

Lord's Day Service



*At Church of the King on October 4th, 2026
The 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time*

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

Hear Today's Call to Worship From God's Word

"Oh come, let us sing to Jehovah! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For Jehovah is the great God, And the great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before Jehovah our Maker"
Psalm 95:1-7

God's People Respond with a Hymn of Adoration: (Based on Psalm 145:10)

O worship the King all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and His love.
Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

The earth with its store of wonders untold
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Salutation and Response: [based on Matthew 28:19, Ruth 2:4 and Psalm 103:13]

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

Amen!

Jehovah be with you!

And also with you!

As a father has compassion on his children,

So Jehovah has compassion on those who fear Him

Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us In Christ

The Call for Confession from God's Word:

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your loving kindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight-- That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."

Psalm 51:1-5

God's People Sing our Hymn of Confession:

[congregation standing]

As the Hart, About to Falter

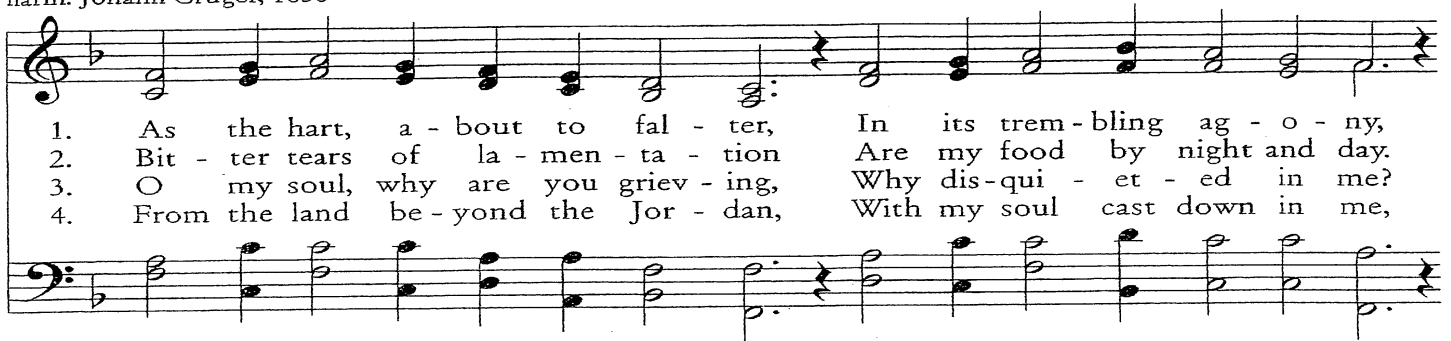
Psalm 42:1-7

AINSI QU'ON OIT LE CERF BRUIRE (8 7. 8 7. 7 7. 8 8)

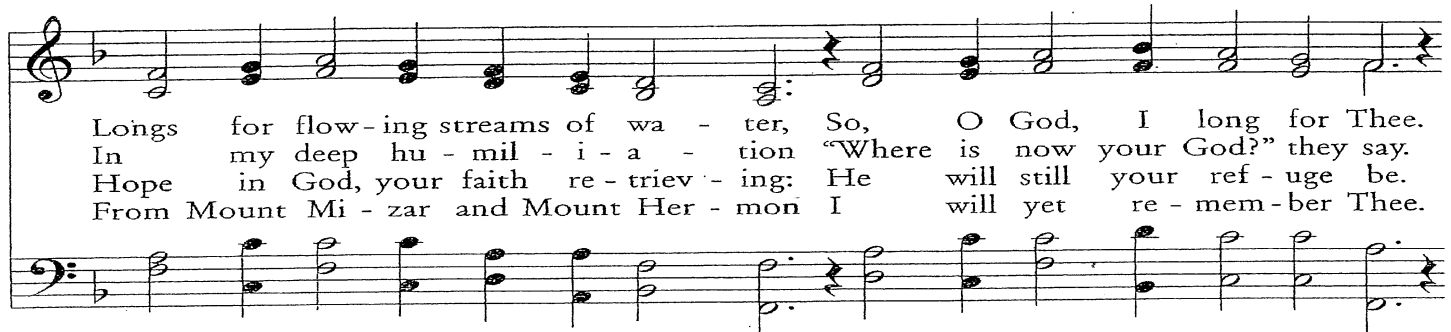
Dewey Westra, 1931; rev.

