

Sermon followed by Service

February 6, 2022

Luke 5:1-11

How cool would it be to be Peter? Last week, you heard it. Jesus goes to Peter's house and heals his mother-in-law. Imagine Jesus going to your house, and healing your family. Or Jesus taking you for a special day-trip, to the top of a mountain, and there he shines like the sun and shows you his glory as God. Or imagine that same Jesus washing your feet, then inviting you to pray with him. Imagine Jesus giving you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and giving you a new name - a nick-name from Jesus. Think of all that Jesus did for Peter; think of what Peter got to do with Jesus. How cool would it be to be Peter?

What's your favorite happening with Peter?

Now put yourself in Peter's place in our lesson. You're tired, and maybe a bit frustrated. You've been working all night with nothing to show for it but a mess to clean up. You've been fishing all night with not a fish to show for it. Now you're cleaning your nets getting ready for another night of fishing.

What do you imagine going through Peter's mind? What might go through our minds after a fruitless day on the job? ... after a fruitless endeavor at church?

Jesus is there by the shore. A crowd is gathering around him. People want to hear what Jesus has to say. You want to hear what Jesus has to say.

You know that Jesus. He stayed at your house, ate at your table. You've talked. You've listened. He speaks the Word of God. He heals with the power of God. He's come with the promise of God to save the people of God.

Now a crowd is gathering around him listening. You want to be part of that crowd, don't you? But Jesus has something better for you than to be just one in a crowd. Jesus sees your boat; he gets into your boat; he asks you to put out from the shore. You get a front row seat as Jesus talks to the crowd. Then when Jesus is done talking to the crowd, Jesus turns to you. He has something more in mind for you. Jesus wants to bring you in to what he is doing.

Sounds good, doesn't it? Jesus has come from God. He speaks the word of God. He works the power of God. He brings the promise of God to save. And he wants to bring you in to what he is doing. How cool is that?!

But what Jesus says to you doesn't make sense. **“Put out into the deep waters and let down the nets for a catch.”** Doesn't make sense. Any fisherman on the Sea of Galilee knows that the way to fill your nets is to fish in the shallows and to fish at night. And that's what you did. You know your stuff. You know the way things work. And what Jesus says just doesn't make any sense.

What does Jesus say to you that doesn't make any sense?

So what do you do? Do you argue with him; tell him the way things work in the real world? Do you ignore him? After all, he doesn't know the lake like you know the lake. He doesn't know your business like you know your business. On the other hand, Jesus does know God. And he does come with the power of God. So what do you do? **“Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”**

And what happens? When you let down the nets, when you do what Jesus says, you catch so many fish your nets begin to break. You call for your partners in the other boat to come and help. You fill both boats so full they begin to sink.

*What does that miracle mean for you?
... how has Jesus filled your nets?*

Now what? Seeing the fish ... seeing what Jesus just did ... it's like a slap in the face, like one of the lake's ten-foot waves hitting you in the face, like a boat oar slapping you upside the head. **“Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”** “Who am I next to Jesus? Who am I to think I could know better than Jesus? I'm not good enough to be with you, Jesus. What are you doing with me, Jesus? **“Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man.”**

But what does Jesus say? **“Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.”** Jesus, speaking the word of God, working with the power of God, coming with the promise of God, says to you: “Don't be afraid. I've got a place for you working with me.” How cool would it be to be Peter?

As we come out of COVID-time - God-willing - how would you like to join Jesus fishing for people?

What would be helpful to you, to encourage and equip you in fishing for people?

To be like Peter - sometimes we're kind of cool to that idea, aren't we? We're busy; we're tired; we're frustrated; and Jesus wants to include us in his work. It can be easy to think: “Not me, not now; find someone else.” When Jesus calls us to speak up

and make disciples, it can be easy to think: “You don’t know me like I know me. This isn’t for me.” When Jesus calls us to forgive, to be gentle and kind, it can be easy to think: “You don’t know these people like I know these people. Forgiveness isn’t for them.” When Jesus sets the offering plate up front - as a call for us to partner with him - it can be easy to think: “Jesus, you don’t know my bills like I know my bills; you don’t know my business like I know my business,” so to look good, to feel good we toss in a token. Or to get down on our knees and admit we’ve been wrong? To deny ourselves and face a cross for following Jesus? Sometimes, instead of thinking it cool to be like Peter, our hearts are cool, even cold to being like Peter.

