

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020



Color of the Day: Green - suggesting spiritual growth and maturity. There is nothing colorless about our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's why the "green meadow" time of the church year is so lengthy. Time must be given to encourage all worshipers to maintain their faith through the constant use of God's means of grace.

OPENING HYMN

#819 - Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood
keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness
a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our
His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom
And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and
Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's
A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:
of His might All things are just and good and right:
praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:
ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:
from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!

Text and tune: Public domain

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

(Stand)

P In the name of the Father and of the I Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Kneel/Stand)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(Stand)

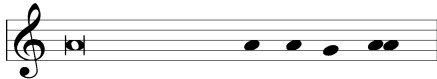
+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.
The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.
He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.
He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.
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.
The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

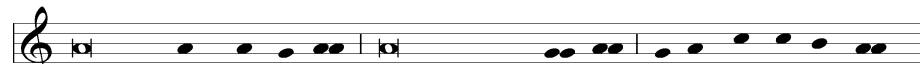
KYRIE



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



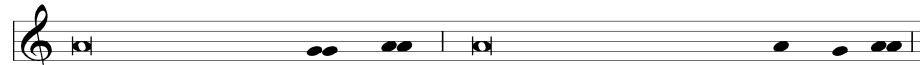
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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

and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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

C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we

praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

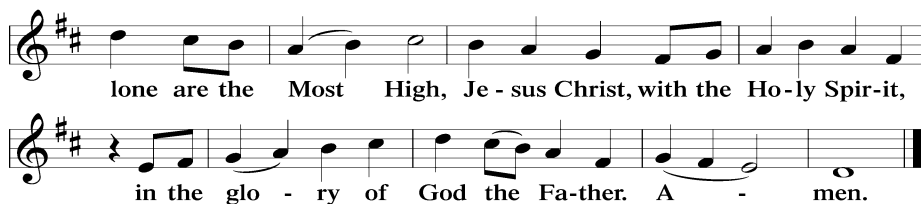
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You

take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

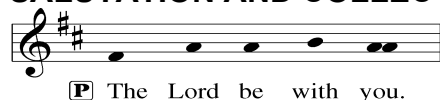
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the

Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalms 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to

the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23–32

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

#587- I Know My Faith Is Founded



1 I know my faith is found - ed On Je - sus Christ, my
2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, For Sa - tan seeks by
3 In faith, Lord, let me serve You; Though per - se - cu - tion,
God and Lord; And this my faith con - fess - ing, Un -
night and day; To rob me of this trea - sure And
grief, and pain Should seek to o - ver - whelm me, Let
moved I stand on His sure Word. Our rea - son can - not
take my hope of bliss a - way. But, Lord, with You be -
me a stead - fast trust re - tain; And then at my de -



fath - om The truth of God pro - found; Who trusts in hu - man
side - me, I shall be un - dis - mayed; And led by Your good
par - ture, Lord, take me home to You, Your rich - es to in -

wis - dom Re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is
Spir - it, I shall be un - a - fraid. A - bide with
her - it As all You said holds true. In life and

all - suf - fi - cient, It makes di - vine - ly sure; And
me, O Sav - ior, A firm - er faith be - stow; Then
death, Lord, keep me Un - til Your heav'n I gain, Where

trust - ing in its wis - dom, My faith shall rest se - cure.
I shall bid de - fi - ance To ev - 'ry e - vil foe.
I by Your great mer - cy The end of faith at - tain.

Tune and text: Public domain

SERMON

Doing the Father's Will

Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)

Introduction

Last week we were reminded _____.

All during His time of public ministry _____.

The Parable

Jesus begins by asking _____.

Jesus begins by asking the objective question _____.

The question Jesus asked is this _____.

Jesus' answer to the Sanhedrin is this _____.

The objective answer _____.

The Subjective Application

God the Father's will is that _____.

God calls all people _____.

"Not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," _____.

The tax collectors and prostitutes _____.

Jesus continues to remind those religious leaders _____.

Again the questions, "who are we in the parable?" _____.

Are we the son who, _____.

The Father's Will Is That We All Do His Work

The Old Testament reading _____.

Forgiveness is ours _____.