Genevan Psalter, 1551

harm. Johann Crüger, 1658



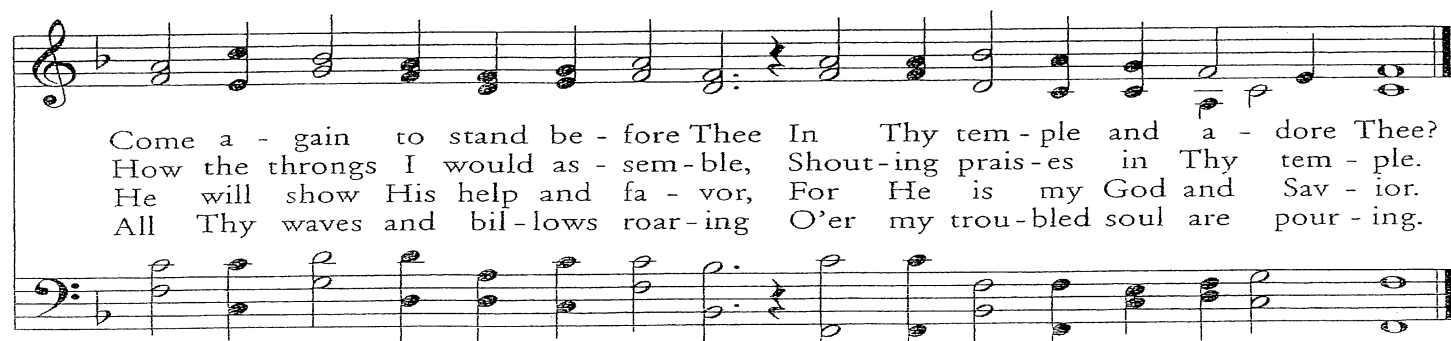
1. As the hart, a - bout to fal - ter, In its trem - bling ag - o - ny,
2. Bit - ter tears of la - men - ta - tion Are my food by night and day.
3. O my soul, why are you griev - ing, Why dis - qui - et - ed in me?
4. From the land be - yond the Jor - dan, With my soul cast down in me,



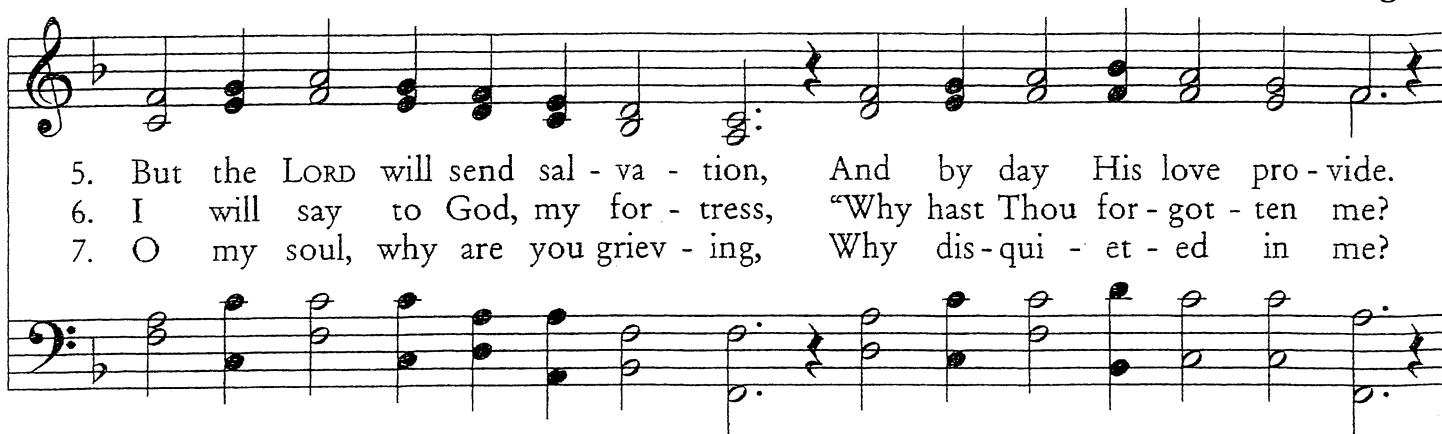
Longs for flow - ing streams of wa - ter, So, O God, I long for Thee.
In my deep hu - mil - i - a - tion "Where is now your God?" they say.
Hope in God, your faith re - triev - ing: He will still your ref - uge be.
From Mount Mi - zar and Mount Her - mon I will yet re - mem - ber Thee.



