



O, The Depths of God's Grace!
IT BEGINS WITH A HEART OF FAITH

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | Kearney, Nebraska

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 17, 2017

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 TODAY

Faithfulness and obedience to the Word of God are not merely one aspect of life out of many. They are the all-important matters of life that should be reflected in all of the rest of life. There is a life-and-death struggle going on with us, as Satan strives with all his might to pull us back into sin and unbelief. The only help that avails in that life-and-death struggle is the help of God's own Word, the covering of the gospel and the confidence of faith which comes from it. Armed with the promises of God, we storm the gates of heaven with our prayers for assistance, in the certainty that God will hear us and in his Word answer us. May our awareness of the battle and of the victory Christ gives permeate all that we do at work and at play, at home and away, in our lives with family, with friends, with foes as well.

Over the next six Sundays, we focus on *O, The Depths of God's Grace!* Jesus wants to so deepen our understanding of his grace that he becomes all in all to us. In this series, we will see how truly gracious God is.

TODAY*An Understanding of God's Grace Begins With a Heart of Faith*

September 24.....*God's Grace is Focused Outside of Himself*

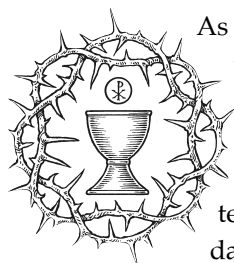
October 1.....*God's Grace is Found in Under His Protective Care [Festival of St. Michael and All Angels]*

October 8.....*God's Grace is Found in the Family*

October 15.....*God's Grace is Found in Wealth*

October 22.....*God's Grace is Abundant*

HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY



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 properly taught first (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

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].

ABOUT THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], the synod to which Good Shepherd has the privilege to belong, is in the process of producing a new hymnal, scheduled to be released in the early 2020's. Pastor Seelow is a contributor to this project, and also has the opportunity to serve on the worship board of the Nebraska District of the WELS. Good Shepherd has been asked to "field test" one of the new orders of service for that new hymnal volume. The committee who designed this new service explains it in this way:

"Entitled simply The Service, the order of service you are using is both old and new. It is a version of the historic liturgy of the Western Christian church. The progression of The Service is familiar to worshipers in our church body, and there are some elements of The Service that are new or different."

The text of The Service is being presented as the standard liturgical text for the new hymnal. We envision that the hymnal will include three musical settings of The Service; the progression and basic texts will encourage continuity and familiarity, and the musical settings will offer variety. Overall, it is our hope and prayer that you will find the structure and the text of the service to be very familiar."

Good Shepherd will be using *The Service* through the end of November. For the first 6 weeks, only the text of *The Service* will be used. Gradually new songs and canticles will be taught and added, with the goal of using *The Service* in its entirety for the whole month of November. If you have questions, comments, or concerns about *The Service*, please speak with Pastor Seelow, and he will pass them on to the hymnal committee.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Service — Setting II



OPENING HYMN

God Himself Is Present | CW 224

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Please stand.

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

M Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his holy life and innocent death.
Trusting in him, I pray:
God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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

"The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners..."

*— Small Catechism,
The Office of the
Keys, Part I*

ABSOLUTION

M Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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, eleison*

Mark 10:47

M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

M 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.

M For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

*“All confidence is
empty, except
confidence in mercy.
Mercy delivers us;
our own merits, our
own efforts, do not.”*

*— Apology to the
Augsburg Confession,
V:209*

"Glory to God in the
highest, and peace to
His people on earth"

— Luke 2:14

GLORY BE TO GOD — *Gloria in Excelsis*

Luke 2:14

Tune: TALLIS' CANON [CW 597]

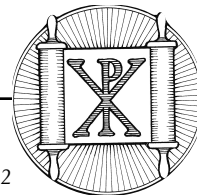
1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
 2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
 3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
 4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;

Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
 For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
 You take all hu - man sin a - way.
 The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.

We praise you for your peace and grace,
 For all, O Fath - er, you have done
 Have mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer;
 We by your Spir - it sing a - gain:

Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
 Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.
 From God's right hand, your mer - cy share.
 "All glo - ry be to God!" A - men.

The Service of the Word



SALUTATION

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Collect

M Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who trust in you, mercifully hear our prayers. Be gracious to us in our weakness and give us strength to keep your commandments in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 18:16-39

OBADIAH WENT TO MEET AHAB. And Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?”¹⁸ And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.”

