

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

Divine Service, Setting One

As We Gather

What is more difficult to believe: a fable about a man defeating a deadly dragon by eating it or a prophet's prediction that the Creator God would defeat death itself by swallowing it? What does Isaiah, the prophet, mean by saying God "will swallow up death forever" (Isaiah 25:8)? Does God eat?

The mighty, eternal, creator God is life Himself and has no need for sustenance. In order to "swallow death," God took on our human form. We die because of the corruption of sin. To "swallow death," the incarnate Savior "ate," or consumed, death by taking the sin of the world onto Himself on the cross of Calvary. Jesus did not die for Himself. Jesus died your death for your sin. So it is that when a sinner is baptized into Christ Jesus, he or she is "baptized into His death" (Romans 6:3). Thereby, "you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3).

Even with saving faith in Christ, we still have Christian funerals. But by faith we wait, hope, and fully expect to be raised in the resurrection to eternal life, to be present at the great feast of salvation. In Christ, the enemy, death itself, has been transformed for us by God now to be but His divine remedy, freeing us from sin and eternal death. Therefore, by faith in Christ we no longer need to fear death but rather can see it as a peaceful sleep from which we are promised to be awakened to eternal life and the wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom.

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -

works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

Service of the Word

Introit

Isaiah 61:10; antiphon: Psalm 146:2

P I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*
I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

C I will greatly rejoice | in the LORD;*
my soul shall exult | in my God,

P for he has clothed me with the garments of sal- | vation;*
he has covered me with the robe of | righteousness,

C as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful | headdress,*
and as a bride adorns herself | with her jewels.

C Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*
I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

Kyrie

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A 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.

- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

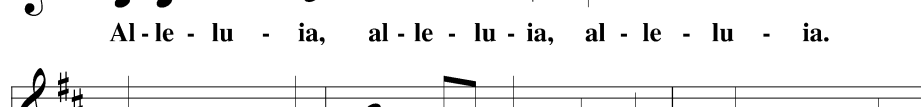
Refrain



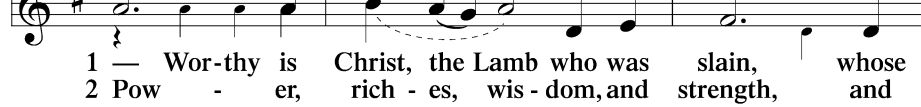
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



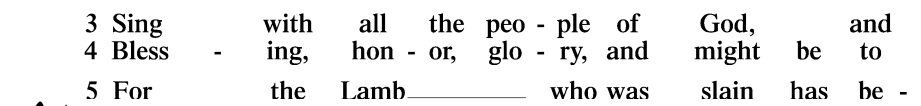
Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.



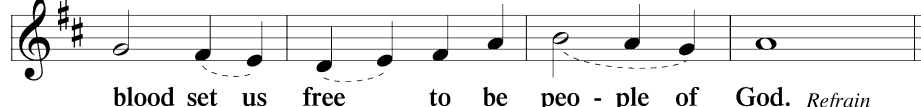
1 — Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



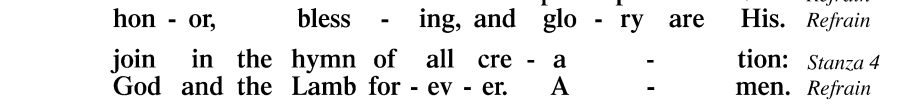
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
 Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6–9

- R** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 25.
- ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
 a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
 of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–13

R The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 4.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

P ¹Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the

wedding feast.’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

510 A Multitude Comes from the East and the West



1 A mul - ti - tude comes from the east and the west
2 O God, let us hear when our Shep - herd shall call
3 All tri - als shall be like a dream that is past,
4 The heav - ens shall ring with an an - them more grand



To sit at the feast of sal - va - tion
In ac - cents per - sua - sive and ten - der,
For - got - ten all trou - ble and mourn - ing.
Than ev - er on earth was re - cord - ed.



With A - bra - ham, I - saac, and Ja - cob, the blest,
That while there is time we make haste, one and all,
All ques - tions and doubts have been an - swered at last,
The blest of the Lord shall re - ceive at His hand



O - bey - ing the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion.
And find Him, our might - y de - fend - er.
When ris - es the light of that morn - ing.
The crown to the vic - tors a - ward - ed.



Have mer - cy up - on us, O Je - sus!
Have mer - cy up - on us, O Je - sus!
Have mer - cy up - on us, O Je - sus!
Have mer - cy up - on us, O Je - sus!

