

“Sowing and Harvesting” 2 Corinthians 9:8–15
September 25, 2022
Stewardship Service 3

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”

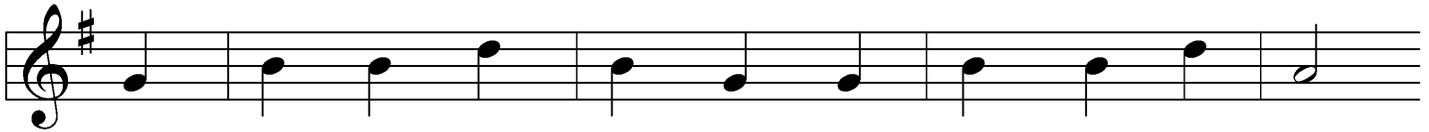
Tune of LSB #802



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: hwgilkette@comcast.net

Stand

CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION (From 2 Corinthians 9:7–15)

- P** In today’s second reading Paul compares our money with seeds.
- C** With the promise, “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

- P** Forgive us, Father, for we often live as though these words do not matter.
- C** **As if they are not true.**
- P** And so instead of being generous, we become greedy.
- C** **Instead of giving, we grab.**
- P** Instead of sacrificing and surrendering, we store up and stockpile.
- C** **Instead of supplying and sharing, we keep and accumulate.**
- P** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
- C** **Create in us new hearts, and renew in us the desire to use our money in generous ways.**
- 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



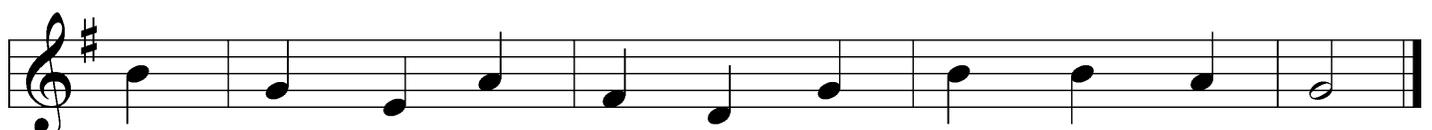
May we be good stew - ards of all that you give.



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 Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of your cross. Forgive us our offenses that we, being governed by your bountiful goodness, we may demonstrate with our lips and our lives large amounts of generosity; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.

From thence 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.

²⁴One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only
suffers want.

²⁵Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.

²⁶The people curse him who holds back grain,
but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

²⁷Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor,
but evil comes to him who searches for it.

²⁸Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 9:8–15

⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that
having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may
abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will
supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the
harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in
every way for all your generosity, which through us will
produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this
service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is
also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their
approval of this service, they will glorify God because of
your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel
of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them

and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.

¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

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 25:31–46

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave

me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

789 Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Bloss - som and wood.
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84
Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.
Text: © 1987 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004310
Tune: Public domain

Sermon

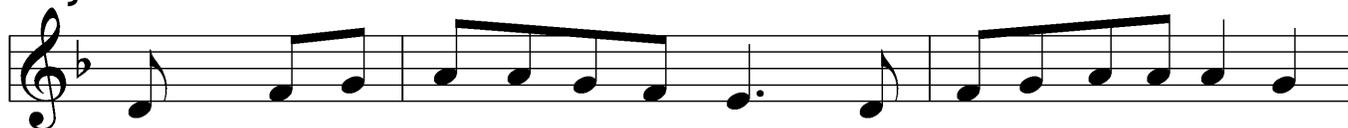
“Sowing and Harvesting” 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

Offering

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



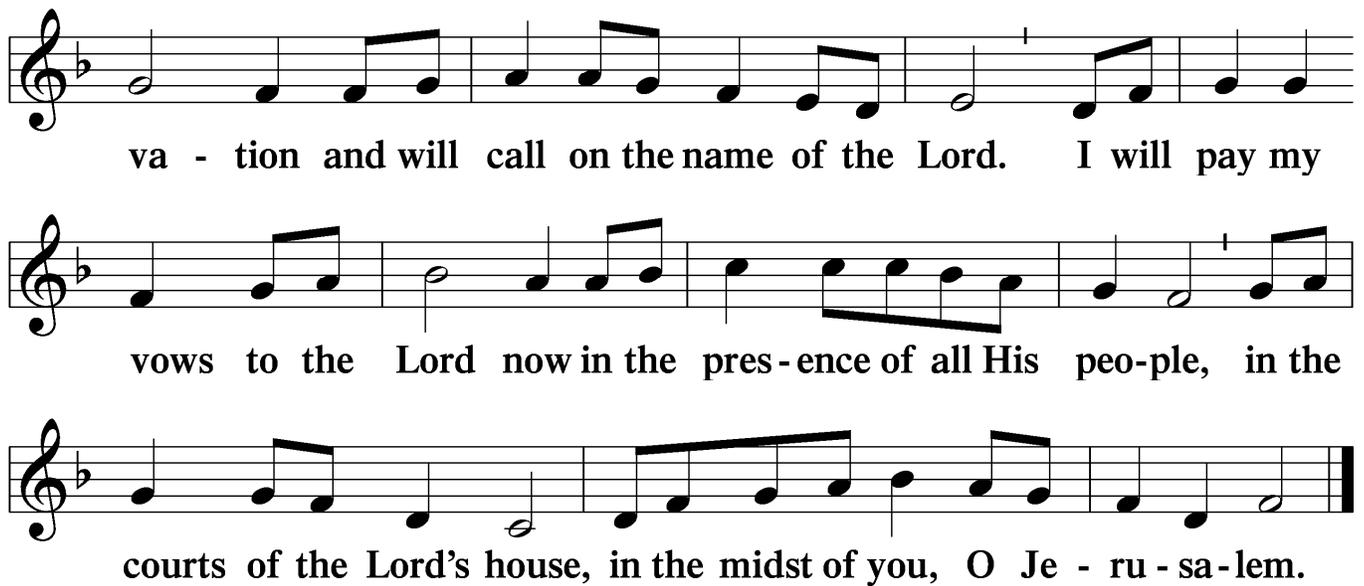
☐ What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to