Jesus didn’t need Peter; he doesn’t need us. If he wanted, Jesus could make snowmen to do his work. If he wanted, he could print money faster than the government. Jesus could side-line us all; he could disqualify us all. After all, we’ve sidelined ourselves; we’ve disqualified ourselves in more ways than we know. But Jesus doesn’t want you left out; he wants you brought in. So Jesus took our place, on the cross he paid the price for the ways we’ve gone AWOL ... he paid the price for the times we’ve thought we know better than God. Taking our place in life and in death, Jesus earned for us a place right with God. Not just in heaven, but here in this life. Here in this life, Jesus wanted to include Peter in his work. And here in this life, Jesus - the Jesus who comes from God, the Jesus who works the power of God, the Jesus who comes with God’s promise to save and give life - that Jesus wants to bring you in to his work, he wants to work through you.

What if Jesus decided to go with a change of plan - instead of working through his people, he would create a willing and eager force of snow-people to do his work? How would that feel - relieved, disappointed? How would that change your life?

Think of what Jesus wants. Jesus wants our children raised as God’s children, to enjoy the Father’s blessing, to share his home in heaven. He wants our families to know his love and promise. He wants the lost and wandering to be found. He wants the hurting to be comforted, the helpless to be helped, the dying to know life. That’s awesome, isn’t it? Here’s where it gets even more awesome. Jesus wants to do all that - through you!

Just like Jesus worked to bring Peter in to his work, Jesus is at work to bring you in. Just like with Peter, he invites us in close to listen, to share in his promise and power. Then, like with Peter, he tells us to do things that don’t make sense - “deny yourselves, give, forgive, make disciples of my enemies.” Just like he did with Peter, Jesus stretches our faith beyond what makes sense; he pulls us into his promise and power. And there he sets us up to do the work of God. Just like with Peter, he invites us to see things, to do things only God can do. And just like with Peter, he gives us a new name with a new

life; he puts his name on us and lives his life through us. How cool it is to be like Peter!
Amen.

How is Jesus looking to live his life through you?

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Family Connecting in Christ



Pastor Kevin Raddatz
Principal Jon Woldt
501 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
847-362-4424
www.StJohnsLib.com

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Masked

With the renewed mask mandate across Illinois, we now offer masked worship - Saturdays at 5 and Sundays at 9. If you have questions, please ask!

To Our Guests

- We pray that you receive a warm welcome and are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns. If you have questions, please ask!
- Our service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ – forgiveness and peace, help, and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven.
- Please join us after Sunday service for fellowship and Family Bible Hour.

Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church. We invite our congregation members and visitors from sister WELS or ELS congregations to join us, but ask Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice. Further explanation is in the pew racks or from our pastor.

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

- Children's worship bulletins and "church bags" (with paper, colors, and Bible story books) are available in the Narthex Gathering Area.
- If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

- **Large Print** Service Folders are available from an usher.
- **Hearing Assistance** for those with hearing aids is provided through our Hearing Loop or personal hearing devices available at the "sound table."
- A **wheelchair lift** is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.



Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.

Our Ministry

St. John offers an excellent preschool-8th grade school program. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - www.wels.net.

THE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

"Rise, Shine, You People"

Hymn 744

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.

See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling, your songs and prayers against the darkness
hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.

Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation his new creation.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