Last week Jesus reminded us _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

_____.

_____.

Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor's blog at:

<http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/> or Pastor Mendez's new blog at: <https://pastormendez.blogspot.com/>

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

☒ 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.

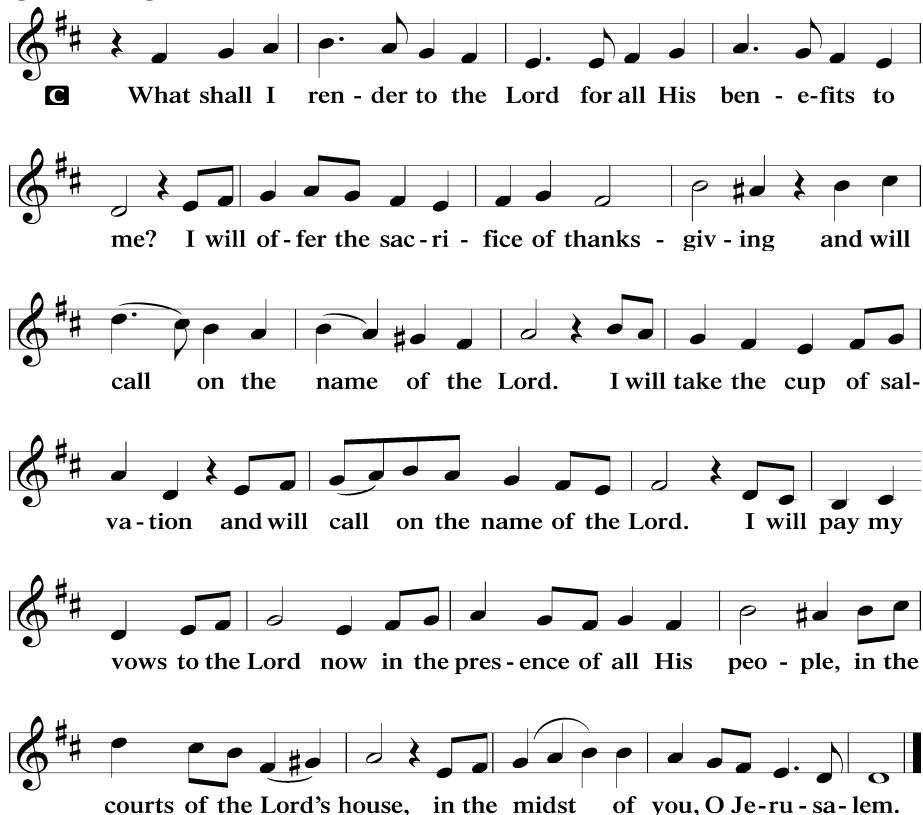
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Sit)

OFFERING

(Stand)

OFFERTORY



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.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



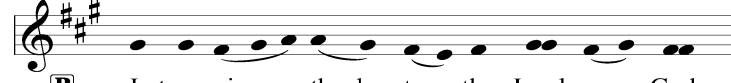
C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

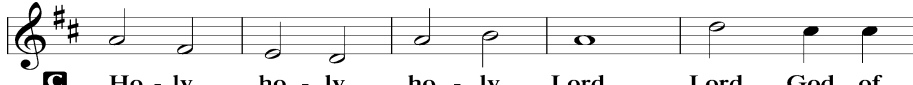


C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

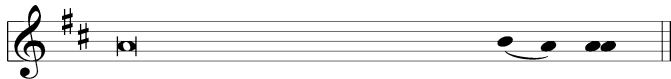
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

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 I 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 I blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI



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;



