

Lord's Day Service



At Church of the King on June 7th, 2026

The 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

"How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalms 119:103

Call to Worship: Where God Calls Us Into His Presence

"That you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints," Ephesians 1:18b

Hear Today's Call to Worship From God's Word: [congregation standing]

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Galatians 1:3-5 **Come Worship the Triune God, Creator & Savior of the World!**

God's People Respond With a Hymn of Adoration: [based on Psalm 145:10]

O worship the King all glorious above,	O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
O gratefully sing his power and His love.	Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,	His chariot of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.	And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Salutation and Response: [based on Matthew 28:19, Ruth 2:4 and Galatians 2:20]

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen!

Jehovah be with you!

And also with you!

I have been crucified with Christ;

It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

And the life which I now live in the flesh

I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us In Christ

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love," Ephesians 4:1,2

The Call For Confession From God's Word:

"Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe." Galatians 3:21-22

God's People Sing Our Hymn of Confession:

[congregation standing]

Before Thee Let My Cry Come Near

Psalm 119:169-176

RUSSIA (L.M.)
Daniel Read, 1786

The Book of Psalms for Singing, 1973

1. ¹⁶⁹Be - fore Thee let my cry come near, O LORD; true to Thy word, teach
2. ¹⁷¹Since Thou Thy stat - utes teach - est me, O let my lips Thy praise con -
Melody

(Soprano) ¹⁷⁰Be -
¹⁷²Yea,
me.
fess.
(Alto) ¹⁷⁰Be - fore Thee let my
¹⁷²Yea, of Thy word my
(Tenor) ¹⁷⁰Be - fore Thee let my plead - ing come; True
¹⁷²Yea, of Thy word my tongue would sing, For
(Bass) ¹⁷⁰Be - fore Thee let my plead - ing come; True to Thy prom - ise,
¹⁷²Yea, of Thy word my tongue would sing, For Thy com - mands are

fore Thee let my plead - ing come; True to Thy prom - ise, res - cue me.
of Thy word my tongue would sing, For Thy com - mands are right - eous - ness.
plead - ing come; True to Thy prom - ise, res - cue me.
tongue would sing, For Thy com - mands are right - eous - ness.
to Thy prom - ise, res - cue me, True to Thy prom - ise, res - cue me.
Thy com - mands are right - eous - ness, For Thy com - mands are right - eous - ness.
res - cue me, True to Thy prom - ise, res - cue me.
right - eous - ness, For Thy com - mands are right - eous - ness.

3. ¹⁷³Be ready with Thy hand to help,
Because Thy precepts are my choice.
¹⁷⁴I've longed for Thy salvation, LORD,
And in Thy holy law rejoice.

4. ¹⁷⁵O let Thine ordinances help;
My soul shall live and praise Thee yet.
¹⁷⁶A straying sheep, Thy servant, seek,
For Thy commands I ne'er forget.

Silent Confession:

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:26-27

Those who are willing and able are invited to kneel for our time of confession.

Corporate Prayer of Confession:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty who was and is and is to come. In your merciful presence we confess that we have broken your Law, both in what we have done and what we have left undone. We confess that these trespasses, apart from your Grace, result in our impurity, and also make us liable to receive your just punishments. We confess our sins and ask that you wash us from our impurities through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge our iniquities, and ask that you shield us from punishment through the atoning death of our Savior. From our violations of your just Law, forgive us through the perfect obedience of our Lord, and empower us to love mercy, do justice and walk humbly with You. Finally, we ask you to receive our praise and worship, for we speak in the blessed name of Jesus, and seek the visible manifestation of His Kingdom on earth. Amen.