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

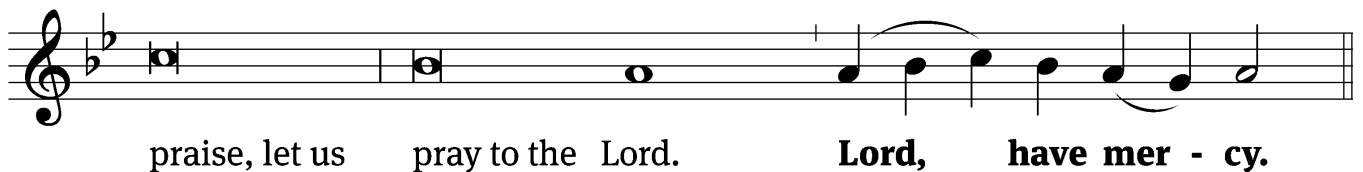
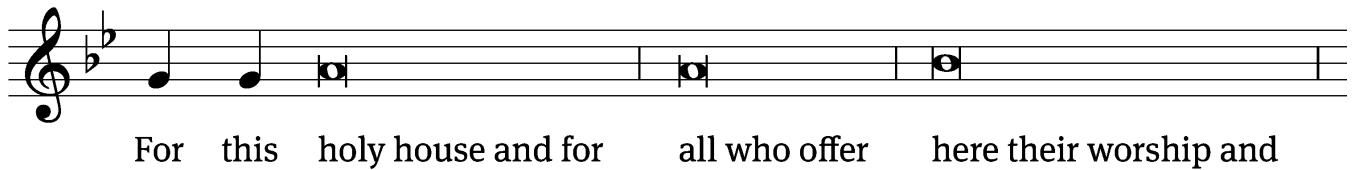
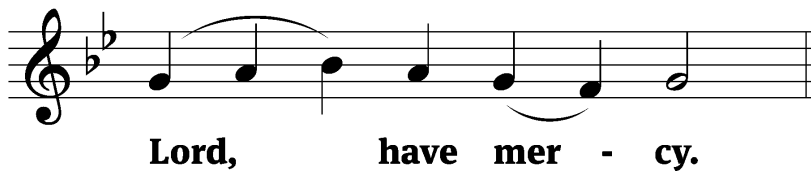
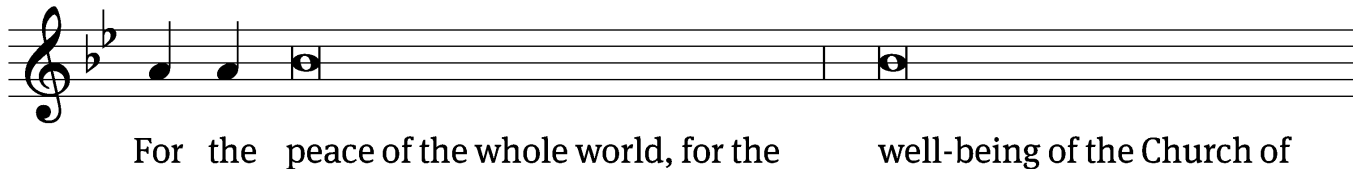
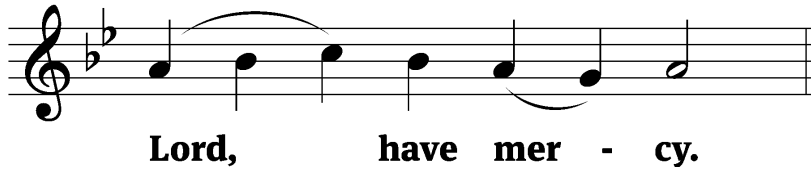
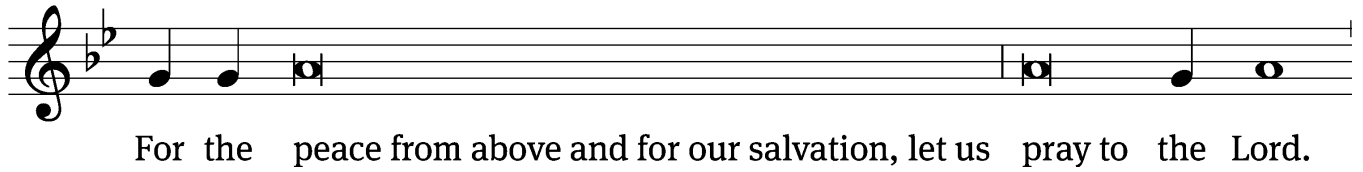
with his innocent suffering and death.

