

## Opening Hymn

## 613 The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,  
2 The God of A-br'ham praise, at whose su - preme com-mand  
3 The God of A-br'ham praise, whose all - suf - fi - cient grace  
4 He by him-self has sworn; I on his oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days and God of love.  
from earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.  
shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.  
I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM, by earth and heav'n con - fessed,  
I all on earth for - sake, its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r,  
He deigns to call me friend; he calls him - self my God.  
I shall be - hold his face; I shall his pow'r a - dore



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.  
and him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
And he shall save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.  
and sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er - more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt.; Tune: Hebrew; Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy*

CW 933

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The second staff has the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' The third staff has the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.'

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



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# The Word

## Salutation

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

*Genesis 12:1–8*

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Get out of your country and away from your relatives and from your father's house and go to the land that I will show you.

<sup>2</sup>I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse anyone who dishonors you. All of the families of the earth will be blessed in you.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>Abram took Sarai his

wife, Lot his brother's son, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to travel to the land of Canaan. Eventually they arrived in the land of Canaan. <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land until he came to the Oak of Moreh at the place called Shechem. The Canaanites were in the land at that time.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

<sup>8</sup>He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent there, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 121

## I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains

### Refrain



I lift up my eyes to the moun-tains, from where shall come my  
help? My help shall come from the One who has made the  
heav - ens and the earth, the mak-er of heav-en and earth.

### Tone



I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—  
where does my help / come from?  
My help comes / from the LORD,  
the maker of / heaven and earth.  
He will not let your / foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not / slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over / Israel  
will neither / slumber nor sleep. *Refrain*

The LORD watches / over you—  
the LORD is your shade / at your right hand.  
The LORD will keep you / from all harm—  
he will watch / over your life;  
the LORD will watch over your coming and / going  
both now and for- / evermore.  
**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***

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## Second Reading

*Romans 4:1–5,13–17*

<sup>1</sup>What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>If indeed Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had a reason to boast—but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

<sup>4</sup>Now to a person who works, his pay is not counted as a gift but as something owed. <sup>5</sup>But to the person who does not work but believes in the God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited to him as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>Indeed, the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not given to Abraham or his descendants through the law, but through the righteousness that is by faith. <sup>14</sup>To be sure, if people are heirs by the law, faith is empty and the promise is nullified. <sup>15</sup>For law brings wrath. (Where there is no law, there is no transgression.) <sup>16</sup>For this reason, the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace and may be guaranteed to all of Abraham's descendants—not only to the one who is a descendant by law, but also to the one who has

the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup>As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.”

In the presence of God, Abraham believed him who makes the dead alive and calls non-existing things so that they exist.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

*John 3:16*

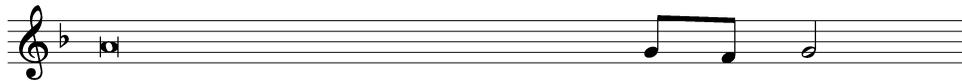


*Refrain*



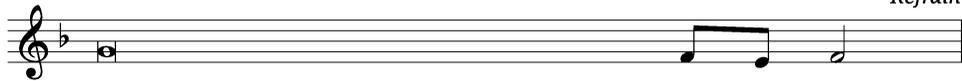
Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

*Tone*



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and on - ly Son,

*Refrain*



that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have e - ter - nal life.

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## Gospel

*John 3:1–17*

<sup>1</sup>There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him.”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! <sup>6</sup>Whatever is born of the

flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>“How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

<sup>10</sup>“You are the teacher of Israel,” Jesus answered, “and you do not know these things? <sup>11</sup>Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

<sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Hymn of the Day      570 God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made  
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the



Son the lost to save that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in  
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the  
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;  
this is the anchor of my faith!
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessèd Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens- Opfer, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Romans 4:1–5,13–17*

# “Because God Said So!”

*Stand*

## Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

**We confess that without your love we are lost.**

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

**Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

**By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. [We pray especially for... ] Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

**Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

**Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

Hear us as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

## 573 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness my beau - ty  
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day; who can a  
3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, which at the  
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; mid flam - ing worlds, in  
word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly ab - solved through  
ver - y throne of God pleads for the cap - tives'  
on the o - cean shore, you have for all a



these ar - rayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.  
these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.  
lib - er - ty, was al - so shed in love for me.  
ran - som paid, for all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise  
to claim my mansion in the skies,  
this then shall be my only plea:  
Jesus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!  
Your boundless mercy has for me,  
for me and all your hands have made,  
an everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–1791, alt.  
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## **Prayer**

Merciful and everlasting God, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **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.**

## 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

### 816 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus *sts. 1-3, 6*



1 I am trust - ing you, Lord Je - sus, trust - ing on - ly you;  
2 I am trust - ing you for par - don; at your feet I bow,  
3 I am trust - ing you for cleans - ing in the crim - son flood;  
6 I am trust - ing you, Lord Je - sus; nev - er let me fall.



trust - ing you for full sal - va - tion, free and true.  
for your grace and ten - der mer - cy trust - ing now.  
trust - ing you to make me ho - ly by your blood.  
I am trust - ing you for - ev - er and for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.; Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877; Text and tune: Public domain

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