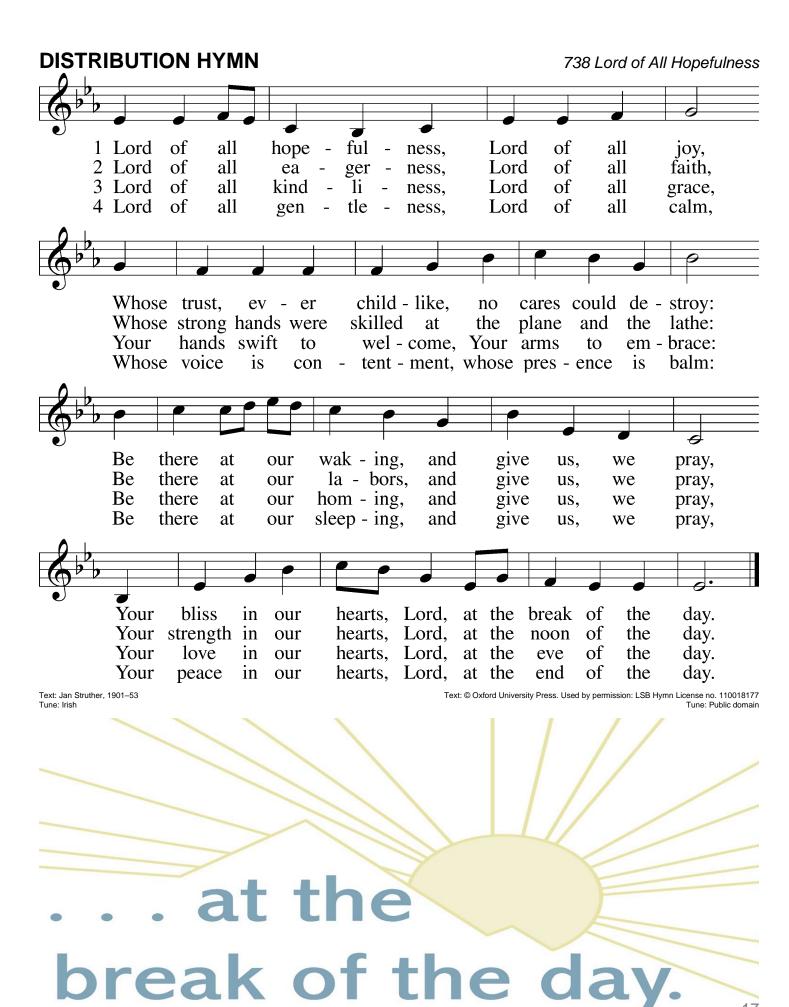




Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

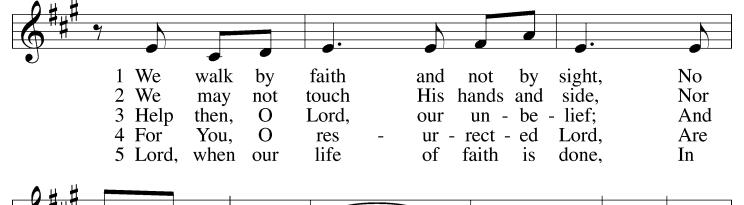
Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929

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### 720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight





fol - low where He trod; may our faith a - bound found in means di - vine: realms of clear - er light From Him who spoke as
But in His prom - ise
To call on You when
Be - neath the wa - ter
We may be - hold You



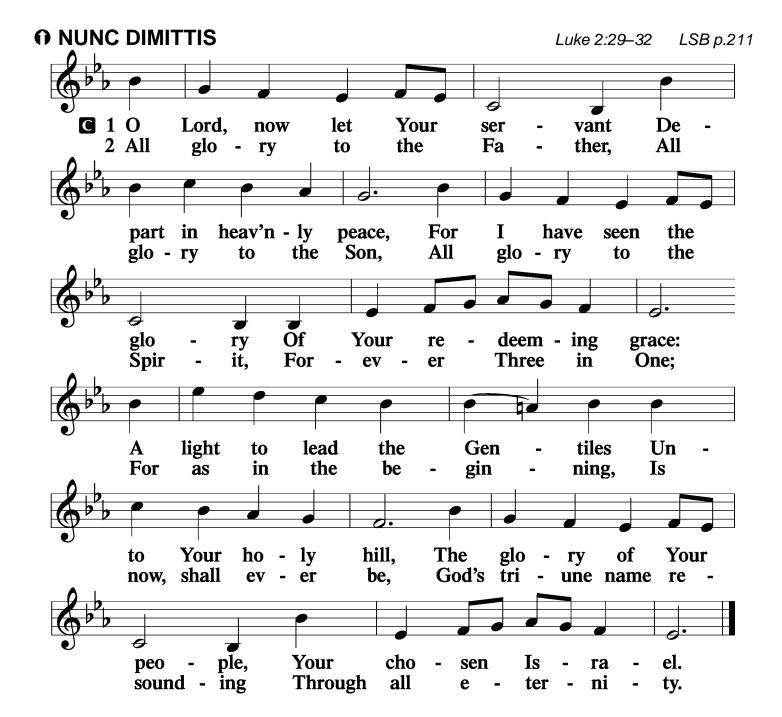
none e'er spoke, we re - joice You are near and the Word, as You are,

be - lieve Him But we near. "My God!" And cry Lord and And seek where You found. are Be - neath the bread wine. and With full and end less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt. Tune: Marty Haugen, 1950

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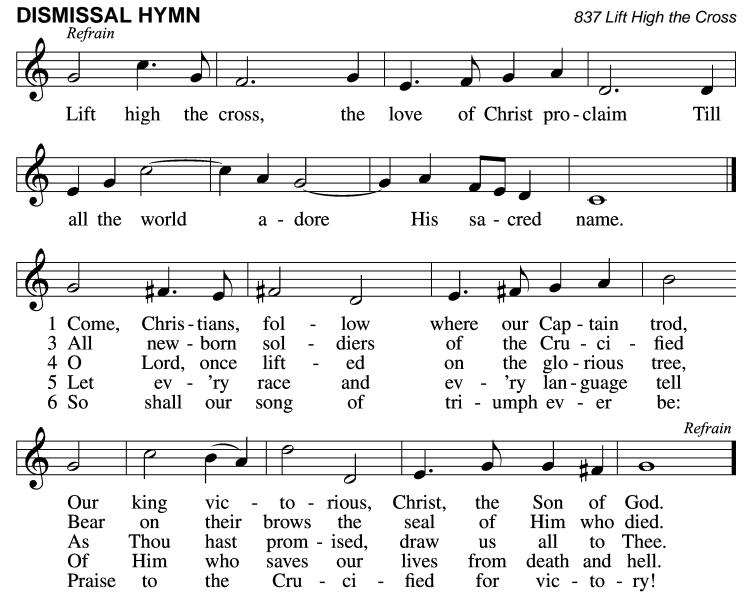
## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same, especially in times of challenge or persecution, and grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our everlasting High Priest, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.
- C Amen.

# **O** ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

#### BENEDICTION

- C Amen.



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

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Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

### **DISMISSAL**

20

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