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, 789 stanza 1)

P We pause, O God, in this moment of dedication to reflect on what we have let go, and on what we have kept back, what we have given in the past and what we plan to give in the future. And we reflect upon the overwhelming claim you have on all we possess. Make us more faithful, more generous, and more cheerful givers. We join in thankful praise for the apostle Paul, who teaches us about “Money Matters.”

C **Father, providing food for your children.**

P Inspire our stewardship with this amazing grace, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)

C **By your wise guiding, teach us to share.**

P Enliven our stewardship with the wisdom, “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

C One with another, so that rejoicing.

P Empower our stewardship with the promise, “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:11)

C With us all others, may know your care.

P We bring our commitments in response to God’s great grace of salvation in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

+ Additional prayers +

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.



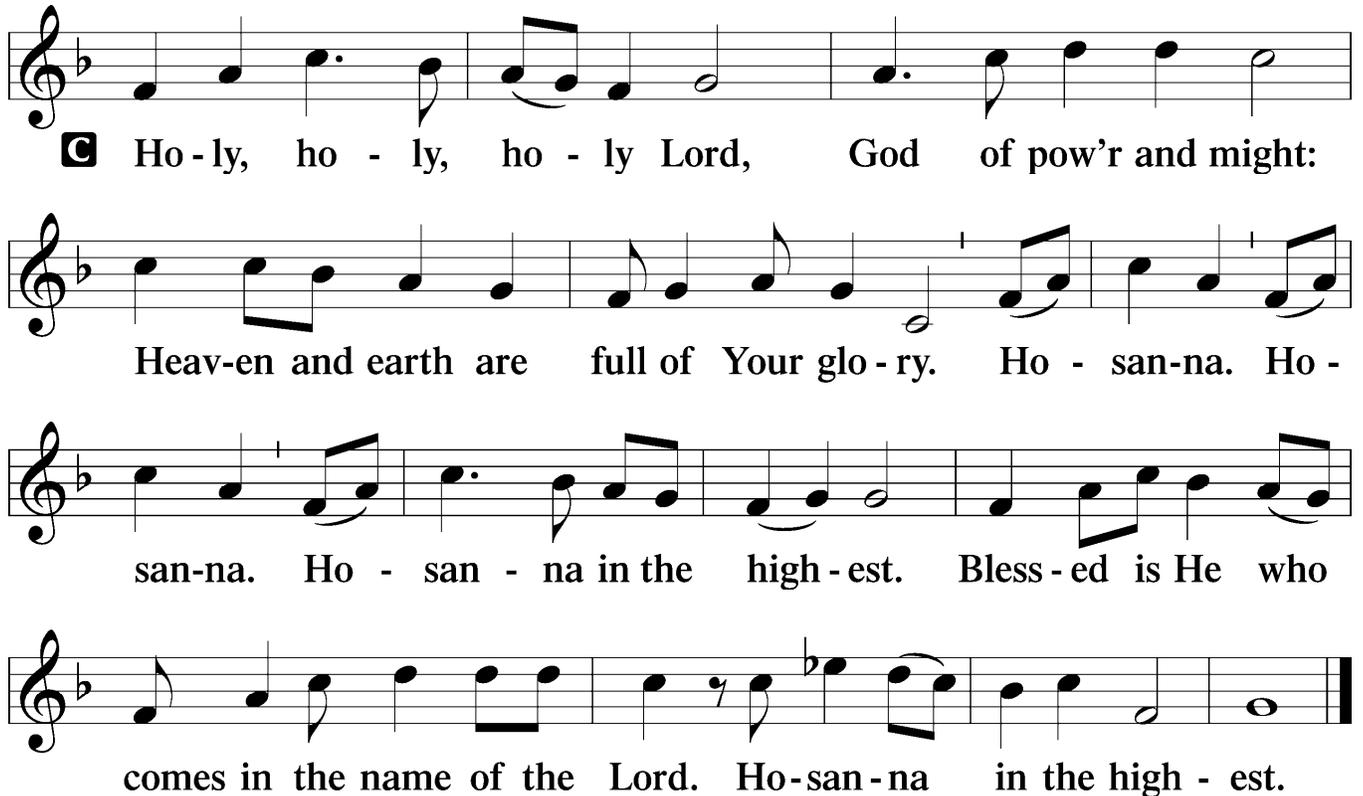
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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.

