

Opening Hymn

639 God Has Spoken by His Prophets



1 God has spo - ken by his proph-ets, spo - ken his un - chang - ing Word,
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
3 God is speak - ing by his Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain,



each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the right - eous Lord.
bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, with the Fa - ther ev - er one;
in the age - less Word de - clar - ing his own mes - sage, now as then.



In the world's de - spair and tur - moil one firm an - chor holds us fast:
spo - ken by the Word in - car - nate, God from God, be - fore time was;
Thro' the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith is stand - ing fast:



God is King, his throne e - ter - nal, God the first and God the last.
Light from Light, to earth de - scend - ing, he re - veals our God to us.
God a - bides, his Word un - chang - ing, God the first and God the last.

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Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

CW 172

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

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins

and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**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 innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

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 $\dagger$ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



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



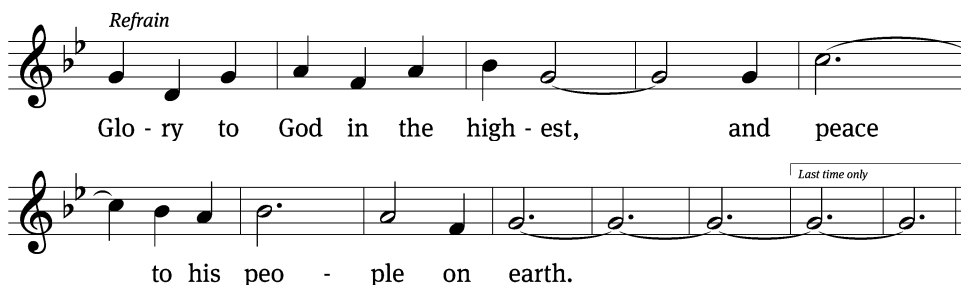
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Habakkuk 1:1–3; 2:1–4

¹The threatening oracle which the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²How long, LORD, must I cry for help, but you do not listen?

I call out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save!

³Why do you cause me to see injustice?

Why do you overlook misery?

Devastation and violence confront me.

There is strife, and tensions rise.

⁴I will stand at my watch post and station myself on the city wall. I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer he will give to my complaint.

²Then the LORD answered me. He said:

Record the vision and write it plainly on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

³Indeed, the vision is waiting for the appointed time. It longs for fulfillment and will not prove false. If it seems slow in coming, wait for it, because it will certainly come and will not be delayed.

⁴Look, his soul is puffed up and is not righteous within him
—but the righteous one will live by his faith.

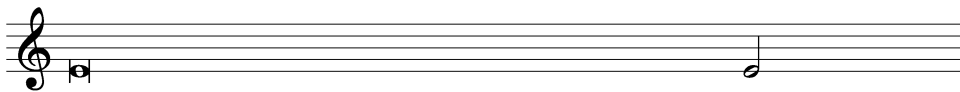
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

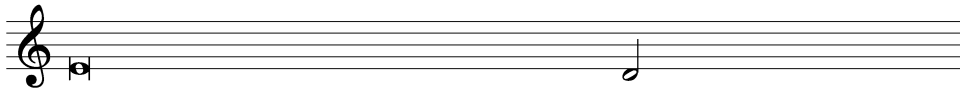
Psalm 130

Sung by the choir

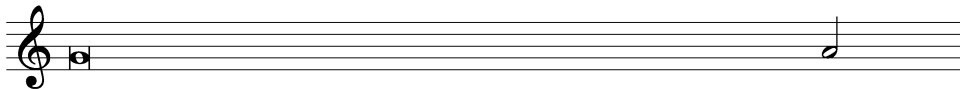
De Profundis



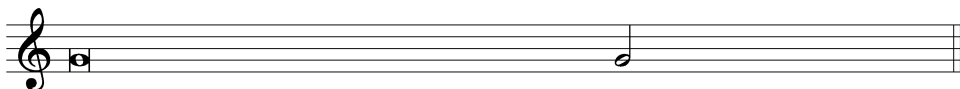
- | | | |
|---|---|------------|
| 1 | Out of the depths have I cried unto you, O | LORD; |
| 2 | If you, LORD, should mark in | iquities, |
| 3 | I wait for the LORD, my soul | waits, |
| 4 | Let Israel hope in the LORD, for with the LORD there is | mercy, |
| 5 | Glory be to the Father and to the | Son |



- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Lord, hear my | voice. |
| 2 | O Lord, who shall | stand? |
| 3 | and in his word do I | hope. |
| 4 | and with him is plenteous re | demption. |
| 5 | and to the Holy | Spirit, |



- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Let your ears be at | tentive |
| 2 | But there is forgiveness with | you, |
| 3 | My soul waits for the Lord more than they that watch for the | morning, |
| 4 | And he shall redeem | Israel |
| 5 | as it was in the be | ginning, |



- | | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| 1 | to the voice of my suppli | cations. |
| 2 | that you may be | feared. |
| 3 | I say, more than they that watch for the | morning. |
| 4 | from all its in | iquities. |
| 5 | is now, and will be forever. A | men. |

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Revelation 22:6–13

⁶The angel said to me, “These words are faithful and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

⁷“And look: I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who holds on to the words of the prophecy of this book.”

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I bowed down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and also with those who hold on to the words of this book. Worship God!”

¹⁰The angel also said to me:

Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.

¹¹Let the one who is unjust continue to be unjust.

Let the one who is filthy continue to be filthy.

Let the one who is just continue to do what is just.

Let the one who is holy continue to be holy.

¹²Look, I am coming soon and my reward is with me, to repay each one according to what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42



Refrain



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

Tone

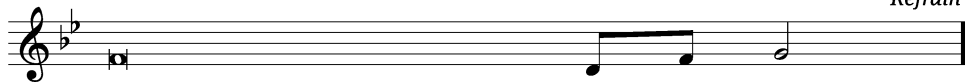


Therefore

keep

watch,

Refrain



because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Gospel

Luke 12:35-40

³⁵“Be dressed, ready for service, and keep your lamps burning. ³⁶Be like people waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷Blessed are those servants, whom the master will find watching when he comes. Amen I tell you: He will dress himself and have them recline at the table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸Even if he comes in the second or third watch, they will be blessed if he finds them alert. ³⁹But know this: If the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you are not expecting him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1	Lo!	He	comes	with	clouds	de -	scend -	ing,
2	Ev -	'ry	eye	shall	now	be -	hold	him
3	Those	dear	to -	kens	of	his	pas -	sion
4	Yea,	a -	men,	let	all	a -	dore	thee



once	for	ev -	'ry	sin -	ner	slain;
robed	in	glo -	rious	maj -	es -	ty;
still	his	daz -	zling	bod -	y	bears,
high	on	thine	e -	ter -	nal	throne;



thou -	sand	thou -	sand	saints	at -	tend -	ing
those	who	set	at	naught	and	sold	him,
cause	of	end -	less	ex -	ul -	ta -	tion
Sav -	ior,	take	the	pow'r	and	glo -	ry,

swell the tri - umph of his train:
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.; Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799; Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Luke 12:35–40

“Hold on for Dear Life!”

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

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 truly 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.**

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.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Offering

*May be left in the offering box in the
entryway or given online*



Prayer of the Church

Eternal and gracious Father, today we end another year of grace. Once again the Holy Spirit has nourished and strengthened our faith as we reviewed the words and works of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. We have rejoiced to hear that you kept the promises you made to your ancient people. We were encouraged as we remembered how you empowered your followers to proclaim the good news in their world.

Work in us every day to believe the truths of your Word and apply them in our lives.

We are aware that we live in dangerous times as Satan and his forces of evil assault your people again and again. Give us wisdom to discern teachings that subtly deny the Scriptures. Provide courage to stand against the attacks of godless opponents. Strengthen our resolve to confess the truth and then to speak the truth in love.