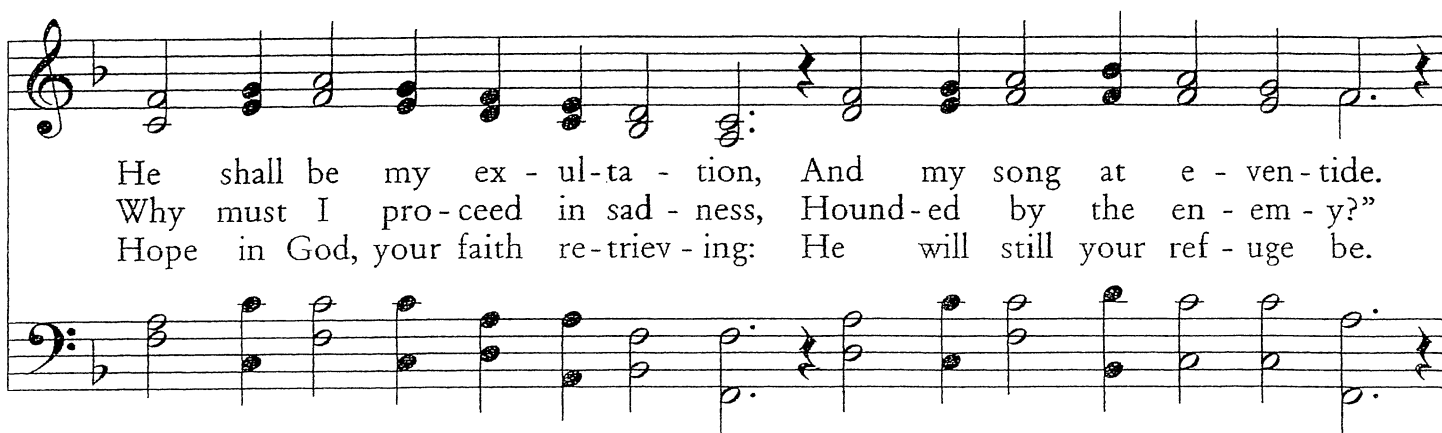
Yes, a - thirst for Thee I cry; God of life, O when shall I
Oh, my soul's poured out in me, When I bring to mem - o - ry
I a - gain shall laud His grace For the com - fort of His face:
As the wa - ters plunge and leap, Deep re - ech - oes un - to deep;



