The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



August 17, 2025

Salem Lutheran Church Farrar, Missouri

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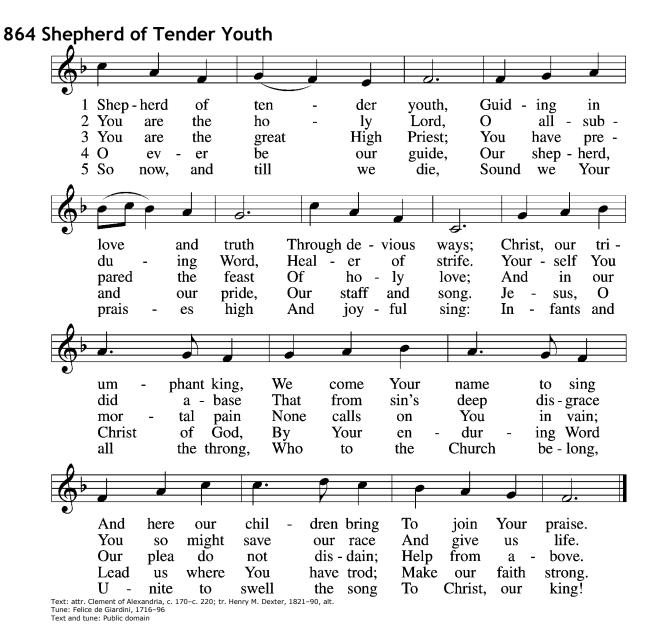
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Confession and Absolution



Stand

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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

Psalm Psalm 51



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;* according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,* and cleanse me | from my sin!

³For I know my trans- | gressions,* and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

- ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,* so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.
- ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,* and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
- ⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,* and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.
- ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;* wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
- ⁸Let me hear joy and | gladness;* let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,* and blot out all my in- | iquities.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, | O God,* and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your | presence,* and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,* and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,* and sinners will re- | turn to you.
- Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
 O God of my sal- | vation,*
 and my tongue will sing aloud of your | righteousness.

- ¹⁵O Lord, open | my lips,* and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.
- ¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would | give it;* you will not be pleased with a burnt | offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;* a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.
- ¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good | pleasure;* build up the walls of Je- | rusalem;
- ¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt | offerings;* then bulls will be offered on your | altar.

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.

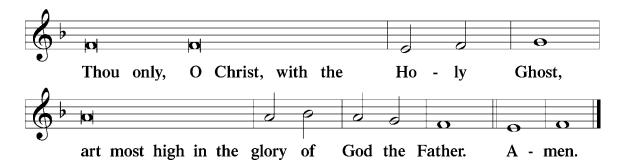
LSB 186

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 187





Salutation and Collect of the Day



Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament

Malachi 3:6–12

⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' ⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. ¹¹I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

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

Gradual

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 9:6–15

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

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

Alleluia LSB 190



Holy Gospel Matthew 6:1–6

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.



1"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

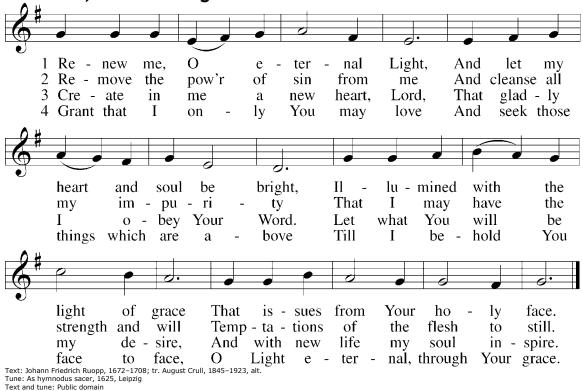
the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light



Sermon "Offering and Offertory" Psalm 51:10-12

What do you think and feel when you do something really nice for someone else, and they don't seem to appreciate it? We've all been there. Maybe you gave someone an extra nice gift. Maybe you went out of your way to help them. Then, all you get in return is a simple and detached "thank you," if that. When this happens, we are hurt and even somewhat offended. It seems like our generosity has been taken for granted.

We all know that a truly good gift, whether that be in time, effort, or a physical gift, should be appreciated.

However, all too often, we are that rude, insensitive person – at least towards God. When we realize all that God has done for us, we should be appreciative. As James puts it, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). Yet we often take so much for granted.

So, how should we respond to God's gifts? This is where the next two parts of the liturgy come in, the offering and offertory.

Hopefully, in the readings and the sermon we have been reminded of all our LORD has done for us. Ultimately, everything that we are and have come from God. He created us and blesses us richly. Yet, what have we done with all that God has given us?