Text: Magnus Brostrup Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, adapt.
Tune: Swedish, 1694
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, grant us Your grace that we may hear and heed Your invitation and joyfully wear the baptismal clothing of Your righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, Your Son, Jesus Christ, purchased the Church with His precious blood. Preserve her in the pure teaching of Your Word, in the right use of the Sacraments and in the unity of the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You have ordained the estate of marriage. Grant that it may be honored and upheld according to Your will, and that husbands and wives may love and serve each other. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, the earth is Yours and the fullness thereof. In Your mercy, bless all nations and bring an end to war and conflict. Guide and defend our president and Congress, our governor, and all local government officials. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You promise to wipe away the tears from all faces. Bless [_____ and] all who weep here, that at the last they may be comforted, restored and received into the banquet of heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You have prepared a table before us in the midst of those who refuse Your invitation. Keep Your Church unstained by the world, that we may partake of our Lord's Supper worthily, clothed in His baptismal grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Heavenly Father, comfort those who mourn with the certainty of life everlasting for all who die in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty God, Heavenly Father, give us such joy in pursuing what is true, just, pure and worthy of praise, that spurning the temptations of this world, we would suffer no anxiety. Let our trust be placed fully in Christ, and let our hope rest in the life of the world to come; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

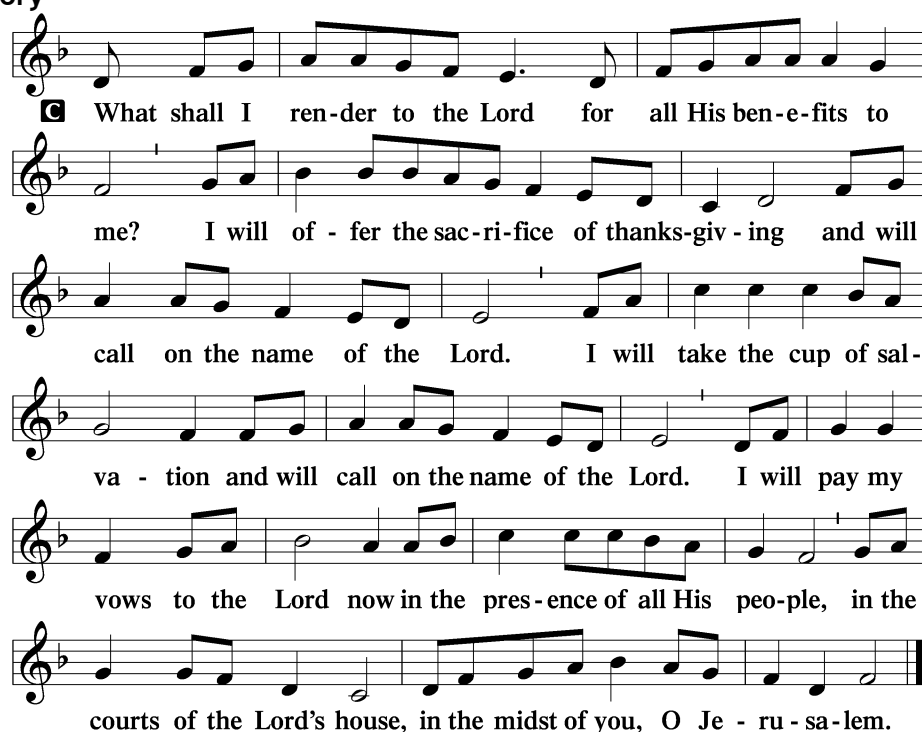
Offering

911 Lord, This Day We've Come to Worship sts. 1, ref, 2

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation 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 with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust 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 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P 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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P 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.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

Pax Domini

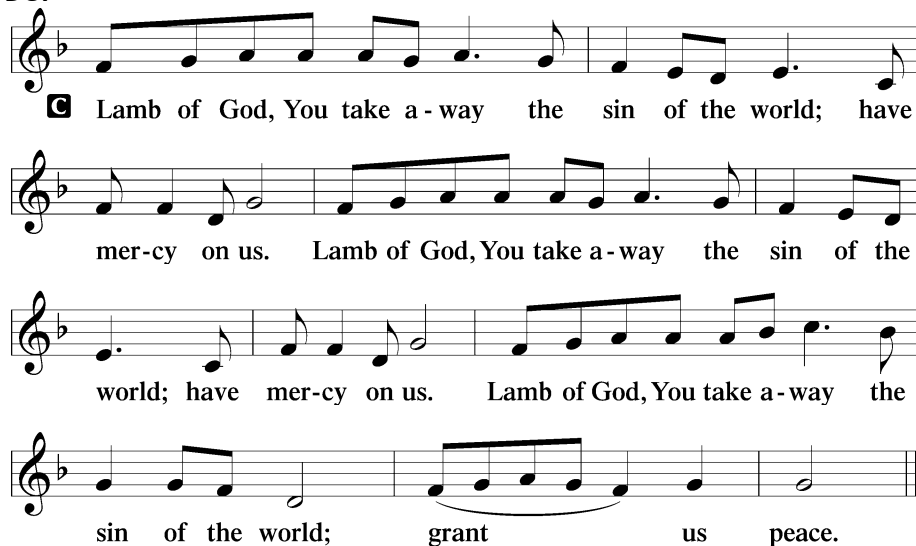
LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



