

“Hey, Big Spender!” (2 Corinthians 9:1–7)

September 18, 2022

Stewardship Service 2

INVOCATION

- P** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
C Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Selected verses from 2 Corinthians 8–9)

- P** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that we by his poverty might become rich.
- C** **The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**
- P** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- C** **And God is able to make all grace abound, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, we may abound in every good work.**
- P** So that we will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way.
- C** **For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.**
- P** Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Hymn “The Earth is the Lord’s”

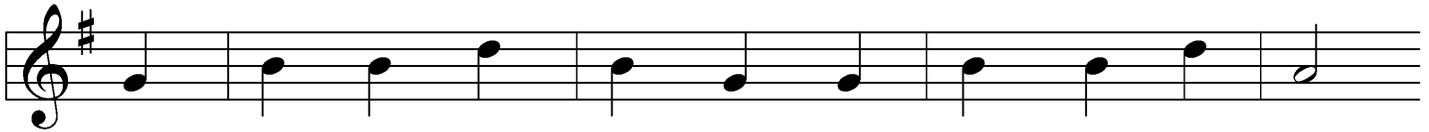
Tune of LSB #802



The earth is the Lord's and the full-ness there-of
Too of-ten, O God, we a-buse your good earth.



Re-demp-tion re-minds us, O God, of your love.
We fail to re-mem-ber its beau-ty and worth.



By grace we are learn-ing, as year leads to year.
We take from cre-a-tion much more than we need,



We're called to be ste-wards, your care-tak-ers here.
We threa-ten your mission through exc-ess and greed.

This hymn is adapted by R. Lessing
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Email: hwg@gillette.comcast.net

Stand

CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION (From 2 Corinthians 8:1–9)

P In today's second reading Paul continues to compare the Macedonians with the Corinthians:

C The Macedonians were prepared to give.

P The Corinthians were only prepared to get.

C The Macedonians gave generously.

- P** While the Corinthians gave grudgingly.
- C** **The Macedonians sowed generously and reaped generously.**
- P** Yet the Corinthians sowed sparingly and reaped sparingly.
- C** **The Macedonians were cheerful givers.**
- P** The Corinthians gave reluctantly, if anything at all.
- C** **Gracious God, forgive us for being so much more like the Corinthians and so little like the Macedonians.**
- P** Hear the best news you will ever hear! “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we by his poverty might become rich.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce that you are forgiven—richly, fully and eternally—in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!**

Hymn “The Earth is the Lord’s”

Tune of LSB #802



May we be good stew - ards of all that you give.



Ex - ten - ding your Gos - pel wher - ev - er we live.



May we be a church that re - news and re - stores



And lov - ing - ly cares for these gifts that are yours.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C **O God, almighty Father, you have shown to the world your love in the most glorious sacrifice of your beloved Son. Fill us with your same sacrificial love that we may offer our financial resources for the sake of your kingdom and the salvation of many; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C **Amen.**

Nicene Creed

C **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.

Scripture: The theme of today's readings reflect the theme of generous stewardship

First Reading

Exodus 36:1–7

“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.”

And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do.” So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, “Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 9:1–7

Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove vain in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and

arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who

had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

781 We Give Thee But Thine Own



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive
3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
4 To com - fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!
And lambs for whom the Shep-herd bled Are stray - ing from the fold.
To tend the lone and fa - ther-less Is an - gels' work be - low.

5 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.

Offering ~ ~ drop your offering in the box in the narthex, mail it, use the link on the church website or the GivePlus app. ~ ~

Offertory

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



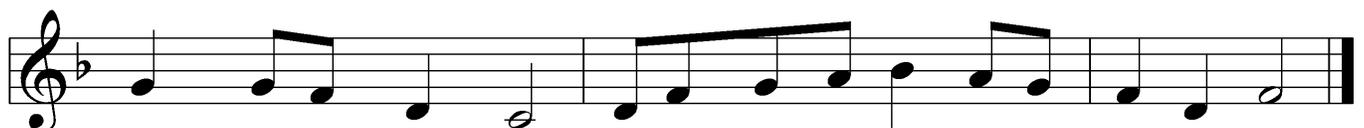
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Stand

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Based upon LSB, 781 stanza 1)

P Almighty God, you have named us and claimed as your children in Holy Baptism and set us on a path to make disciples of all nations.

C We give thee but thine own.

P You call us to trust your mercy and to invest in the Gospel mission of our church and schools.