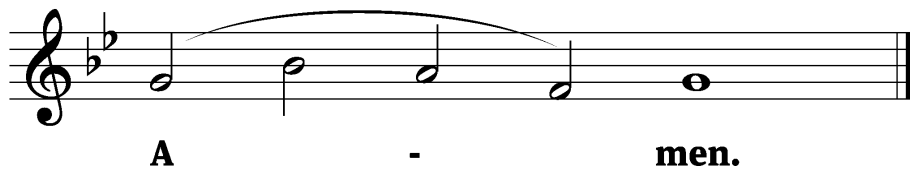
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

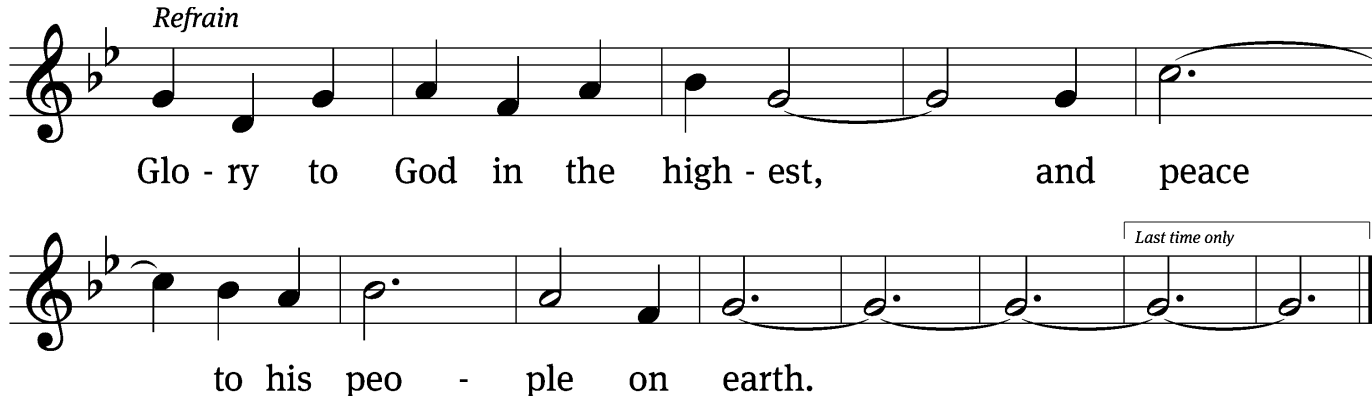
Amen.





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. Amen. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, you call and appoint us to proclaim the good news of your Son despite our sins and weaknesses. Purify us by your grace, remove our uncertainties, and work through us to fill the nets of your kingdom with those lost in the darkness of death; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

The Word of the Lord.

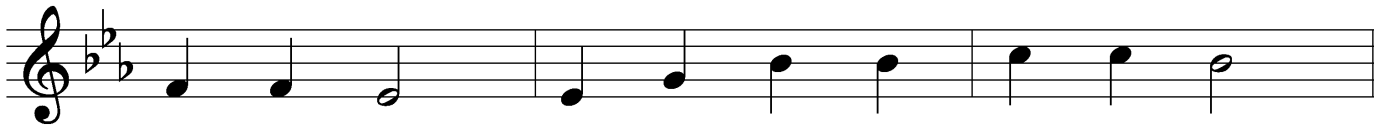
Thanks be to God.

51D GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME

Psalm 51D sts. 1, 5-6



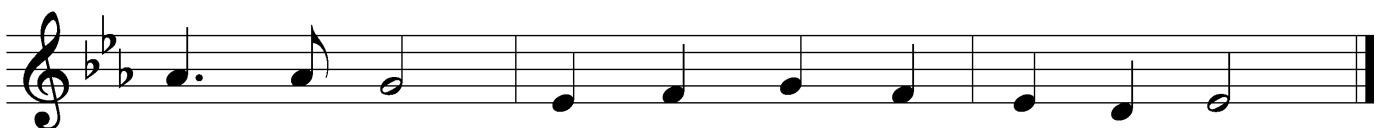
1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I
5 Gra - cious God, my heart re - new, make my spir - it
6 Sin - ners then shall learn from me and to God re -



rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,
right and true; let me not a - ban - doned be,
stored shall be; Sav - ior, all my guilt re - move,



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me
let your Spir - it dwell in me; your sal - va - tion's
and my tongue shall sing your love; touch my si - lent



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
joy im - part, stead - fast make my will - ing heart.
lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise ac - cord.