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹ And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. ²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.” ²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to

The famous confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal ends with the execution of the false prophets. Their overthrow is a classic example of how God makes sure that truth ultimately prevails. No matter how entrenched and powerful the forces of evil are in the world, God is still guiding history for the good of his people, for their everlasting salvation.

it.”²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made.²⁷ And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.”²⁸ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them.²⁹ And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down.³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,”³² and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed.³³ And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.”³⁴ And he said, “Do it a second time.” And they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time.” And they did it a third time.³⁵ And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word.”³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.”³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.”

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 46 | CWS p. 46

Refrain

The might - y Lord is with us;

the God of Ja - cob is our for - tress.

Psalm Tone

Refrain

God is our ref- | uge and strength,
an ever-present help in | trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart | of the sea,
though its waters | roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their | surging.

Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the ci- | ty of God,
the holy place where the Most | High dwells.

God is within her, she | will not fall;
God will help her at | break of day.

The almighty and Most High God controls nature, safeguards his chosen city against attacking foes, and stands over all nations at war. He is our sure fortress. In mercy, he makes himself accessible and is, therefore, "God with us." We as individuals, and as the Church, experience many troubles in this life on account of the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature. Yet amid every crisis of body or soul, God is with us in his Son so that we may face every upheaval.

*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.*

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-18

FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

[M] The Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God!

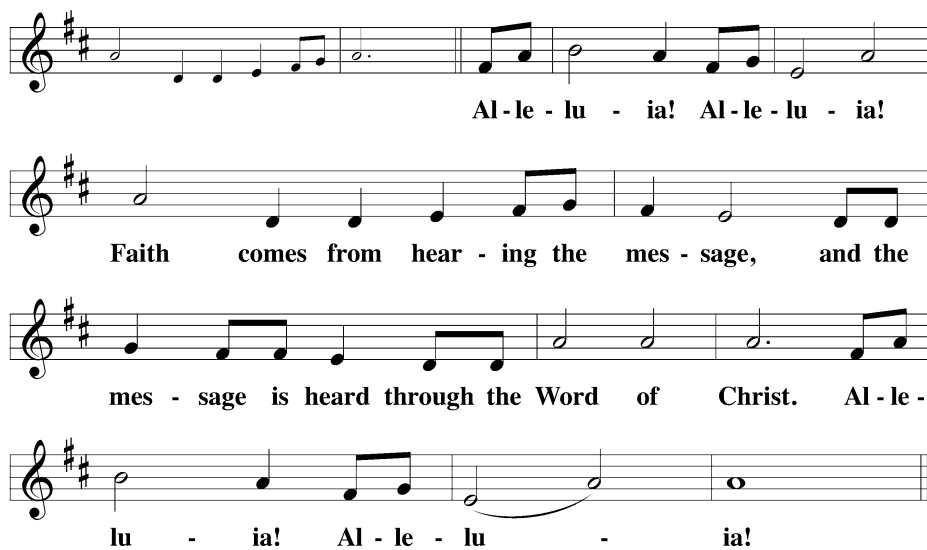
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jeremiah 15:15; Romans 10:17

Please stand.

[M] Alleluia. Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.

Paul exposes the demonic forces that battle against us, and he encourages us with the divine weapons that protect us. In the modern world, the spiritual dimension of life is often overlooked. We view our problems—and try to solve them—in purely human terms. But the Lord would work in us by his Word and Spirit.



HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:14-27

M The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter nine.

AND WHEN [JESUS, WITH PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN] came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶ And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." ¹⁹ And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³ And

Jesus descends from the transfiguration and meets a defiant demon, an anxious father an astonished crowd, and despairing disciples. Despair threatens to overwhelm our faith too by pointing out how we fail to change or improve, suggesting that God neither cares for us nor has power to help. However, Jesus does not linger in the glory of the transfiguration, but graciously descends to a world of despair and doubt so that he might deliver us.