Arise and Receive the Assurance of Pardon & Forgiveness

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for our sins and to be raised for our justification; and for His sake forgives us all our sins. This I declare in the name and authority of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Having confessed our sins with faith in the completed work of Christ on our behalf, we are forgiven; we have been cleansed and clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. And not only that, we are now **in Christ** and **in Him** we are in the heavenly places, in the very midst of the blessed Trinity with the Saints of all the ages, from every tongue, tribe and nation prepared to worship in the beauty of holiness. **Come, let us worship the Lord!**

Come Bless the Father:

Come bless the Fath - er, all you ser - vants of the Son, who stand by the Spir - it in the
House of the Lord. Lift up your hands to the Ho - ly Place and bless your God.
May the Lord _____ bless you from Zi - on, He Who made hea - ven and earth. _____

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up un - to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

It is pro - per and right to do so.

Truly it is proper and right that we should at all times and in all places give praise to you O LORD. And so, with the angels and all the company of heaven and with the Church, as she gathers throughout the world this day, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you & singing:

God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks:

"Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," Ephesians 5:20

From Heav'n O Praise the LORD

Psalm 148

ST. CATHERINE'S (6 6. 6 6. 4 4 4 4. rep.)
Horatio R. Palmer, 1834-1907

The Book of Psalms for Singing, 1973

1. From heav'n O praise the LORD; Ye heights, His glo - ry raise.
LORD;
2. Yea, let them glo - rious make Je - ho - vah's match - less name;
3. From earth O praise the LORD, Ye deeps and all be - low;
4. Let all the peo - ple praise, And kings of ev - 'ry land;
5. Je - ho - vah's name be praised A - bove the earth and sky.

2 All an - gels, praise ac - cord; Let all His host give praise.
For when the word He spake They in - to be - ing came.
Wild winds that do His word, Ye clouds, fire, hail, and snow;
Let all their voic - es raise Who judge and give com - mand.
14 For He His saints has raised And set their power on high.

15 Praise Him on that high, Sun, moon, and star,
16 And from that place Where fixed they be,
17 Ye moun - tains high, Ye ce - dars tall,
18 By young and old, By maid and youth,
Him praise ac - cord, O Is - rael's race,

Sun, moon, and star, 19 Ye heav'ns a - far, And cloud - y sky.
Where fixed they be, By His de - cree They can - not pass.
Ye ce - dars tall, 20 Beasts great and small, And birds that fly.
By maid and youth, 21 His name in truth Should be ex - tolled.
O Is - rael's race, Near to His grace. Praise ye the LORD.

Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:22-25

Proverbs 23:4-35

Hear Your Father

Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease!

Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.

Do not eat the bread of a miser, nor desire his delicacies;

For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, and waste your pleasant words.

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless;

For their Redeemer *is* mighty; He will plead their cause against you.

Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge.

Do not withhold correction from a child, for *if* you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice —

Indeed, I myself; Yes, my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak right things.

Do not let your heart envy sinners, but *be zealous* for the fear of Jehovah all the day;

For surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off.

Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way.

Do not mix with winebibbers, *or* with gluttonous eaters of meat;

For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe *a man* with rags.

Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, *also* wisdom and instruction and understanding.

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him.

Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice.

My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

For a harlot *is* a deep pit, and a seductress *is* a narrow well.

She also lies in wait as *for* a victim, and increases the unfaithful among men.

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.

Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup,
when it swirls around smoothly;

At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.

Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things.

Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, *saying*: "They have struck me, *but* I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel *it*. When shall I awake, that I may seek another *drink*?"

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest
 2. 'Tis mys - t'ry all! Th'Im - mor - tal dies: who can ex -
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in
 5. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and

in the Sav - ior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his
 plore his strange de - sign? In vain the first - born ser - aph
 • in - fi - nite his grace!), hum - bled him - self (so great his
 sin and na - ture's night; thine eye dif - fused a quick - 'ning
 all in him, is mine! A - live in him, my liv - ing

pain? For me, who him to death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love!
 tries to sound the depths of love di - vine. 'Tis mer - cy all!
 • love!), and bled for all his cho - sen race. 'Tis mer - cy all,
 ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with light; my chains fell off,
 Head, and clothed in righ - teous - ness di - vine, bold I ap - proach

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

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How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst
Let earth a - dore, let an - gel minds in -
• im - mense and free; for, O my God, it
my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and
th'e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through

die for me?
quire no more. A - maz - ing love! How can it
• found out me. A - maz - ing love! How
fol - lowed thee. Christ, my own.

