

The Feast of ALL SAINTS'

Observed

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | Kearney, Nebraska

Sunday, November 6, 2016

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS'

Last week, on Tuesday, November 1, the Church celebrated All Saints' Day. Today, we observe this feast. To "observe" a feast means we celebrate the feast day in a Divine Service not held on the specific day the feast is celebrated. The Feast of All Saints' is the most comprehensive of the days of commemoration, encompassing the entire scope of that great cloud of witnesses with which we are surrounded (Hebrews 12:1). It holds before the eyes of faith that great multitude which no man can number: all the saints of God in Christ—from every nation, race, culture, and language—who have come "out of the great tribulation...who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9, 14). As such, it sets before us the full height and depth and breadth and length of our dear Lord's gracious salvation (Ephesians 3:17-19). It shares with Easter a celebration of the resurrection, since all those who have died with Christ Jesus have also been raised with Him (Romans 6:3-8). It shares with Pentecost a celebration of the ingathering of the entire Church catholic-in heaven and on earth, in all times and places—in the one Body of Christ, in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Just as we have all been called to the one hope that belongs to our call, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). And the Feast of All Saints shares with the final Sundays of the Church Year an eschatological focus on the life everlasting and a confession that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). In all of these emphases, the purpose of this feast is to fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, that we might not grow weary or fainthearted (Hebrews 12:2,3).

THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal Candle is a special candle used at every service during the Easter season and at baptisms and funerals year-round. We also light the candle on the Feast of All Saints since the Paschal Candle symbolizes the resurrection victory over the darkness of sin and death. It emphasizes the presence of the resurrected Christ and the link between baptism and the resurrection (Romans 6).

The name Paschal comes from the Greek, *pascha*. Before the time of Christ, this word was used for Passover; after Christ, Christians took to using the word when referring to the Festival of the Resurrection (The term Easter came into use in later centuries).

HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY

In Holy Communion, we share in the mystery of the bread and wine offered together with the body and blood of Christ. As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God's holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true.

God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn't understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not taught first.

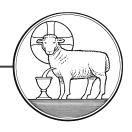
As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord's Table today. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

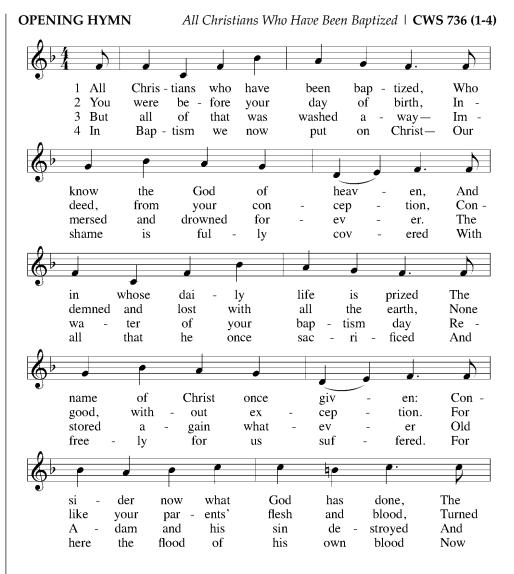
Preacher & Presiding Minister	Pr. Nathanael Seelow
Pianist	
Ushers	Tony Wenz & Les Adelung
Greeters	Tom & Marlene Hansen
Sound Technician	Logan Hansen

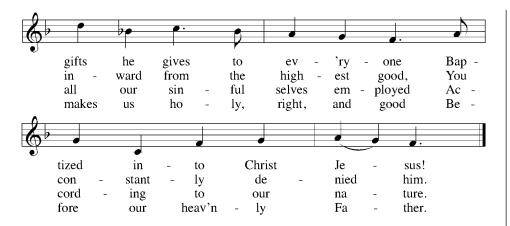
THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Service of Word & Sacrament — Christian Worship, pg. 26



Paul Gerhardt is one of the Lutheran Church's greatest hymn writers. His life was marked with several crosses that helped him to better understand the grace of God. Gerhardt married Anna Maria Berthold. Their first daughter died in infancy, and the family suffered from extreme poverty. While serving as Pastor in Berlin Gerhardt was forbidden to preach in his own church for not being willing to abandon Lutheran doctrine. While this battle was raging, Gerhardt and his wife had five more children, but three of them did not live past their first few days. After he left Berlin, another son died, and his wife became seriously ill and by Easter she died. Gerhardt's only surviving family was a six year old son. Through these crosses Gerhardt understood God's grace through Christ. And through his hymns, he shares his trust in that grace.





Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. Jon D. Vieker, b. 1961 © 2004 Jon D. Vieker, All rights reserved.

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Tune: NUN FREUT EUCH (87 87 887) Etlich Christlich lider, Wittenburg, 1524

INVOCATION

Please stand.

- M The grace of our Lord ❖ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness,
- we lie and do not practice the truth.
- M But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
- we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus 1 John 1:6,7 his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- M God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination as you consider your thoughts, words, and actions according to the Ten Commandments.

"When you feel in your conscience that you are guilty, be very, very careful not to contend with either God or men in an effort to defend or excuse your sin. Rather, do this: When God points his spear at you, do not flee from him; on the contrary, flee to him with a humble confession of guilt and a plea for pardon."

- Martin Luther

"Know ye, then-sin, death, devil, and everything that assails me—that you are missing the mark. I am not one of those who are afraid of you. For Christ, my dear Lord, has presented to me that triumph and victory of His by which you were laid low. And from this very gift of His I derive my name and am called a Christian. There is no other reason. My sin and death hung about His neck on Good Friday, but on the day of Easter they had completely disappeared. This victory He has bestowed on me. This is why I do not worry about you."

- Martin Luther

- M Holy and merciful Father,
- I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

- M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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.
- C Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY — Kyrie

M For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

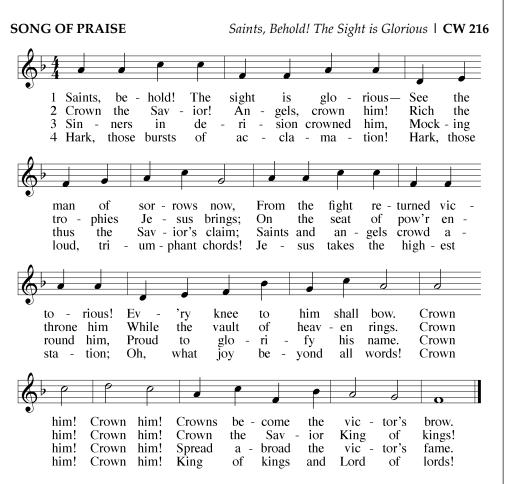


Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise!

PARENTS: The shorter, oft-repeated expressions in the liturgy are excellent ways for young children to participate in the worship service. Help children watch for and join in phrases like, "Lord, have mercy," "Amen," and "Alleluia."

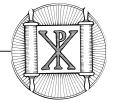


Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt. Tune: CORONAE (87 87 47) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

The Collect (also called the "Prayer of the Day") is a concise prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Most of these prayers have been in use in the Church for more than 1,500 years. By praying these prayers, we join with the great body of believers, the communion of saints, and with the generations yet to come. The congregation makes the Collect its own with its "Amen," a declaration that what has been said is true and affirming its trust in the Lord's promise; "Yes, yes, this is most certainly true."

John gives a glimpse of the glory that is Christ's. How incredible to be part of that blessedness! Drawn onward and upward by the magnificence of this hope in Christ, God's people join in the heavenly chorus even now.

The Service of the Word



PRAYER OF THE DAY — Collect

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow the example of your blessed saints in lives of faith and willing service and with them at last inherit the inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

FIRST LESSON Revelation 7:9-17

fter these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They called out with a loud voice and said:

Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying:

Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

¹³ One of the elders spoke to me and said, "These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?"

And I answered him, "Sir, you know."

¹⁴ And he said to me:

These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ Because of this they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple.