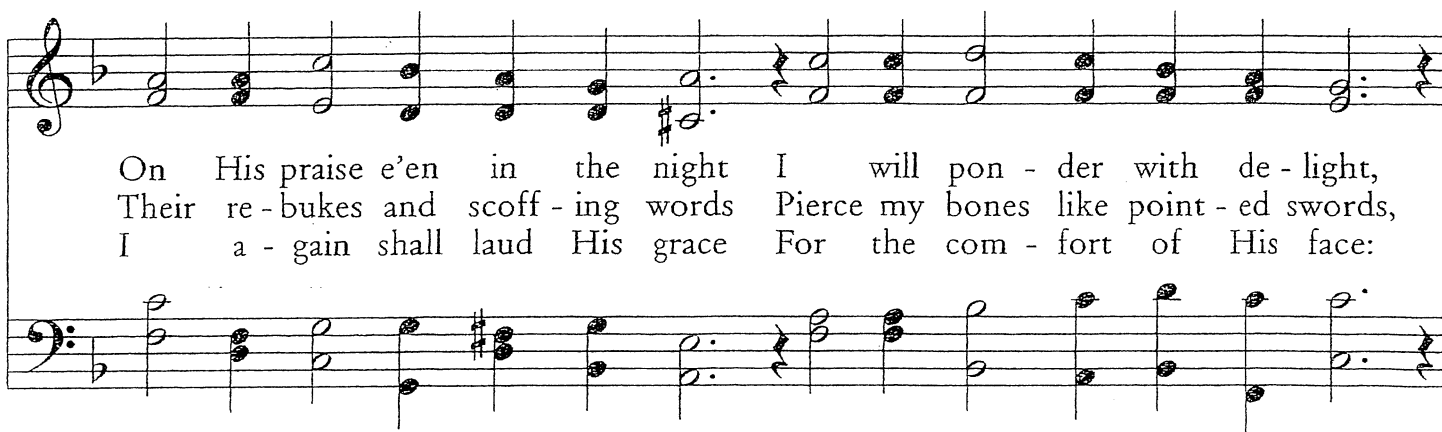
Come a - gain to stand be - fore Thee In Thy tem - ple and a - dore Thee?
How the throngs I would as - sem - ble, Shout - ing prais - es in Thy tem - ple.
He will show His help and fa - vor, For He is my God and Sav - ior.
All Thy waves and bil - lows roar - ing O'er my trou - bled soul are pour - ing.



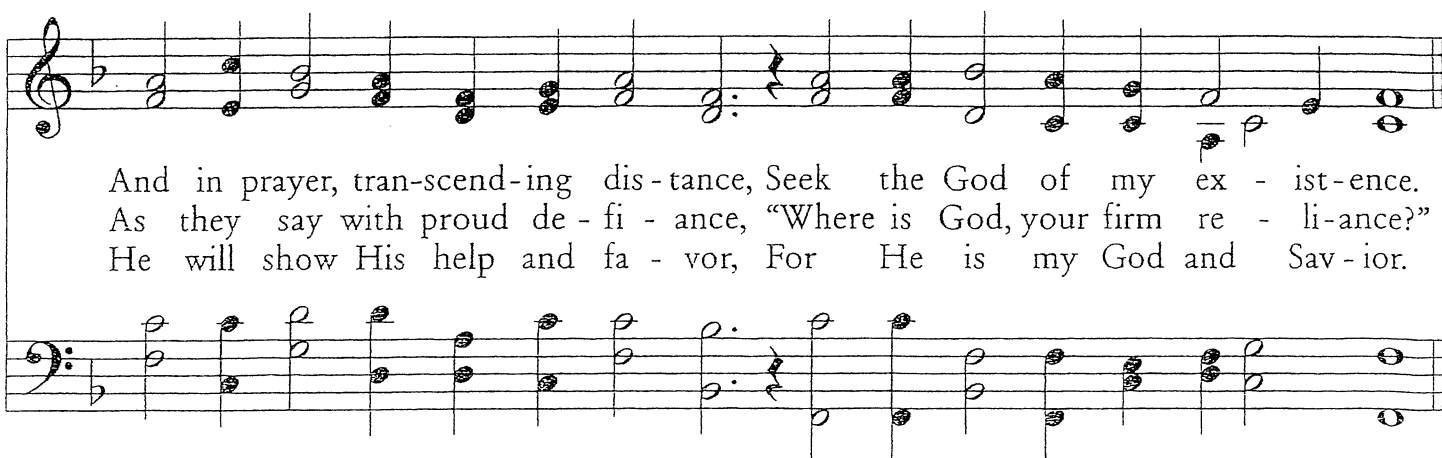
5. But the LORD will send sal - va - tion, And by day His love pro - vide.
 6. I will say to God, my for - tress, "Why hast Thou for - got - ten me?
 7. O my soul, why are you griev - ing, Why dis - qui - et - ed in me?