be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
can it be that thou, my God,

God Speaks to Us Through His Word: Scripture, Prayer for Illumination, and Sermon

"Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Jehovah, and teach out of Your law." Psalm 94:12

"The Divine Word"

From **Pastor Paul Liberati**

based on **John 1:1-5**

John 1:1-13 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Notes:

God's People Sing a Hymn of Response:

[congregation standing]

We All Believe in One True God

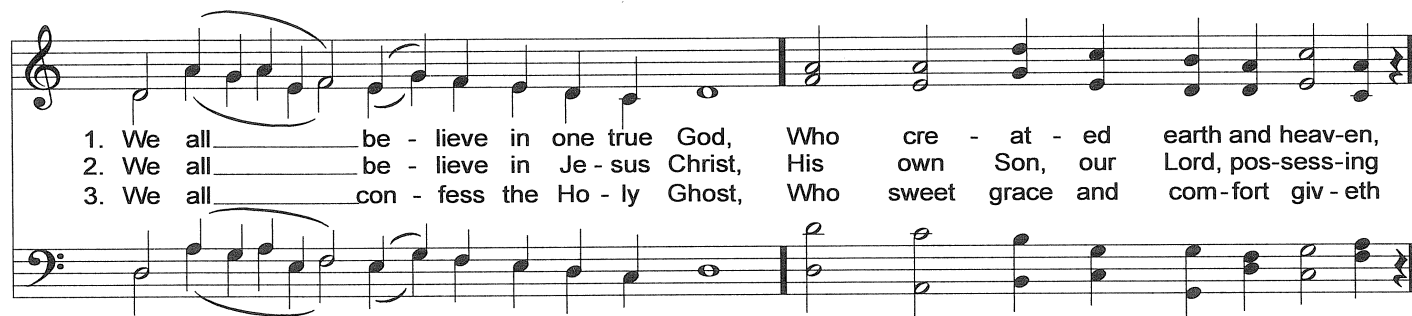
WIR GLAUBEN ALL AN EINEN GOTT (8s. 10 lines)

Latin Credo, c. 1300

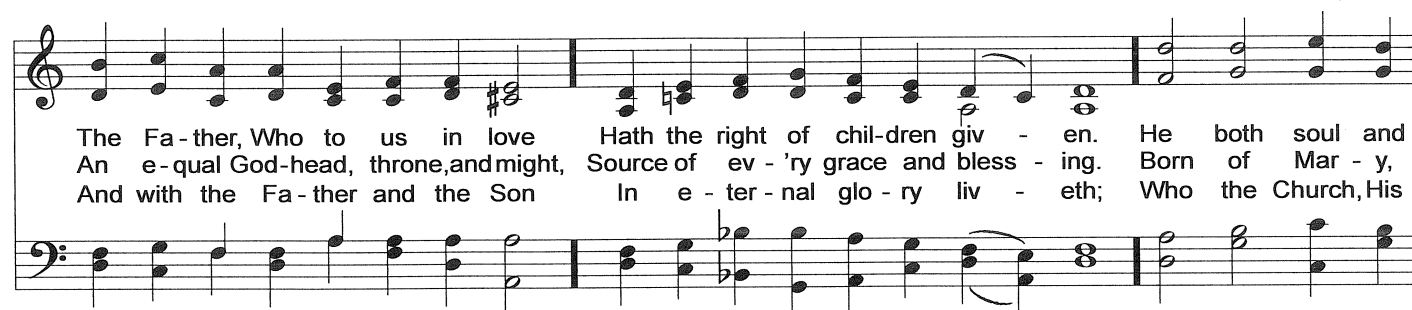
Johann Walter, *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, 1524