SECOND READING

Romans 10:12–17

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 71:15



Refrain



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

Rejoice in the Lord

For his love and faithfulness.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Luke 5:1–11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord, You Call Us as Your People"
Hymn 736

Lord, you call us as your people, out of darkness into light.
You created and redeemed us, made us precious in your sight.
Give us faith to trust you boldly and to love you steadfastly.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord, you call us as disciples, walking on your pilgrim way.
Crucified and risen Savior, you are with us ev'ry day.
Give us wisdom, give us courage as you teach us patiently.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord, you send us to the harvest in your Great Commission's call,
reaching out to all the nations, bringing life and hope to all.
Give us boldness and compassion, bless us with your eyes to see.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord, you call us to new ventures by a pathway yet unknown.
Though we cannot see the ending, we will follow you alone.
Knowing that your hand is guiding and you love us faithfully,
by your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord, you call us as your people, now in faith we sing your praise:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, alleluias to you raise.
Hold us in your gracious power, blessed Holy Trinity,
that rejoicing we will ever faithful to our callings be.

SERMON

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.

PRAYER

M: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

C: **Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.**

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C: **Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.**

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

C: **Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

C: **Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

C: **Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.**

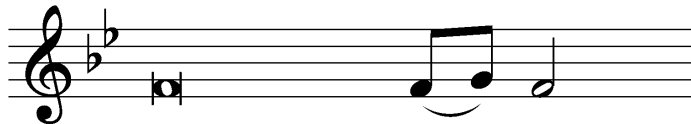
THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

CW 183

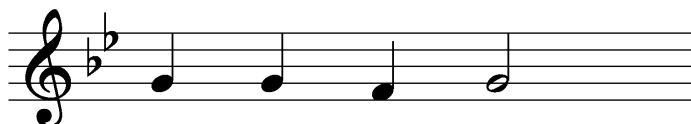
PREFACE



The Lord be with you.



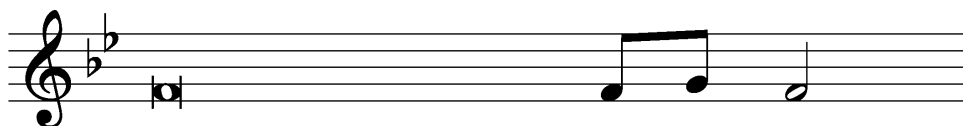
And al - so with you.



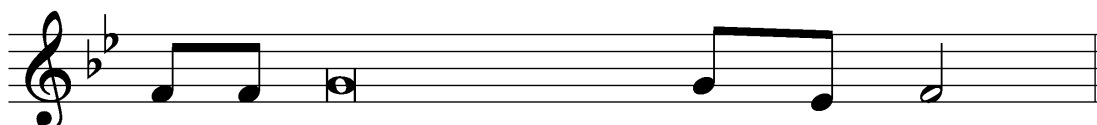
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

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 -
 san - na in the high - est!

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 T 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 T 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.

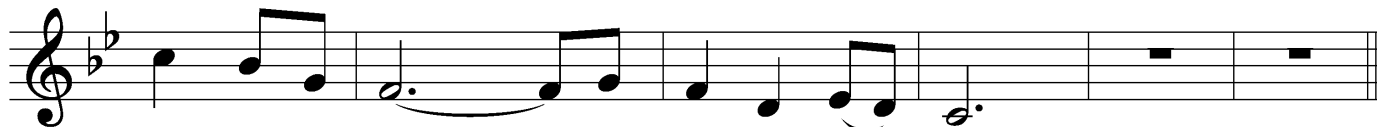
Amen.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