We should remember that we have taken God's blessings and squandered them in countless ways. We have used what He has given us for our purposes and have not shared with others as we really should. We have acted like all that we have is a reward for what we have done.

Not only that, but we have sinned against God in countless other ways. In large and small ways, we have acted like God's will is not as important as our will. All too often, we can speak of God's will in a way that is curiously aligned with what we want, rather than aligning what we do to what God wants. We also take God's forgiveness in Christ for granted. We just assume that we are alright and that God will forgive our indiscretions, which we generally think of as small.

Thus, when we think of God's blessings, we also need to be mindful that God's blessings go beyond the physical to spiritual and eternal salvation. In this, it is vital that we remember that we are unable to save ourselves. We would be lost if left to our own devices. Rather, we see that our only hope is in what God has done.

And this was no small thing. Jesus, literally, gave up everything for our salvation. He gave up His throne and glory in heaven to enter this sin and pain filled world. He gave up the claim to worldly wealth, once remarking "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Matt 8:20, Luke 9:58). Then Jesus gave up companionship and support as He was then rejected by men, even His friends. He was rejected even by God the Father as He took our sin upon Himself. He died there on the cross giving up even His life.

Jesus gave everything, so that we could gain everything. In Him, we have forgiveness for all our sins. We have the promise that God loves us now and helps us through life. We have the assurance that we can turn to God in prayer and He will hear us. We now have the gates of heaven open to us.

We did nothing to deserve all of this. It is simply a gift from God.

So, how should we respond to these great gifts, which we cannot begin to repay? We should want to thank God for all that He has done for us. We should offer to Him all that we have as thanks. This is where the offertory and the offering come in.

In the offering, we are giving back to God some of what He has given us. We are not doing this to pay Him back. We could never pay Him back; all that we have is from Him.

It is important that we understand that our offerings are not sacrifices that somehow win or seal our forgiveness. The only true redeeming sacrifice was given by Jesus on the cross. However, what we give to God are now thank offerings. These are offerings we give to God out of thanksgiving for all He has given to us.

We also give to the Church to further God's kingdom. In essence, when we understand just how much God has done for us and all people, we should give willingly to enable others to hear this wonderful message as well. We want all to hear the Gospel and therefore help those appointed to eternal life to receive this wonderful gift. This includes paying pastors, missionaries, teachers, and other church workers for their labor. As Gal 6:6-7 explains: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." We should be so thankful to God for His blessings, and those that work to bring them to us and others, that we don't begrudge payment, but joyfully provide for their needs.

Unlike in the Old Testament, when there was a Law that everyone had to give a tithe, which just means "tenth," of all that they had, now we give to God as a response to His giving to us. As Paul explains in our epistle: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful give" (2 Cor 9:7). Now, we are no longer under the Law, it doesn't have to be 10%, it can be less – or more depending on your circumstances.

What is important is that this is given in joy, thankfulness, and trust in God. Paul urges us to plan for this and give generously. Rather than worry if we will be left with enough, we should trust that God will bless us: "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce

thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God" (2 Cor 9:10-12).

When we truly understand just how incredibly God has blessed us, and His promises to always provide for us, that should change how we view what we have. Christians should be the most generous people around, not only with the Church, but employees, waitresses, whoever we can bless.

In the offertory we go one step further. We offer not just our possessions, but ourselves as well. But before God can use us, we need to be cleansed. We should recognize that we are unworthy instruments for God to use.

Therefore, our offertory for Divine Service setting 3 comes from Psalm 51:10-12. This Psalm was written by David, after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba and fathered a child. He then tried to cover up his sin, first by the subtle means of trying to Uriah to come back from the battlefield and sleep with his wife so everyone would assume the child was his. When this didn't work, David ordered the general to see to it that Uriah was killed in battle.

David's plan was shrewd, he would look like he was being kind to this army widow, while really covering his own adultery! But just when David thought he got away with it, God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David with his great sins. Crushed, David then confessed his sins. With Psalm 51, David then asked to be cleansed to serve God once more.

In the same way, we confess our sinfulness and ask to be cleansed for service to God. We sing Psalm 51: 10-12, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit." In this, we are acknowledging that we deserve for God to remove His Holy Spirit from us and condemn us, but we are also trusting that instead He will renew our hearts. This is, in fact, a prayer of faith that God will have mercy on us, just as He has promised.

What is important to note, is that the Psalm continues in this way: "Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise."

When we understand this context, we realize that in the Offertory we are actually offering ourselves for God's service. However, this shouldn't just be something we sing in Church, it we should follow up and live it. Every day, every hour, we should be seeking to serve God with all that we have.