Martin Luther, 1524

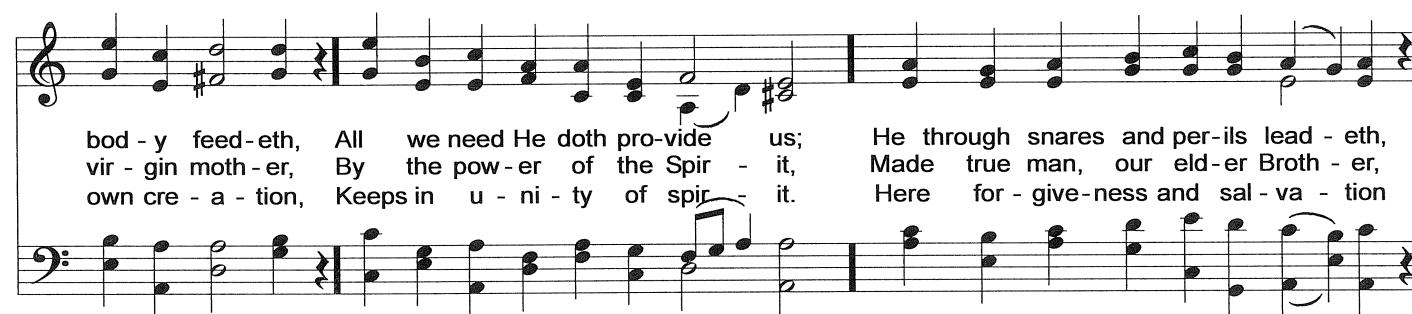
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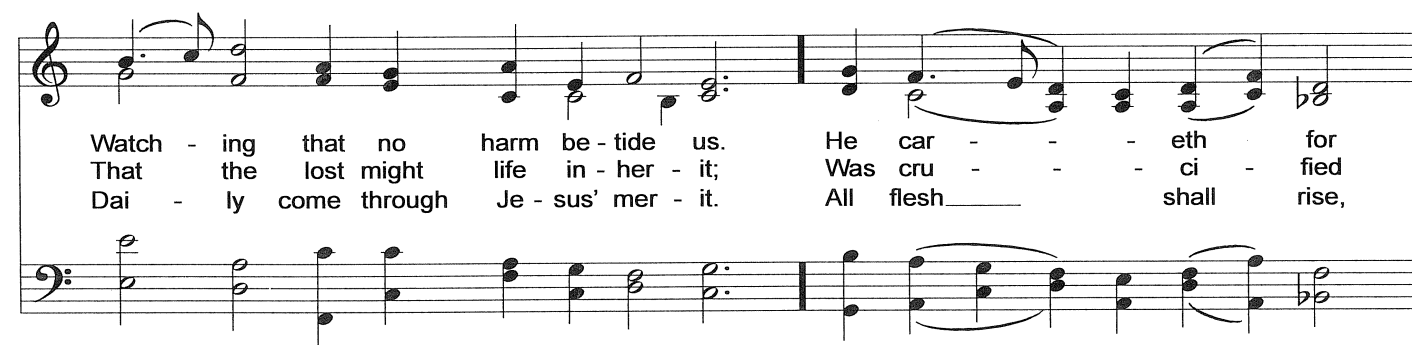
1. We all be - lieve in one true God, Who cre - at - ed earth and heav-en,
2. We all be - lieve in Je - sus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, pos-sess-ing
3. We all con - fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who sweet grace and com-fort giv - eth



The Fa - ther, Who to us in love Hath the right of chil-dren giv - en. He both soul and
An e - qual God-head, throne, and might, Source of ev - 'ry grace and bless - ing. Born of Mar - y,
And with the Fa - ther and the Son In e - ter - nal glo - ry liv - eth; Who the Church, His



bod - y feed-eth, All we need He doth pro-vide us; He through snares and per-ils lead - eth,
vir - gin moth - er, By the pow - er of the Spir - it, Made true man, our eld - er Broth - er,
own cre - a - tion, Keeps in u - ni - ty of spir - it. Here for - give-ness and sal - va - tion



Watch - ing that no harm be - tide us. He car - - - eth for
That the lost might life in - her - it; Was cru - - - ci - fied
Dai - ly come through Je - sus' mer - it. All flesh - - - shall rise,



us day and night, All things are gov - erned by His might.
for sin - ful men And raised by God to life a - gain.
and we shall be In bliss with God e - ter - nal - ly.