Work in us every day to be watchful and cautious as we live in our world.

Help us take to heart that your Son, our Lord Jesus, is coming again to judge the living and the dead. Since the day of his return is unknown to us, lead us to note the signs that signal the end of time. Spare us from fear as trouble and woe increase, and fill us with hope as we long for that great day.

Work in us every day to be ready for the moment of his coming.

Fill us with concern for family members and friends who are not taking seriously their need for Jesus and his forgiveness. Provide opportunities to reach out to them with patient persistence and to lovingly lead them to your Word and sacraments. Make us generous with our offerings so that others can go in our place to proclaim the good news.

Work in us every day to witness to Christ and his love for sinners.

Lead us to see our Savior's face in the faces of the poor and hungry, the lonely and forgotten, the oppressed and imprisoned, and move to support them whenever we can. [Today we ask that you keep in your care... .] Empower our faith to be lights in the world so that people may see our good works and glorify you and your Son.

Work in us every day to imitate your love for the lost, the least, and the last.

If you call us to glory before the final day comes, carry our souls to heaven where we will await the resurrection of our bodies. Comfort those who may grieve over losing us and point them to the day when they will join us at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Work in us every day so that we are ready whenever you call us home.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Fill us with hope and joy as we await your Son's return. Cause us to enjoy your earthly blessings in light of your eternal glories and to realize that heaven is really our home. Lead us to long for the splendor of Paradise where you will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

Work in us every day as we listen for the sound of the final trumpet.
Amen.

To You, Our Dear Guests ...

Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church practices “**Close Communion**” as commanded by God’s Word (1 Corinthians 11:27; Romans 16:17). Those who are of our **close** fellowship—members in good standing of *our congregation* or those churches *in close fellowship with us* (WELS and ELS)—may commune at our altar. **We ask all others to meet with our pastor first before taking communion with us so he may teach you about this.** Please make an appointment to do so! Thank you for respecting our historic and Scriptural practice.

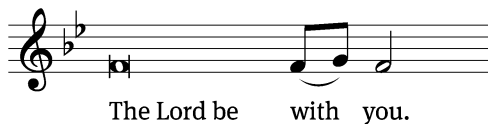


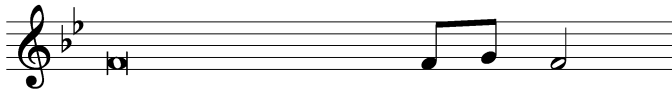
The Sacrament

Stand

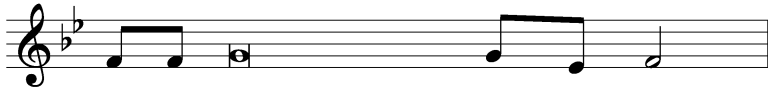
Preface

CW 183





Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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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 until 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the



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



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

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 be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated

Distribution Hymn

850 It Is Well with My Soul



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll— what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re - sound, and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more: praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so, it is well with my soul.



Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888, alt.; Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876; Text and tune: Public domain

After all have communed, please stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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. **Amen.**

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

492 A Few More Years Shall Roll



1 A few more years shall roll, a few more sea - sons come,
2 A few more suns shall set o'er these dark hills of time,
3 A few more storms shall beat on this wild rock - y shore,
4 A few more strug - gles here, a few more part - ings o'er,
5 'Tis but a lit - tle while and he shall come a - gain,



and we shall be with those that rest a - sleep with - in the tomb.
and we shall be where suns are not, a far se - ren - er clime.
and we shall be where tem - pests cease, and surg - es swell no more.
a few more toils, a few more tears, and we shall weep no more.
who died that we might live with him, who lives that we might reign.



Then, O my Lord, pre - pare my soul for that blest day;



O wash me in your pre - cious blood, and take my sins a - way.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt.; Tune: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963 © 2012 Michael D. Schultz, admin. NPH. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

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Setting Two from Christian Worship

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