C **Whatever the gift may be.**

P You are the most generous spender of all—giving us Christ Jesus and the gifts of salvation, new life and a glorious crown in heaven.

C **All that we have is thine alone.**

P We offer our financial gifts for caring use among the suffering; for gentle use among the hurting; for encouraging use among the dispirited; for powerful use in worldwide missions; and for worship, teaching and service within this church.

C **A trust, O Lord from thee.**

+ Additional prayers +

P Heavenly Father make us cheerful givers,

C **So that our finances bless many people with Christ's love.**

P In Jesus' name we pray.

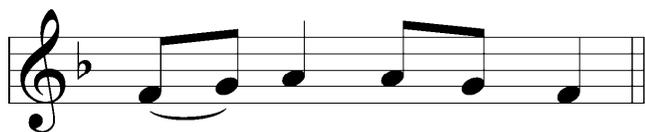
C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly good, 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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

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.”

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord’s Prayer

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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



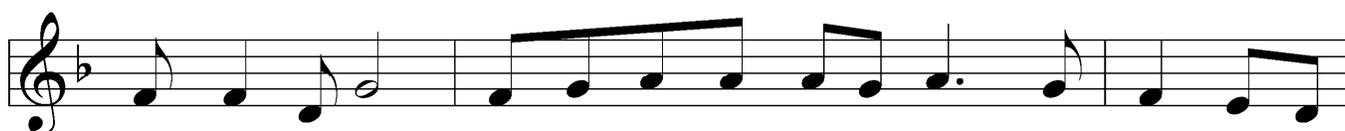
C A - men.

Agnus Dei

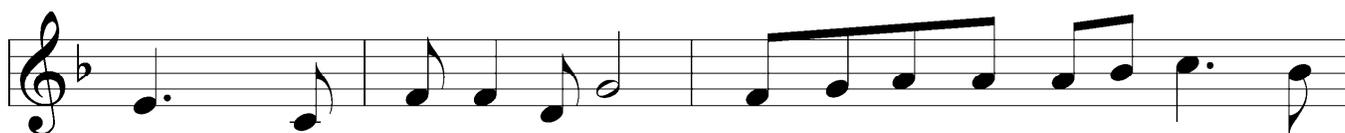
LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

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:

Left Column

LSB 164

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

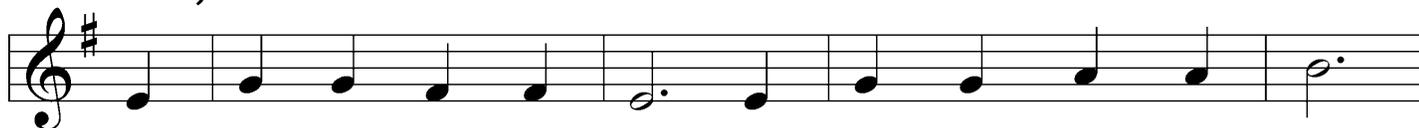
In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

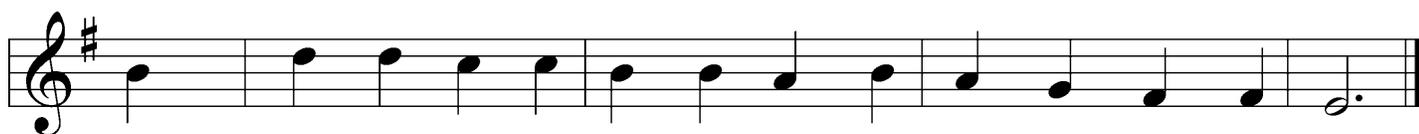
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C **Amen.**

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

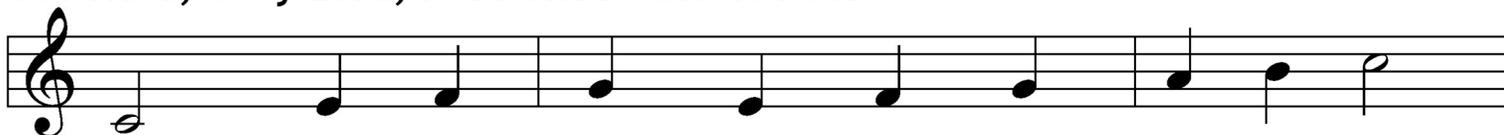


1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

631 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face



1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,
3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
Here drink with Thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;
This is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread for me;
An - oth - er arm but Thine to lean up - on.



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,
Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.
Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.