God Receives our Tithes and Gifts as a Tribute Offering: [read in unison]

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Galatians 5:13-14

With the singing of Psalm 30:4-5 & the Doxology

Words composed by Brenda Fisher

**1: Sing praise you saints unto the Lord; 2: His wrath is in a moment past;
His name is one to be adored. His favor through all life will last.
Give thanks unto His holy name. Weeping may still endure a night,
At every mem’ry of that name. But joy comes with the morning light.**

**3: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Prayer, Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer

Isaac Stabler

“Jehovah has heard my supplication; Jehovah will receive my prayer.” Psalm 6:9

**Our Father,
Which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one,
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever: AMEN
[Matthew 6:9-13]**

Communion: Where God Communes With His People

“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?

The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?” 1 Corinthians 10:16

Preparation for Communion

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Lord has prepared His table for all who love and trust Him for their salvation. All those who have repented of their sins, have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and are not under discipline from Christ’s Church are welcome at this table. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as our Lord our God will call.

Our Confession of Faith - The Apostle's Creed [sung with music by Amber Bartels]

Piano

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music, each with a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 8, 16, 25, 35, 43, 52, 60, and 70. The music features a variety of note values, including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are: 'I be-lieve in God the Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, Ma-ker of hea-ven and earth; And in Je-sus Christ, His on-ly be-got-ten Son, our Lord; Who was con-ceived by the Ho-ly Spi-rit, born of the vir-gin—Ma-ry, Suf-fered un-der Pon-tius Pi-late, was dru-bi-fied, dead and bur-ied; He de-scend-ed In-to hell, the thir-d day He rose a-gain from the dead; He as-cend-ed In-to heav-en, and sit-teth at the right hand of God the Fath-er Al-might-ty; From thence He shall come to judge the liv-ing and the dead. I be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spi-rit, I be-lieve a ho-ly cath-olic Church, the com-mun-ion of saints, the for-give-ness of sins; the re-sur-rec-tion of the bo-dy, and the life ey-er-last-ing. A-men.'

I be-lieve in God the Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, Ma-ker of hea-ven and earth;

And in Je-sus Christ, His on-ly be-got-ten Son, our Lord; Who was con-ceived by the

Ho-ly Spi-rit, born of the vir-gin—Ma-ry, Suf-fered un-der Pon-tius

Pi-late, was dru-bi-fied, dead and bur-ied; He de-scend-ed In-to

hell, the thir-d day He rose a-gain from the dead; He as-cend-ed In-to

heav-en, and sit-teth at the right hand of God the Fath-er Al-might-ty; From

thence He shall come to judge the liv-ing and the dead. I be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spi-rit,

I be-lieve a ho-ly cath-olic Church, the com-mun-ion of saints, the for-give-ness of sins; the

re-sur-rec-tion of the bo-dy, and the life ey-er-last-ing. A-men.

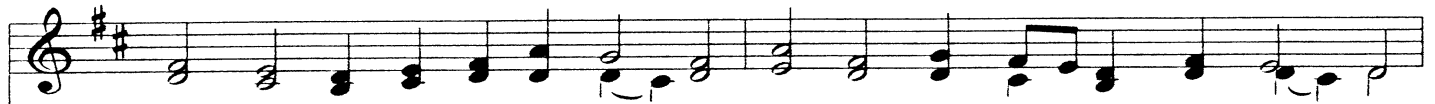
THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE: (Peace Offering, Gift of Life)

A Word of Encouragement -- Giving of Thanks -- Breaking of the Bread

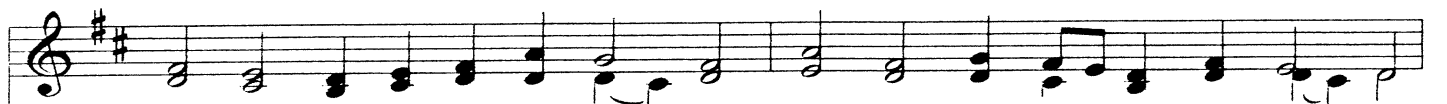
God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks and Celebration:

(Sung as a representative of each family comes forward to receive their bread and wine)

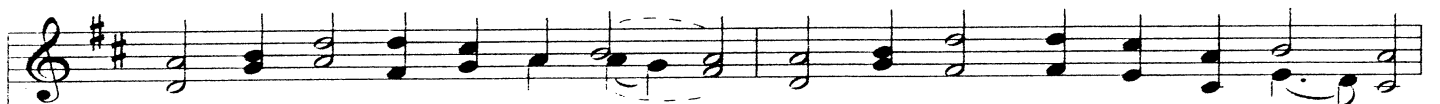
Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness



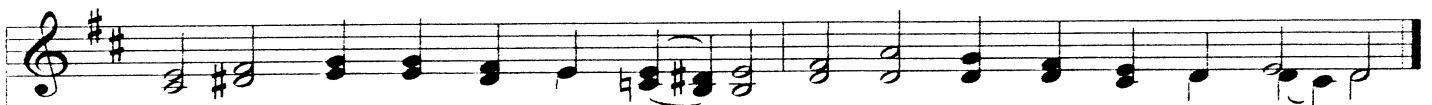
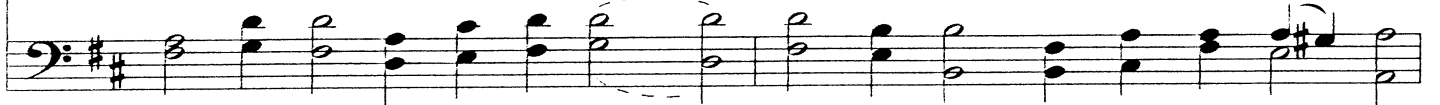
5. In my heart I find as-cend - ing Ho - ly awe, with rap - ture blend - ing,
6. Je - sus, Sun of Life, my Splen - dor, Je - sus, Thou my Friend most ten - der,
7. Lord, by love and mer - cy driv - en, Thou hast left Thy throne in heav - en,
8. Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray Thee, Let me glad - ly here o - bey Thee.



As this mys - te - ry I pon - der, Fill - ing all my soul with won - der,
Je - sus, Joy of my de - sir - ing, Fount of Life, my soul in - spir - ing,
On the cross for me to lan - guish And to die in bit - ter an - guish,
By Thy love I am in - vit - ed, Be Thy love with love re - quit - ed;



Bear - ing wit - ness at this hour Of the great - ness of God's pow - er;
At Thy feet I cry, my Mak - er, Let me be a fit par - tak - er
To for - go all joy and glad - ness And to shed Thy blood in sad - ness.
From this Sup - per let me meas - ure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treas - ure.



Far be - yond all hu - man tell - ing Is the pow'r with - in Him dwell - ing.
Of this bless - ed food from heav - en, For our good, Thy glo - ry, giv - en.
By this blood re - deem - ed and liv - ing, Lord, I praise Thee with thanks - giv - ing.
Through the gifts Thou here dost give me As Thy guest in heav'n re - ceive me.



Feasting At The Lord's Table: A simple act of obedience on the 1st day of a new Week

Partaking of the bread together -- Giving Thanks -- Partaking of the Wine

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26

Commissioning: Where God Sends Out His People

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:11-16

God's People Respond With Singing: 2 pages

LORD, God of Vengeance, Our Defender

From Psalm 94

Jamie Soles, 2018

Walter van der Kamp & William Helder

1. LORD, God of ven - geance, our de - fend - er, in right - eous -
2. You fools who lack all com - pre - hen - sion, mark these my
3. God will not leave His own for - sak - en; His love is

ness your judg - ment ren - der! Rise up, O Judge of all the
words and pay at - ten - tion. When will you sense - less ones be
stead - fast, nev - er shak - en. His peo - ple He a - gain will

earth; Re - veal Your just - ice and shine forth! Give to the
wise? Does He who fash - ioned ears and eyes Not have the
bless With judg - ment based on right - eous - ness, And all who

proud their just re - ward. How long must we still wait, O
pow'r to see and hear? Is He not one whom you should
have an up - right heart Will give His just - ice their sup -