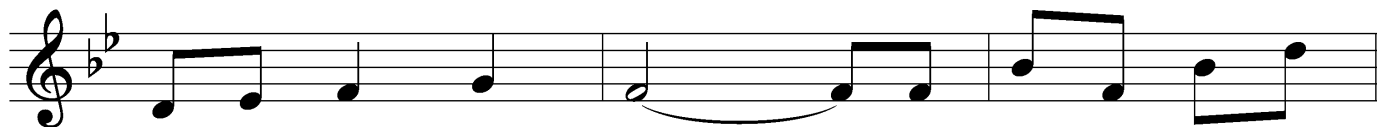
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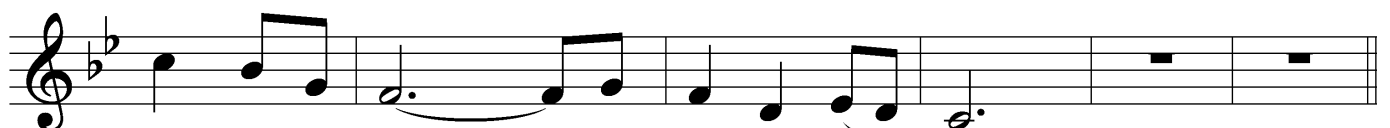
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



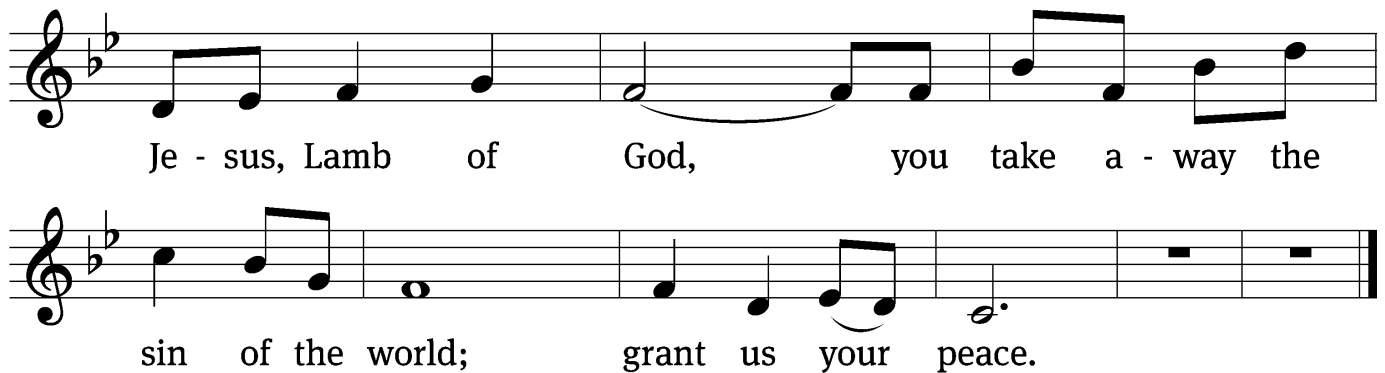
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER

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

"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"
Hymn 745

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting; who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth; rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?"

If you cannot speak like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, you can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked with the judgment's dread alarms,
you can lead the little children to the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, standing high on Zion's wall,
pointing out the path to heaven, off'ring life and peace to all,
with your prayers and with your off'rings you can do what God demands;
you can be like faithful Aaron, holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"
while the multitudes are dying, and the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly, let his work your pleasure be;
answer quickly when he calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

OFFERING

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan this code
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FLOWERS FOR THE LORD

When we give flowers to family or friends we're saying: "I love you; I thank you; I appreciate you; you're special; I want to cheer you" So what are we saying when we donate flowers for the altar? "Look at the beauty in creation that God has given us! All good things come from God! We love you! We thank you! We want people to see you and your house as special!"

Our sign-up list for altar flowers is in the northeast entry of the church. The cost for the two flower arrangements is now \$20 a week. Many weekends, people share the privilege of providing the flowers. After the service, flowers may be donated to share with the home-bound or taken home. Cash or checks written to Flowerama may be given to Kim L'Esperance or put in her mailbox in the office.

If you have questions, please contact Kim at kimthecheflesperance@aol.com or 847-271-2847.

And if you would like to be on our flower delivery team, please let Kim know.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness!

Some available dates to give altar flowers:

March 6, April 10, May 15, June 5 & 26, July 3, 10, & 24, August 14 & 21, September 11 & 18