He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

¹⁶ They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again.

The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat,

 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 149 [HCSB]

- M Alleluia! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the godly.
- Let Israel celebrate its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.
- M Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with tambourine and lyre.
- For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.
- M Let the godly celebrate in triumphal glory;

Salvation is a gift, a kind of clothing, and the pleasure the Lord takes in His people is not on account of their works. They rejoice in their King, who was bound and suffered the punishment due to the nations. We have fellowship with Him in the Church.

- let them shout for joy on their beds.
- M This honor is for all His godly people.
- C Alleluia!
- 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.

SECOND LESSON 1 John 3:1-3

ee the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. ² Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is. ³ Everyone who has this hope purifies himself just as Jesus is pure.

- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

Revelation 7:15a [ESV]

- M Alleluia! They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple.
- C Alleluia!

"God is infinite, but we are finite creatures. Moreover, the creature will never be the Creator. Yet we shall be like Him. God is life. Therefore we, too, shall live. God is righteous. Therefore we, too, shall be filled with righteousness. God is immortal and blessed. Therefore we, too, shall enjoy everlasting bliss, not as it is in God but the bliss that is suitable for us."

- Martin Luther

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12

Please stand.

M The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter five.

hen Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things:

- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, because they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the gentle, because they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, because they will receive mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
- M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

Iesus introduces His Sermon on the Mount with nine beatitudes that detail the future blessedness of His disciples. These promise blessings are God's gracious gifts to those who revent of their sins and trust Christ for righteousness. Only after Jesus has assured His disciples of God's goodness to them does He call on them, in the rest of His sermon, to ben good and do good. When we recognize our own spiritual poverty, when the Lord leads us to hunger and thirst for God's righteousness, when He makes us vure in heart so that we seek to worship only the true God, then we are blessed, now and forever.

Rom. 4:6-8

Ecc. 12:7

1 Th. 4:17

SERMON Matthew 5:1-12

How are you truly "blessed"?

APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand.

Upon hearing the Word preached, the С I believe in God, the Father almighty, 2 Cor. 6:18 congregation unites maker of heaven and earth. Is. 51:13 in one voice to speak a summary of the I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, 1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18 Christian faith just who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Lk. 1:35 preached. The creeds signify our allegiance born of the virgin Mary, Lk. 1:34; 2:7 to Christian doctrine suffered under Pontius Pilate, Lk. 23:16 and unite us with over 2,000 years of was crucified, died, Mt. 27:32-61; Mk. 15:21-47; Christian history. By and was buried. Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42 repeating the creeds He descended into hell. weekly, we equip 1 Pet. 3:19 ourselves for public The third day he rose again from the dead. 1 Cor. 15:4b witness by grounding He ascended into heaven Ac. 2:33-34 our confession in the and is seated at the right hand fundamentals of our faith. of God the Father almighty. Heb. 1:13 From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. Mt. 25:31; 2 Tim. 4:1 I believe in the Holy Spirit, Mt. 3:16-17 the holy Christian Church, Eph. 5:23 the communion of saints, Eph. 4:3-6

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated.

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, by our Offering we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

This morning each petition of the prayer will be prayed and then concluded in this way:

M ...Lord, in your mercy,

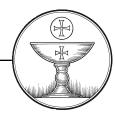
C Hear our prayer.

The final petition of the prayer will be concluded in this way:

M ...who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament



PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.



M Lift up your hearts.



M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Through the Prayer of the Church we heed Christ's command to "love one another." One of the greatest forms of love we can show for our neighbor is to pray for them.

"I certainly love it with all my heart, the precious, blessed Supper of my Lord Jesus Christ, in which He gives me His body and blood to eat and to drink orally, with the mouth of my body, accompanied by the exceedingly sweet and gracious words: Given for you, shed for you."

-Martin Luther

The words of the **Proper Preface** are a part of the Proper, or a component of the liturgy that is specific to a particular day of the Church Year. This particular Preface is appropriate (or "Proper") for the Feast of All Saints'.