LORD? How long yet will the e - vil - do - er ex - ult and
fear? Does He who dis - cip - lines the na - tions not see your
port. Who will, when wick - ed men at - tack me, be on my
4. O LORD, can wick - ed rul - ers ev - er serve You as

rev - el in his pow - er? Hear how the wick - ed boast a -
sins and prov - o - ca - tions? Does He who teach - es all man -
side, stand up and back me? Who will de - fend me in the
al - lies, gain Your fav - or? They frame their mis - chief by de -

LORD God of Vengeance, Our Defender, Psalm 94

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loud; Of all their mis - deeds they are proud. They crush Your
kind Not probe the depths of ev - ery mind? The LORD well
strife When foes con - spire to seek my life? With - out God's
cree And make of laws a mock - er - y. They band to -



peo - ple in their rage, And they op - press Your her - i -
knows that in the end, Your thoughts are but a puff of
help I soon would have my dwell - ing in the si - lent
geth - er and con - sent to put to death the in - no -



tage. When will you come as our a - veng - er? They slay the
wind. Blest is the man by You in - struct - ed and by your
grave. When I cried out, "My foot is slip - ping," You were at
cent. The LORD is my de - fense and shel - ter, my God the



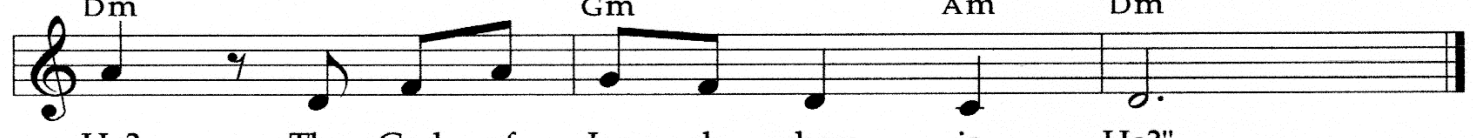
wid - ow and the strang - er and put to death the fath - er -
dis - cip - line cor - rect - ed: the one to whom You teach Your
hand for my safe - keep - ing, and in my great anx - i - e -
Rock that will not fal - ter. Our en - e - mies He will re -



less; The poor and help - less they op - press. They say, "The
ways To grant re - lief in troub - led days, Till for the
ty Your stead - fast love sup - port - ed me. When - ev - er
quite For what was wick - ed in His sight. All e - vil -



LORD, He does not see. The God of Jac - ob, where is
wick - ed, one and all, A pit is dug in which they
I on You would call, Your con - so - la - tion cheered my
do - ers He will rout; The LORD our God will wipe them



He? The God of Jac - ob, where is He?"
fall. A pit is dug in which they fall.
soul. Your con - so - la - tion cheered my soul.
out. The LORD our God will wipe them out.

God Blesses His People – The Benediction:

[congregation standing]

*Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them,
and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. Leviticus 9:22*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.” Jude 24,25, 2 Corinthians 13:14

God’s People Depart to Serve the Risen & Reigning Savior by Singing:

Simeon’s Prayer & the Gloria Patri

Lord, now let- test Thou Thy ser- vant de- part in peace, ac- cord- ing to Thy Word:

For mine eyes have seen Thy sal-va- tion, Which Thou hast pre- pared be- fore the face of all peo-ple;

A light to ligh- ten the Gen- tiles, and the glo- ry of Thy peo- ple is - ra- el.

With Lifted Hands: Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

The Heidelberg Catechism – Lord’s Day 23

59. What does it help you now, that you believe all this? **That I am righteous in Christ before God,**
and an heir of eternal life.[1] [1] Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Jn. 3:36; *Tit. 3:7; *Rom. 5:1; *Rom. 8:16.

