



Followers of Christ Are Humble Servants

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

Worship Series: Followers of Christ

We might like to think that once we're brought to faith, following Christ ought to be easy. The truth? The Lord has high standards, and we are in a daily battle against the sinful nature that still clings to us. In six weeks of readings from Mark 9 and 10, we see clearly what our Savior expects of us, his followers. Be prepared to be challenged by what he says. You'll find plenty of opportunities here to confess your sins.

You'll also find all the strength you need to fight against the sins you confess. Don't miss the humility of our Savior Jesus. What undeserved love! Though he is the Son of God and ruler over all, he chooses to follow his Father's will perfectly in our place. In him, every sin is forgiven. Through the message of his forgiveness the Holy Spirit will empower you to fight against your sin every day, and to be the follower of Christ he has called you to be.

This Week: Followers of Christ Are Humble Servants

The way of this world is to seek recognition and honor. The world sees leadership as a way to wield power. That's not our Savior's way nor is it what he wants for his followers. Leadership is not conforming others to your will but being conformed to the will of Christ and serving those you lead. Followers of Christ, even leaders among them, are humble servants. But that's easier said than done, isn't it? For sinners like us, even our humble service can become a point of pride. Let your Savior's humility be your sin's cure, his example your guide.

Welcome to WELS National Hymnal Week!

This week is an opportunity for each of us to reflect on all the good things that happen when God's people gather for worship. Whether or not a congregation has decided to make use of our synod's new *Christian Worship* hymnal, this week also provides everyone an opportunity to become acquainted with it. You can find out more at www.christianworship.com.

About the Opening Service

No special theme has been chosen for this special service. The theme and Scripture readings for today are simply the theme and the readings appointed for September 19th in the new *Christian Worship Lectionary*. This National Hymnal Week church service aims to highlight what is wonderful and glorious about Christ-centered worship on any given Sunday.

✘ ✘ ✘ Before participating in Communion ✘ ✘ ✘

We welcome all people to our services, those who are fully united with us in Christ's teachings as well as those who do not yet share our confession of the Faith. However, it is a sad consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend a general invitation to all Christians to receive Communion with us. Our Lord teaches (1 Cor. 10:17 and elsewhere) that Communion is an action of the celebrating community that declares their oneness in the Faith, life, and worship. Communing with Christians not in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS] or our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS], would imply a oneness that does not truly exist, but for which we pray. Our pastor will gladly talk with you about establishing communion fellowship here at Peace.

The Service

Thread: *God's wisdom reveals that the good life is lived humbly serving in his name.*

Stand as directed

Opening Hymn

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

1: Cantor/Choir 2-3: All



1 How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all
2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his
3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no
mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his
make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?
The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with
Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † 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.

The congregation may be seated or kneel.

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.

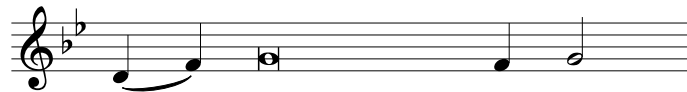
Silence for meditation and reflection

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 † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

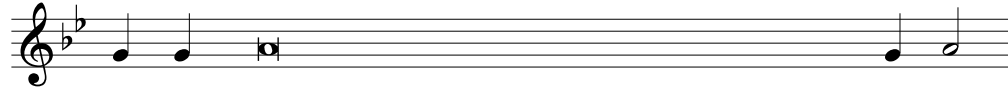
Kyrie



In peace let us pray to the Lord.



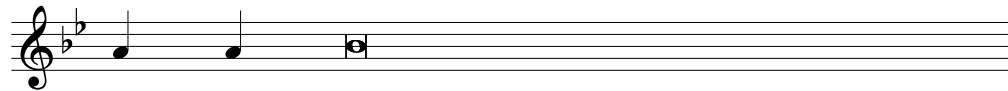
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



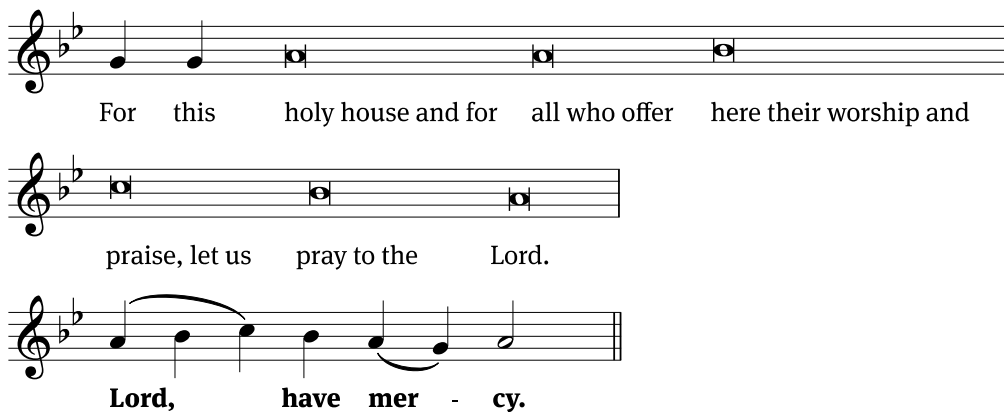
For the well-being of the Church of peace of the whole world, for the