M

This canticle is based on Isaiah 61:1-4. Like Isaiah, we are in the presence of God: the Lord is here with us in a special way in Communion. "Hosts" means armies. The "heavenly hosts" are God's armies of holy angels.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. *In the communion of all your saints gathered into the one body of your Son, you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — Sanctus



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, Lord God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Your Word brought all things into being, and your Word will call all things to an end. We thank you, heavenly Father, that in mercy you sent your Son to redeem us.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

We remember, O Lord, with thanksgiving the saving work of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Renew us that we may joyfully serve you in your kingdom of grace now and in your kingdom of glory forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER — Pater Noster

- M Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C Our Father, in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
 are yours now and forever. Amen.

As the testaments are linked to Christ in the Service of the Word, so do we remember and give thanks for salvation history in the Church's table prayer.

"The Lord's Prayer is a prayer above all prayers, the greatest of all prayers, which has been taught by the greatest Master of all, in which all spiritual and bodily trouble is comprehended and which is the strongest consolation in all temptations, and in the last hour."

- Martin Luther

The Pastor makes the sign of the cross during the Words of Institution, not because it is some magical incantation or spell, but rather to mark and set apart ("consecrate") the bread and wine for the purpose of eating and drinking in the sacrament.

"The peace of the Lord..." The resurrected Lord calmed the fears of his disciples with his peace. The resurrected Lord is present in the Supper, and so the pastor speaks to us on his behalf. (John 20:19–21, 26; 14:27)

The Agnus Dei (Latin for "Lamb of God") is based on John the Baptist's acclamation of Christ: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" This canticle recollects the sacrifice of the Lamb of God on Good Friday, reminding us that, through Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper, we are "all saints" in the sight of God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION — Verba

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

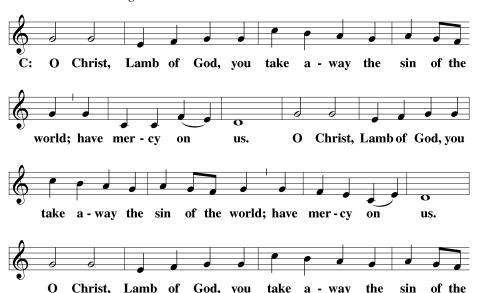
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

PEACE OF THE LORD — Pax Domini

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



LAMB OF GOD — Agnus Dei





Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Prayer suggestions for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

In dismissing the communicants, the minister says:

M Now, may this true body and blood strengthen and keep you in the true faith to life everlasting. Your sins ♣ are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

Please stand.

M Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the LORD with gladness.

Good Shepherd confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a Closed Communion. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord's Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.

As we began the service with the Lord's name, so we are sent out in His name. Live each day with confidence, knowing that you have the Lord's blessing and presence with you.

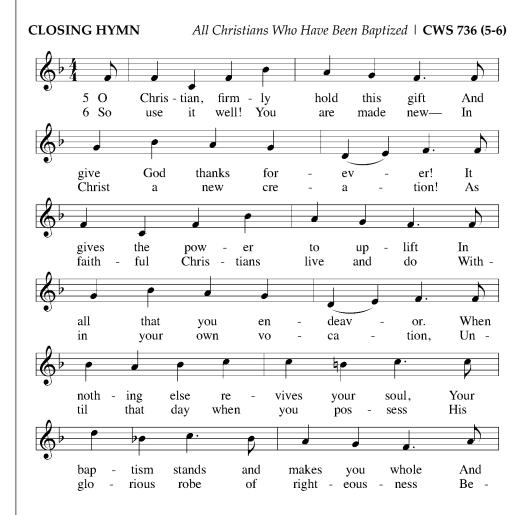
The LORD bless you and keep you.

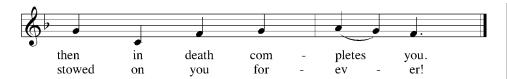
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and ◆ give you peace.



Be seated.





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Tune: NUN FREUT EUCH (87 87 887) Etlich Christlich lider, Wittenburg, 1524



Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- Romans 6:3,4 -

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