We find the same idea in the Offertory from Divine Service setting 1 which is from Psalm 116: "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of Thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem."

When we see all that Christ has done for us, we realize that the least we can do is to serve Him out of thanksgiving. But we do this, not because we must, but out of thanks for what He has done. So, in the offering and offertory we offer all we have and even ourselves to His service. We ask Him to cleanse us so we might serve and praise Him.

- P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C Amen.





Sit

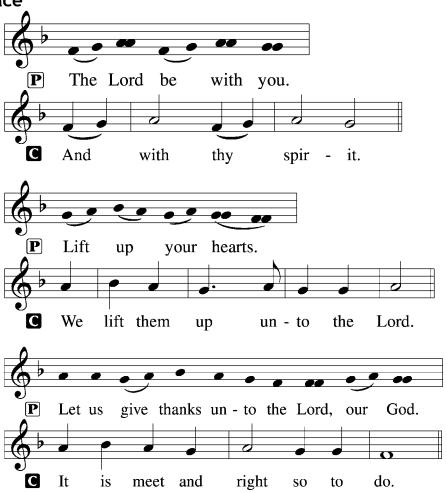
Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

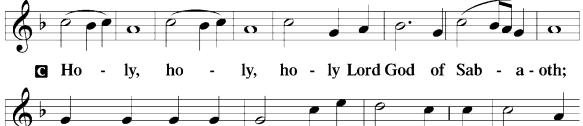
Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 194



It is truly meet, 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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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 195



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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

LSB 197

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 197

LSB 198

men.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

Sit

Distribution

world, grant us Thy

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

peace.

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

A

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

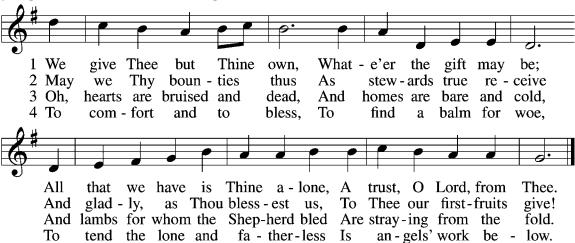
Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart

 in peace.
- C Amen.

781 We Give Thee But Thine Own



- The captive to release,To God the lost to bring,To teach the way of life and peace,It is a Christ-like thing.
- 6 And we believe Thy Word,
 Though dim our faith may be:
 Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
 We do it unto Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89 Text and tune: Public domain

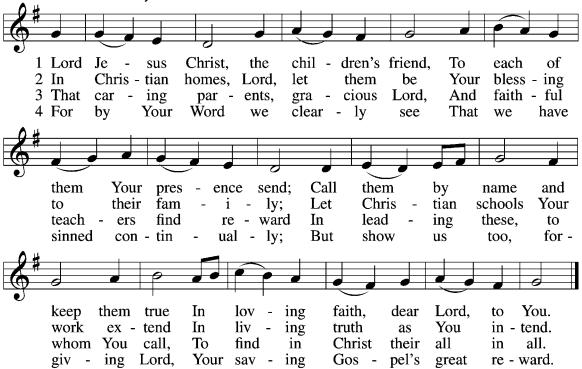




- Well He knows what best to grant me;
 All the longing hopes that haunt me,
 Joy and sorrow, have their day.
 I shall doubt His wisdom never;
 As God wills, so be it ever;
 I commit to Him my way.
- 6 If my days on earth He lengthen,
 God my weary soul will strengthen;
 All my trust in Him I place.
 Earthly wealth is not abiding,
 Like a stream away is gliding;
 Safe I anchor in His grace.

Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758 Text and tune: Public domain

866 Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend



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

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932–96
Tune: William Knapp, 1698–1768
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- Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960

Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

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LSB 199

Nunc Dimittis lettest Thou Thy servant de - part Lord, now in peace acword, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, cord-ing to Thy which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry peo-ple Is ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning, to be, world with - out end. is now, and ev-er shall A-men.

Thanksgiving LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



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.



Salutation LSB 200

P The Lord be with you.



Benedicamus LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.



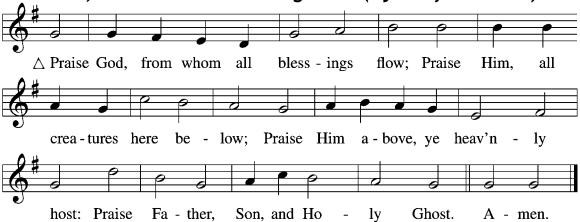
Benediction LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Hymn of the Week)



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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