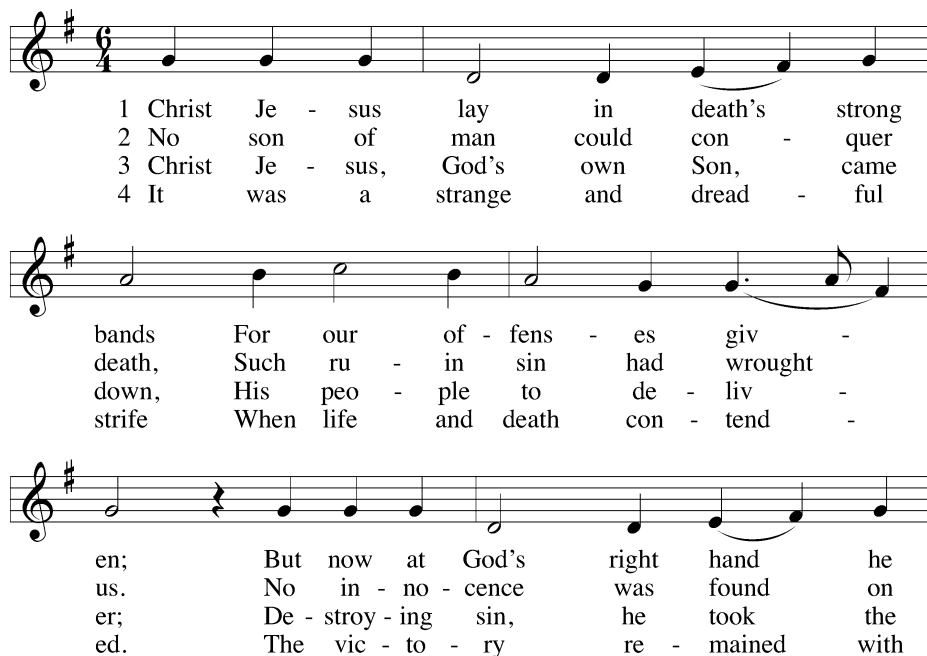
Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

M The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands* | **CWS 720:1-5**



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong
 2 No son of man could con - quer
 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came
 4 It was a strange and dread - ful

bands For our of - fens - es giv -
 death, Such ru - in sin had wrought
 down, His peo - ple to de - liv -
 strife When life and death con - tend -

en; But now at God's right hand he
 us. No in - no - cence was found on
 er; De - stroy - ing sin, he took the
 ed. The vic - to - ry re - mained with

stands earth, crown life;
And brings And there - fore death had brought
From death's pale brow for - ev -
The reign of death was end -

en. There - fore let us joy - ful be
us In - to bond - age from of old
er. Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly says

And sing to God right thank - ful -
And ev - er grew more strong and
An emp - ty form a - lone re -
That death is swal - lowed up by

ly Loud songs of al - le - lu -
bold And held us as its cap -
mains; Its sting is lost for - ev -
death. Its sting is lost for - ev -

ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
tive. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Martin Luther, the author of this hymn, gives us a text of one of the strongest sung confessions of piercing Law and heavenly Gospel ever written. The hymn invites the singer to share with Jesus in full-throated rejoicing that the last enemy of ours has been embarrassed and laid waste.

The first four stanzas depict Jesus' entrance, fight, and securing of man's salvation. The final stanzas locate where we lay claim of this resurrection and how to partake of its benefits—through his promises in the Word and the Sacraments.

5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree—
So strong his love—to save us.
See, his blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON

Ephesians 6:10-18

The Devil is in the Details

NICENE CREED

Please stand.

C	We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.	<i>Dt. 6:4 2 Cor. 6:18 Is. 51:13 Col.1:16</i>
	We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.	<i>1 Cor. 8:6 Jn. 3:18 Heb. 1:2,5 Jn. 1 Jn. 10:30 Jn. 1:3 1 Th. 5:9 Jn. 6:38 Lk. 1:35 Gal. 4:4 Mk. 15:15 1 Cor. 15:3-4a 1 Cor. 15:4b Ac. 2:33-34 Heb. 1:13 Mt. 25:31 2 Tim.4:1 Lk. 1:33</i>
	We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.	<i>Job 33:4 Jn. 15:26 Jn. 4:24 2 Pet.1:25</i>

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the 4th century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

**We believe in one holy Christian
and apostolic Church.**

Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20

We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38

We look for the resurrection of the dead

1 Cor. 15:21-22

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

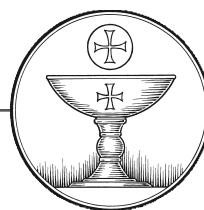
Rev. 22

Be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

The Service of the Sacrament



PREFACE

Please stand.

[M] The Lord be with you.

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

[C] And also with you.

[M] Lift up your hearts.

Lamentations 3:41

[C] We lift them up to the Lord.

[M] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136

[C] It is good and right so to do.