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



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



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



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



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - 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.

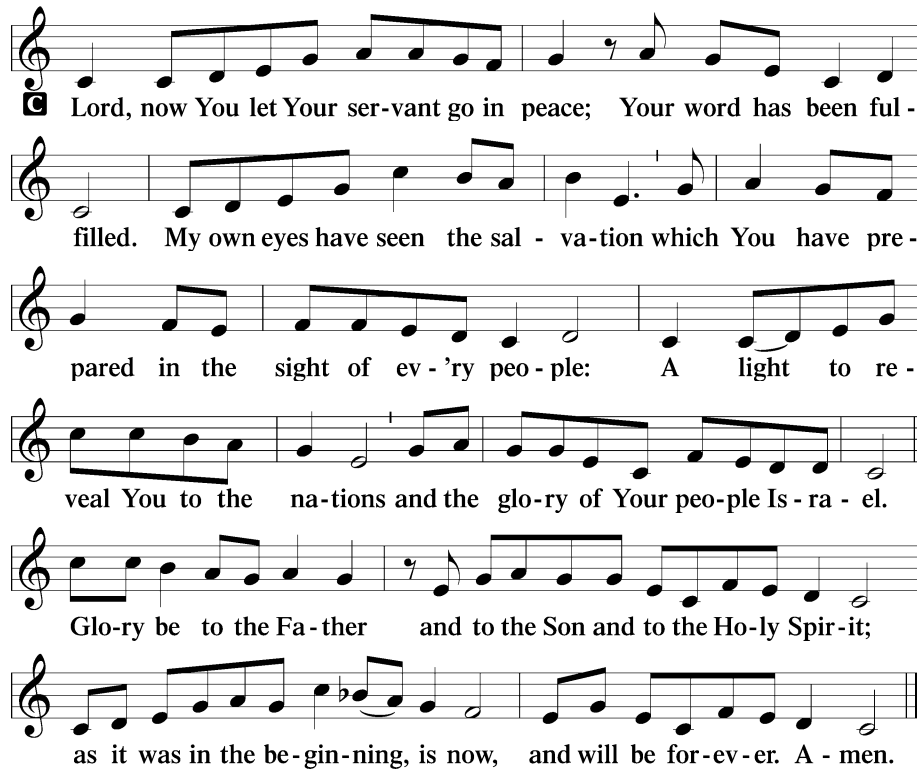
8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love requited;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace You give me
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

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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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
 veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

P 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.

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

514 The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

1 The Bride-groom soon will call us, "Come to the wed-ding feast."
 2 There shall we see in glo - ry Our dear Re-deem-er's face;
 3 There God shall from all e - vil For - ev - er make us free,
 4 In that fair home shall nev - er Be si - lent mu - sic's voice;

May slum-ber not be - fall us Nor watch - ful - ness de - crease.
 The long - a - wait - ed sto - ry Of heav'n - ly joy takes place:
 From sin and from the dev - il, From all ad - ver - si - ty,
 With hearts and lips for - ev - er We shall in God re - joice,

May all our lamps be burn - ing With oil e - nough and more
 The pa - tri - archs shall meet us, The proph - ets' ho - ly band;
 From sick-ness, pain, and sad - ness, From trou - bles, cares, and fears,
 While an - gel hosts are rais - ing With saints from great to least

That we, with Him re - turn - ing, May find an o - pen door!
 A - pos - tles, mar - tyrs greet us In that ce - les - tial land.
 And grant us heav'n - ly glad - ness And wipe a - way our tears.
 A might - y hymn for prais - ing The Giv - er of the feast.

Text: Johann Walter, 1496–1570; (st. 1): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (sts. 2–4): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
 Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius
 Text (st. 1): © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
 Text (sts. 2–4) and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying our Lutheran identity.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory for the Clark's 40th Anniversary.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying the Old Testament.

Church Council next meets **Oct 11** at **8am**.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. Nov 7 at **9am**.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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