60. How are you righteous before God? **Only by true faith in Jesus Christ:[1] that is, although my conscience accuses me, that I have grievously sinned against all the commandments of God, and have never kept any of them,[2] and am still prone always to all evil;[3] yet God, without any merit of mine,[4] of mere grace,[5] grants and imputes to me the perfect satisfaction,[6] righteousness, and holiness of Christ,[7] as if I had never committed nor had any sins, and had myself accomplished all the obedience which Christ has fulfilled for me;[8] if only I accept such benefit with a believing heart.[9]**
[1] Rom. 3:21–25; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8–9; Phil. 3:9. [2] Rom. 3:9–10. [3] Rom. 7:23. [4] Tit. 3:5. [5] Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8.
[6] 1 Jn. 2:2. [7] 1 Jn. 2:1; Rom. 4:4–5; 2 Cor. 5:19. [8] 2 Cor. 5:21. [9] Jn. 3:18; *Rom. 3:28; *Rom. 10:10.

61. Why do you say that you are righteous by faith only?
Not that I am acceptable to God on account of the worthiness of my faith, but because only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ is my righteousness before God;[1] and I can receive the same and make it my own in no other way than by faith only.[2] [1] 1 Cor. 1:30; 2:2. [2] 1 Jn. 5:10. *Isa. 53:5; *Gal. 3:22; *Rom. 4:16.

J. C. Ryle, Expository Thoughts on John, vol. 1 (New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1879), 2–4.

John 1:1-5: No doubt there are heights and depths in [these five verses] which are far beyond man's understanding. And yet there are plain lessons in it, which every Christian would do well to treasure up in his mind.

1. We learn, firstly, that our Lord Jesus Christ is eternal. St. John tells us that "in the beginning was the Word." He did not begin to exist when the heavens and the earth were made. Much less did He begin to exist when the Gospel was brought into the world. He had glory with the Father "before the world was." (John 17:5.) He was existing when matter was first created, and before time began. He was "before all things." (Col. 1:17.) He was from all eternity.

2. We learn, secondly, that our Lord Jesus Christ is a Person distinct from God the Father, and yet one with Him. St. John tells us that "the Word was with God." The Father and the Word, though two persons, are joined by an ineffable union. Where God the Father was from all eternity, there also was the Word, even God the Son,—their glory equal, their majesty co-eternal, and yet their Godhead one. This is a great mystery! Happy is he who can receive it as a little child, without attempting to explain it.

3. We learn, thirdly, that the Lord Jesus Christ is very God. St. John tells us that "the Word was God." He is not merely a created angel, or a being inferior to God the Father, and invested by Him with power to redeem sinners. He is nothing less than perfect God,—equal to the Father as touching His Godhead,—God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds.

4. We learn, fourthly, that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things. St. John tells us that "by Him were all things made, and without Him was not any thing made that was made." So far from being a creature of God, as some heretics have falsely asserted, He is the Being who made the worlds and all that they contain. "He commanded and they were created." (Psalm 40:8.)

5. We learn, lastly, that the Lord Jesus Christ is the source of all spiritual life and light. St. John tells us, that "in Him was life, and the life was the light of men." He is the eternal fountain, from which alone the sons of men have ever derived life. Whatever spiritual life and light Adam and Eve possessed before the fall, was from Christ. Whatever deliverance from sin and spiritual death any child of Adam has ever enjoyed since the fall, whatever light of conscience or understanding any one has obtained, all has flowed from Christ. The vast majority of mankind in every age have refused to know Him, have forgotten the fall, and their own need of a Saviour. The light has been constantly shining "in darkness." The most have "not comprehended the light." But if any men and women out of the countless millions of mankind have ever had spiritual life and light, they have owed all to Christ.

Such is a brief summary of the leading lessons which these wonderful verses appear to contain. There is much in them, without controversy, which is above our reason; but there is nothing contrary to it. There is much that we cannot explain, and must be content humbly to believe. Let us however never forget that there are plain practical consequences flowing from the passage, which we can never grasp too firmly, or know too well.