[M] 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.* Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

"Surely there can be no more faithful, firm, or efficacious sign and seal of the promise and grace which have been shown and applied to us than that Christ himself in the Supper shows to us his very body which has been given for us and his very blood which has been shed for us, not at some enormous distance, but he offers and gives it to us in so present a manner that we receive it to our very selves."

— Martin Chemnitz

The opening words of the Preface are among the oldest sentences in the Christian liturgy. The responses are followed by the Proper Preface (italics), which are specific to the "proper" season of the church year. The entire liturgy is composed of ordinary elements, which remain the same from week to week, and propers, which change from week to week or season to season.

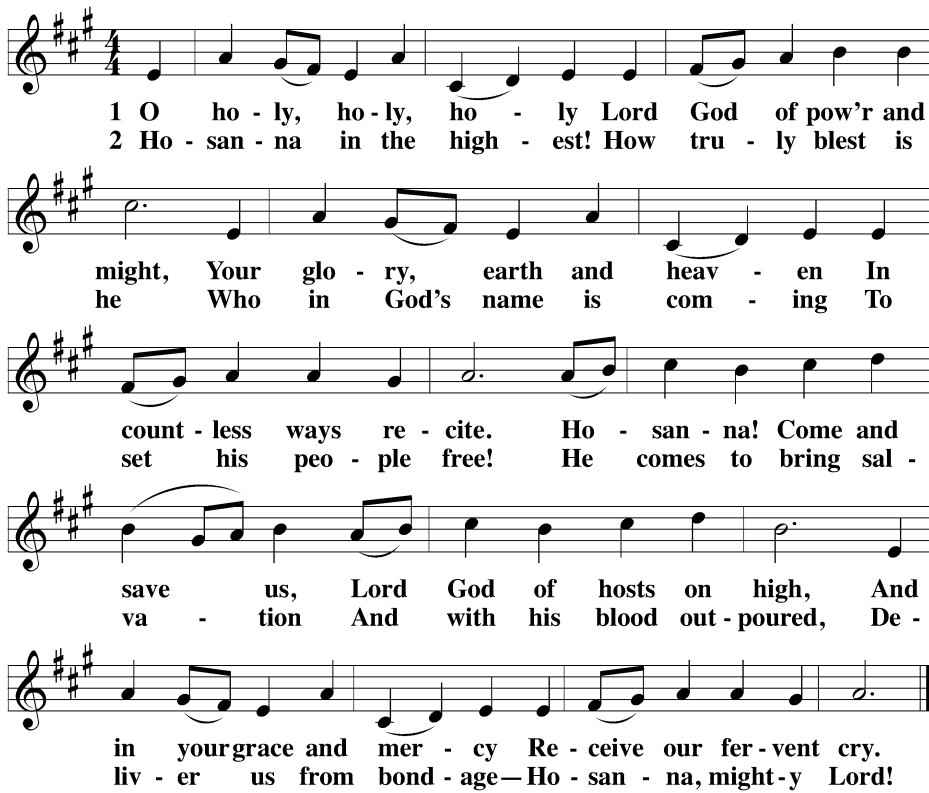
Good Shepherd
confesses and
practices the Biblical
teaching of a **Closed
Communion**. We ask
that only members of
the Wisconsin Synod
[WELS] or the
Evangelical Lutheran
Synod [ELS] join us
at the Lord's Table. If
you have questions
concerning our
communion practice,
or would like to
inquire about how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

Having received
forgiveness of sins,
life, and salvation, we
thank the Lord for his
gifts and pray that he
will grant us faith to
use them in love
toward our neighbor.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Tune: ELLACOMBE [CW 130]



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is
might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To
count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -
save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -
in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

[M] Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen

our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER — *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

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.

"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, tribulations, and in the last hour."

— Martin Luther

WORDS OF INSTITUTION — *Verba*

*Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-24;
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

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."

"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.

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 the Holy Supper, we "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD — *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

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 your peace. A - men.

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.

POST-COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Please stand.

- M** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

- C** His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 107:1

- M** Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

- C** we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- M** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

*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.*

*Having received
forgiveness of sins,
life, and salvation, we
thank the Lord for his
gifts and pray that he
will grant us faith to
use them in love
toward our neighbor.*

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them."

BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

M 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.

C Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Almighty Father, Bless the Word | CW 323



SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preaching & Presiding MinisterPr. Nathanael Seelow
KeyboardistMichelle Reinsch
UshersPhil Brei & Matthew Brei
GreetersJim & Wanda Cantrell
Sound TechLogan Hansen

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