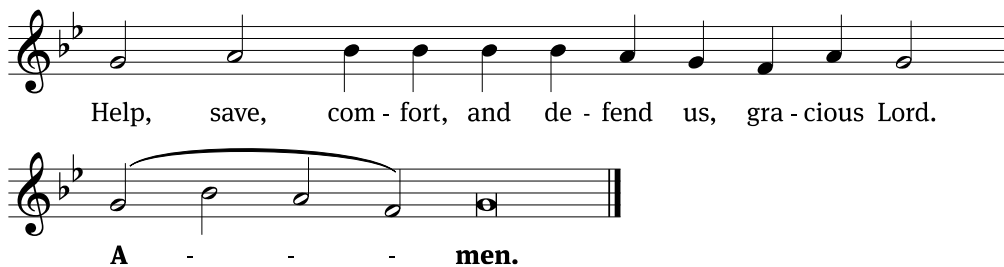
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



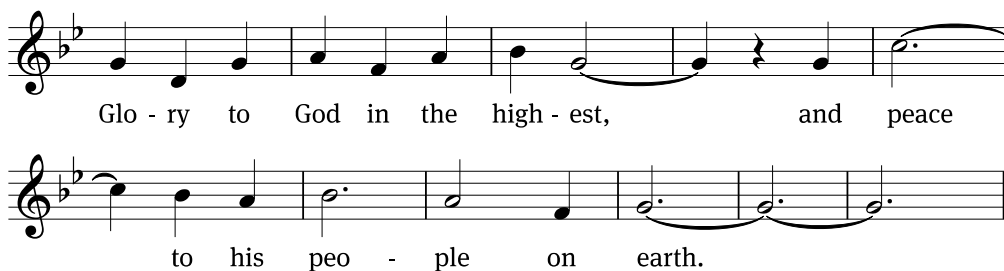
Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - - - men.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

*The cantor/choir sings the first refrain and verses.
 The congregation joins on the following refrains.*

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
 to his peo - ple on earth.

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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

Numbers 12:1-15

Moses' servant leadership flowed from a heart that delighted to humbly submit to God - his word and will. Miriam and Aaron display sin's arrogance. It usurps God's will, leading people away from God's wisdom.

¹ Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. ² "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this.

³ (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

⁴ At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you." So the three of them went out. ⁵ Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, ⁶ he said, "Listen to my words:

"When there is a prophet among you,
I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions,
I speak to them in dreams.

⁷ But this is not true of my servant Moses;
he is faithful in all my house.

⁸ With him I speak face to face,
clearly and not in riddles;
he sees the form of the LORD.
Why then were you not afraid
to speak against my servant Moses?"

⁹ The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.

¹⁰ When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam's skin was leprous—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease, ¹¹ and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. ¹² Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away."

¹³ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "Please, God, heal her!"

¹⁴ The LORD replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back." ¹⁵ So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 115

Celebrate the wisdom that delights to know and serve such a great and gracious God.

The cantor/choir sings first refrain. All repeat the refrain and sing the following refrains.

The congregation sings the verses responsively with the cantor/choir.

Refrain

Not to us, O Lord, but
to your name be the glo - ry.

Refrain

Why do the nations say, “Where / is their God?”

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.

The Lord remembers us and will / bless us:

He will bless his people / Israel,

he will bless those who / fear the LORD—

small and / great alike. **Refrain**

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD —

he is there / help and shield.

House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD —

he is their / help and shield.

You who fear him, trust / in the LORD —

he is their / help and shield.

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

Second Reading

James 3:13-18

Those who have the wisdom and understanding of repentance and faith in Christ look at God and other people in a whole new way. We no longer long to use them to serve us. We live to humbly serve them.

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

The cantor/choir sings the refrain and verse.
The congregation joins to sing the final refrain

Refrain



Rejoice in the Lord
for his love and faithfulness.

Refrain

Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' humble obedience to the Father, reflected in his teaching of his upcoming passion, stands in sharp contrast to his disciples' self-centered view, which struggled to avoid humility and be in charge – a self-serving life.

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.”