5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
 The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text and tune: Public domain

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



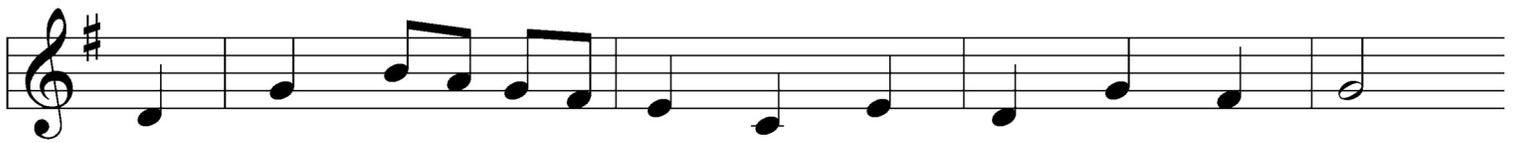
Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text and tune: Public domain

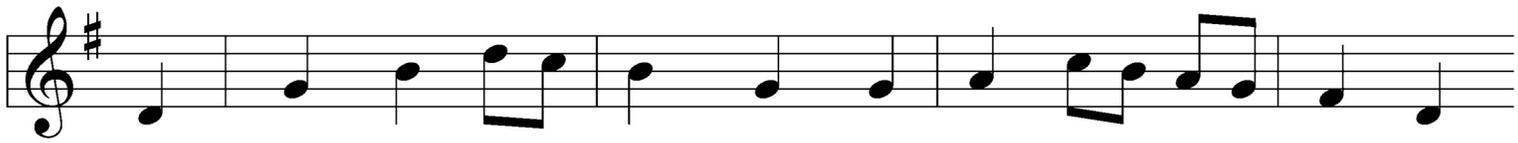
643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing



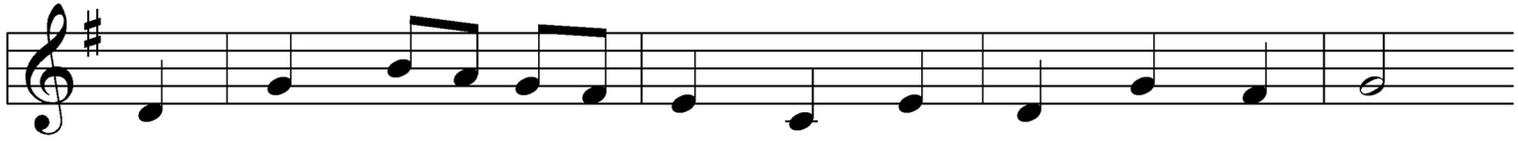
1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing, To God ev - er - liv - ing,



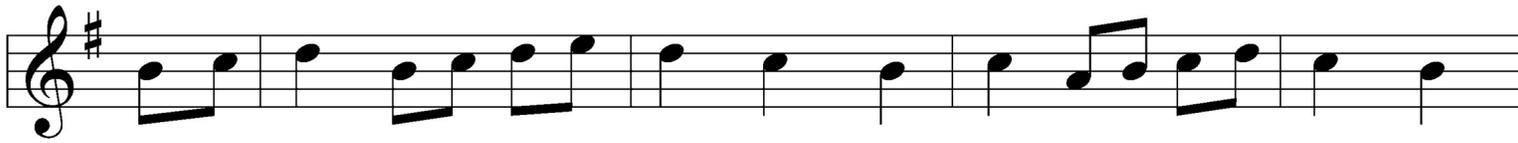
The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,



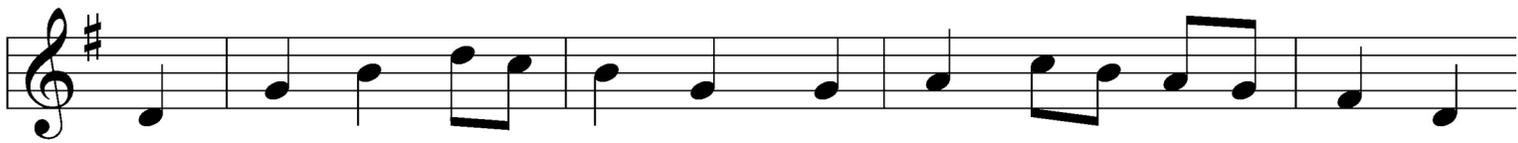
The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.