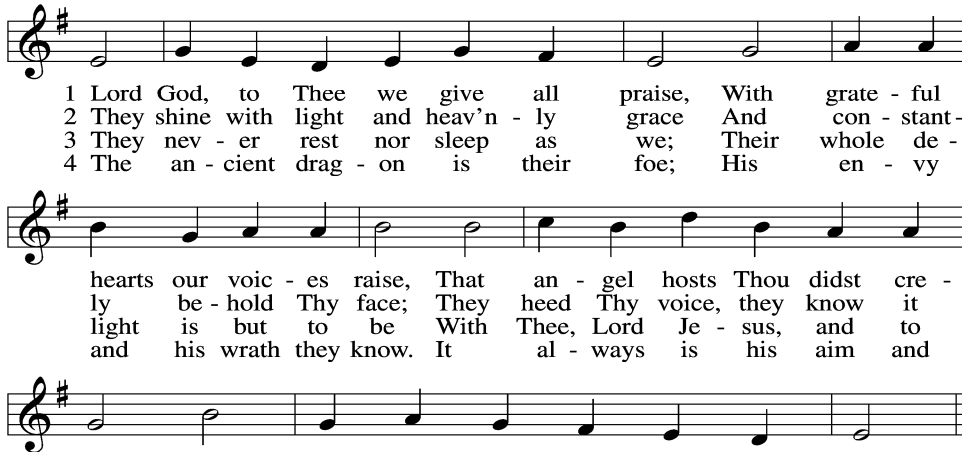
grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#522- Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise



1 Lord God, to Thee we give all praise, With grate - ful
 2 They shine with light and heav'n - ly grace, And con - stant -
 3 They nev - er rest nor sleep as we; Their whole de -
 4 The an - cient drag - on is their foe; His en - vy

hearts our voic - es raise, That an - gel hosts Thou didst cre -
 ly be - hold Thy face; They heed Thy voice, they know it
 light is but to be With Thee, Lord Je - sus, and to
 and his wrath they know. It al - ways is his aim and

ate A - round Thy glo - rious throne to wait.
 well, In god - ly wis - dom they ex - cel.
 keep Thy lit - tle flock, Thy lambs and sheep.
 pride Thy Chris - tian peo - ple to di - vide.

5 As he of old deceived the world
 And into sin and death has hurled,
 So now he subtly lies in wait
 To undermine both Church and state.

7 But watchful is the angel band
 That follows Christ on ev'ry hand
 To guard His people where they go
 And break the counsel of the foe.

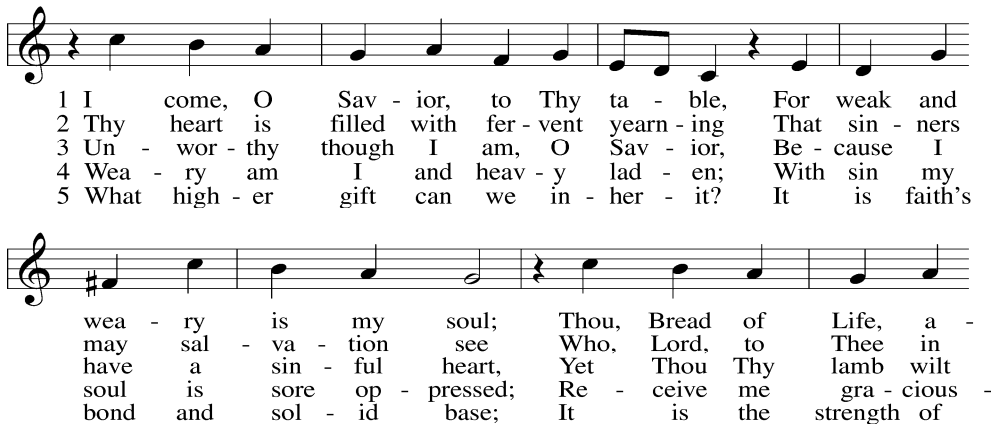
6 A roaring lion, round he goes,
 No halt nor rest he ever knows;
 He seeks the Christians to devour
 And slay them by his dreadful pow'r.

8 For this, now and in days to be,
 Our praise shall rise, O Lord, to Thee,
 Whom all the angel hosts adore
 With grateful songs forevermore.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#618 - I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's

wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of

lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#707 - *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
 2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
 4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
 Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
 And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
 Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Tune and text: Public domain

(Stand)

THANK THE LORD



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



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice 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

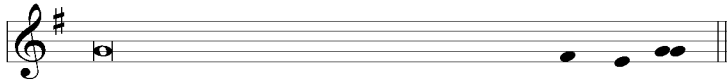
A Let us pray.

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.

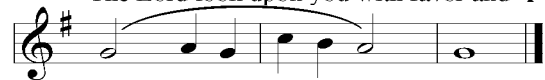
BENEDICTION



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.

CLOSING HYMN

#917 - *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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