³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

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

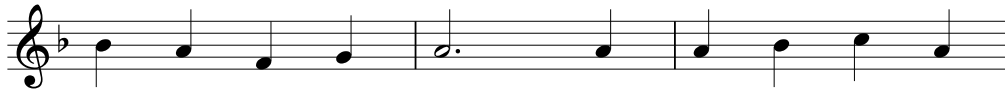
ANYONE WHO WANTS
+ TO BE FIRST +
MUST BE THE
+ VERY LAST +
AND THE
+ SERVANT +
OF ALL

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



1 Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way wher -
 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, but
 3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel you
 4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride nor
 5 Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way wher -



ev - er love may lead and, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r you laid a - side. You lived your years in
 place with - in the hands of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove the low - est place, the
 ev - er love may lead and, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, each serve the oth - er's need.
 ser - vant - hood, in low - li - ness you died.
 fol - low you and live by your com - mands.
 mean - est task that waits the gift of love.
 get - ting self, each serve the oth - er's need.

Be seated as directed

Sermon - See the separate sheet for the Sermon Road Map.

Stand

Confession of Faith

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 fully 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 believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. *Pour out your special blessing on . . . (here name the person and the cause of the petition).* Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

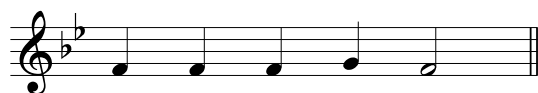
Offering

Stand

The Sacrament



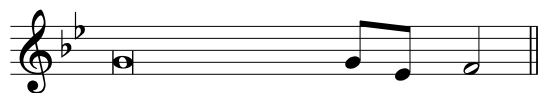
The Lord be with you.



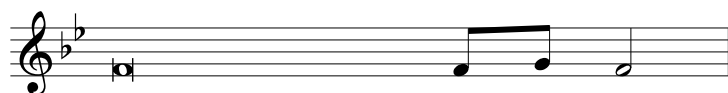
And al - so with you.



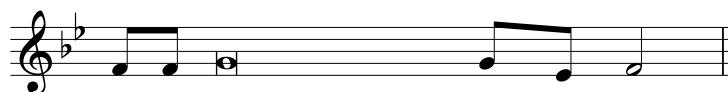
Lift up your hearts.



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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

The cantor/choir sings the first time.

The congregation joins to sing a second time.

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 in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

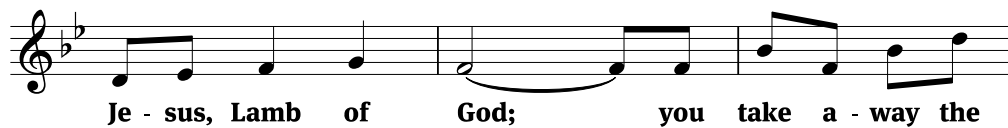
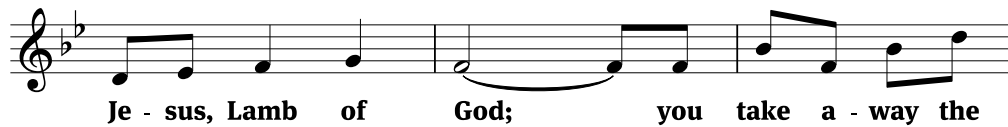
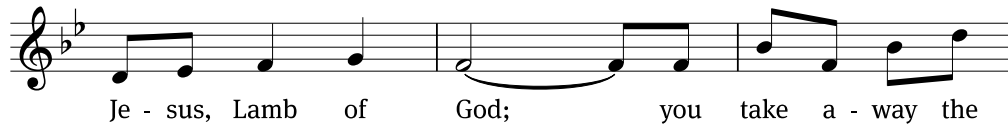
Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

The cantor/choir sings the first phrase.

The congregation joins on the following phrases.



Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

In Christ Alone



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner-stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right-eous -
 world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
 Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
 God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



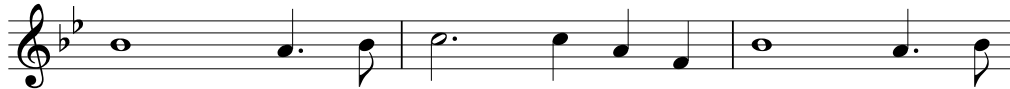
all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Distribution Hymn

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de -
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in



thee; let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy
mands; could my zeal no res - pite know, could my
cling; na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less,
death, when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee



riv - en side which flowed, be of sin the dou - ble
tears for - ev - er flow, all for sin could not a -
look to thee for grace; foul, I to the foun - tain
on thy judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges, cleft for



cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Stand

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

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

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your



life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the
free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious
life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone
sen - tence, "You have done it all for me."
lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



and with that have free - ly giv - en bless - ings
till our cold and self - ish na - tures, warmed by
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, hope, to



count - less as the sand to th' un - thank - ful
you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
need what we can do, say - ing by your
stay our souls on you; but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Silent prayer – Announcements

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