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.

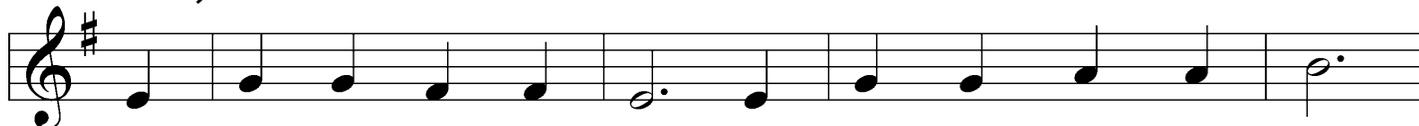
In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

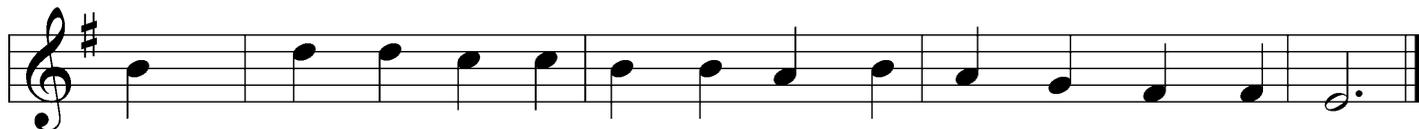
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

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.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365-c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-96, alt.
 Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591
 Text and tune: Public domain

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - umphant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.

Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.

Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.

Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.

Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivančice
Text and tune: Public domain

634 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord



1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, We cel - e -
2 He blot - ted out with His own blood The judg - ment
3 That this for - ev - er true shall be He gives a
4 His Word pro - claims and we be - lieve That in this



brate with one ac - cord; It is our com - fort
that a - gainst us stood; For us He full a -
sol - emn guar - an - tee: In this His ho - ly
Sup - per we re - ceive His ver - y bod - y,



in dis - tress, Our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.
tone - ment made, And all our debt He ful - ly paid.
Sup - per here We taste His love so sweet, so near.
as He said, His ver - y blood for sin - ners shed.

5 We dare not ask how this can be,
But simply hold the mystery
And trust this word where life begins:
“Given and shed for all your sins.”

6 They who this word do not believe
This food unworthily receive,
Salvation here will never find—
May we this warning keep in mind!

7 But blest is each believing guest
Who in these promises finds rest;
For Jesus shall in love remain
With all who here His grace obtain.

8 Help us sincerely to believe
That we may worthily receive
Your Supper and in You find rest.
Amen! They who believe are blest.

627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way God's
2 As His pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre - cious
3 Je - sus here Him - self is shar - ing; Heed then how you
4 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en To His own this



wrath for - ev - er; By His bit - ter grief and woe
food sup - ply - ing, Gives His bod - y with the bread,
are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,
food has giv - en, Who, to mend what we have done,



He saved us from the e - vil foe.
And with the wine the blood He shed.
His judg - ment then you shall re - ceive.
Gave in - to death His on - ly Son.

5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.

6 Agony and bitter labor
Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose
You need not Him who died and rose.

7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.

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.

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



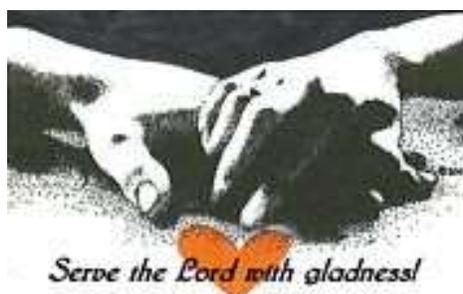
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly



host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

Silent Prayer: Dear Jesus, help me sow the seeds of my money faithful, generously, and joyfully, all the days of my life. Amen.





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 today, as Paul instructs both the Corinthians and us on **“Money Matters.”**

Another Stewardship Learning Opportunity

Philippians Workshop: helping pastors and laity collaborate on stewardship.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, is hosting the Rev Heath Curtis, LCMS Coordinator for Stewardship, on October 13, 2022, at 3 p.m. Pastor Curtis will show clergy and laity how St Paul in his letter to the Philippians, especially chapter 1, work together in the congregation in the realm of stewardship. The session begins at 3 p.m. with the pastors. The laity join us at 5:30 for supper. The entire workshop is over at 9 p.m. Pastor Peters will be attending and if you would like to join him at this workshop, please, let him know.





CHURCH-WIDE MEETING

A Special Voter's Meeting will be held today.

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.

We will continue with Sunday Morning Bible Classes, studying the many ways our time, talents, and treasures, can be used in service to our Lord. A special bookmark will be coming soon for you to make your own pledge. This will only be for you – not to share with others. Tuck the bookmark in your Bible, your favorite daily devotions, any place that will remind you of your pledge. Prayerfully consider what you will do with your time, talents, and treasures, to help continue serving the St. Matthew Community.