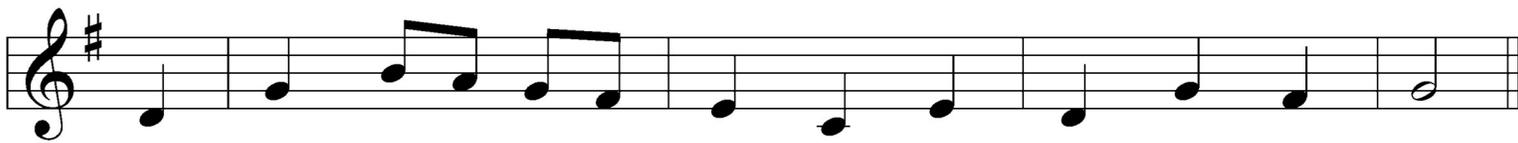
The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing



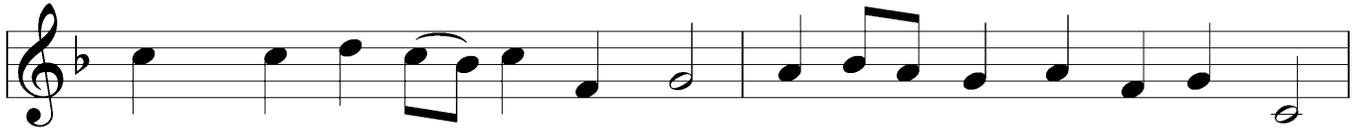
To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

785 We Praise You, O God



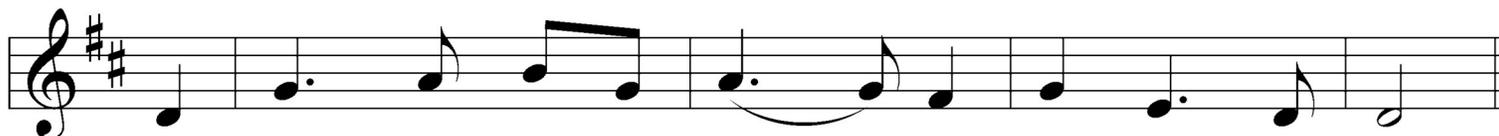
1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



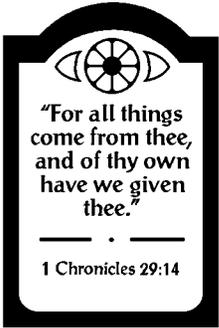
We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text and tune: Public domain

Silent Prayer: Lord Jesus, create in me the heart of a generous spender.
Amen.

“Sowing and Harvesting” (2 Corinthians 9:8–15) – September 25

For next week read 2 Corinthians 9:8–15 and answer these questions:



1. What are the connections between sowing seed, harvesting crops and your financial support of our church?
2. What are the results of Christian generosity? In the givers? In the receivers?
3. Why is the “indescribable gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15) the key to all faithful and godly giving?



Join us in the fellowship hall this morning, for muffins and a new Bible Study about the stewardship series.

“The Macedonian Model” (2 Corinthians 8:1–9) – September 11

“Hey, Big Spender!” (2 Corinthians 9:1–7) – September 18

“Sowing and Harvesting” (2 Corinthians 9:8–15) – September 25

Sunday morning Adult Bible Class builds upon the sermon messages. After learning more about Paul’s offering for the poor Christians in Jerusalem—which undergirds 2 Corinthians 8 and 9—we will take a decidedly practical turn to look at what the Bible teaches about earning, saving, investing and giving money. The plans are as follows:



An Overview of 2 Corinthians 8–9

‘Til Debt Do Us Part!

You are invited you to join us in the fellowship hall for the next two Sundays, as Paul instructs both the Corinthians and us on “*Money Matters.*”



CHURCH-WIDE MEETING

A Special Voter's Meeting will be held next Sunday, September 25.

The only items on the agenda are the Election of a Pastoral delegate, layperson delegate and alternate to attend the Circuit Forum. The Circuit Forum will be held on Saturday, October 15 at 10:00 am. The meeting will be hosted via a Zoom video conference.

The second item on the agenda, is to possibly put forth a nomination for a Pastoral delegate or layperson delegate from our own congregation for the Synod Convention. (This will be presented and voted on at the Circuit Forum.)

The purpose of the Circuit Forum zoom meeting is to nominate and vote on a layperson delegate and alternate; a pastor delegate and alternate to serve as representatives at the 2023 Synod Convention to be held – July 29 - August 3. St. Matthew has never had someone attend the Synod Convention as a delegate. Would you be interested? If so, please, talk to Pastor Peters.