He shall be my ex - ul - ta - tion, And my song at e - ven - tide.
 Why must I pro - ceed in sad - ness, Hound - ed by the en - em - y?"
 Hope in God, your faith re - triev - ing: He will still your ref - uge be.



On His praise e'en in the night I will pon - der with de - light,
 Their re - bukes and scoff - ing words Pierce my bones like point - ed swords,
 I a - gain shall laud His grace For the com - fort of His face:



And in prayer, tran - scend - ing dis - tance, Seek the God of my ex - ist - ence.
 As they say with proud de - fi - ance, "Where is God, your firm re - li - ance?"
 He will show His help and fa - vor, For He is my God and Sav - ior.

Silent Confession: *"When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin." Psalm 32:3-5*

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

Corporate Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God our heavenly Father. You are completely holy and just in all Your ways. In Your love You have given us every good gift, most of all the Gift of your Son Jesus. Yet we are often unthankful, and fail to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In the same way, we take one another for granted, we become unthankful for the people you have lovingly brought into our lives, and we grumble and dispute, thus failing to love one another as we ought. Forgive us our sins, we beseech You, and cleanse us, for the sake of Jesus whom You sent to be our Savior and Lord. Make us a thankful people, now and throughout our lives. We ask this through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN!

Assurance of Pardon and Forgiveness : Psalm 51:7-12

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit."

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ: 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. The Bible declares we are now **in Christ** and **in Him** we are in the heavenly places, in the very midst of the blessed Trinity, along with the holy angels and Saints from all the ages, from every tongue, tribe and nation prepared to worship in the beauty of holiness. **Come, let us worship the Lord!**



Lift up your hearts!



Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!



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:

Now Shall My Inward Joys Arise

AFRICA (C.M.)
William Billings, 1778

Isaac Watts, 1707

1. Now shall my in - ward joys a - rise,
2. God on His thirs - ty Zi - on hills,
3. Why do we then in - dulge our fears,
4. Can a kind wo - man e'er for - get
5. "Yet," saith the LORD, "Should na - ture change
6. "Deep on the palms of both My hands

(Melody)

And burst in - to a song
Some mer - cy drops has thrown,
Su - spi - cions and of plaints?
The in - fant and of womb,
And mo - thers mon - prove,
I have en - grav'd Her name;

Al - migh - ty love in - spires my heart,
And sol - emn oaths have bound His love
Is He a God, shall His grace
A - mong a thou - sand ten - der thoughts
Zi - on still dwells up - on the Heart,
My hands shall raise Her ru - in'd walls,

And plea - sure - tunes my tongue.
To show'r Sal - va - tion down.
Grow wear - y of His saints?
Her suck - ling have no room?
Of Ev - er - last - ing Love."
And build Her bro - ken frame."

Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People

...that He [God] would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD: 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

[15:1] Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

And that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me. Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty.

Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.

Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.

For “*He has put all things under His feet.*” But when He says “all things are put under *Him*,” *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

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

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. A - maz - ing love! How
 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

“Adding Samaria to the Bride, Pt. 1”

From **Pastor Paul Liberati**

Based on **John 4:1-10**

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), ³ He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. ⁴ But He needed to go through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹ Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

Notes:

God Receives Our Tithes and Gifts as a Tribute Offering: [read in unison]
“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.” Genesis 14:18-20

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings:

With the singing of Psalm 100:1-3, & the Doxology

Words composed by William Kethe, 1561

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1: All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice. | 2: Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take. |
| 5: 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: Damell Kendrick

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

**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, 61, and 70. The music features various note values, rests, and dynamic markings. 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 third 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 ev-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 third 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 ev-er-last-ing. A-men.

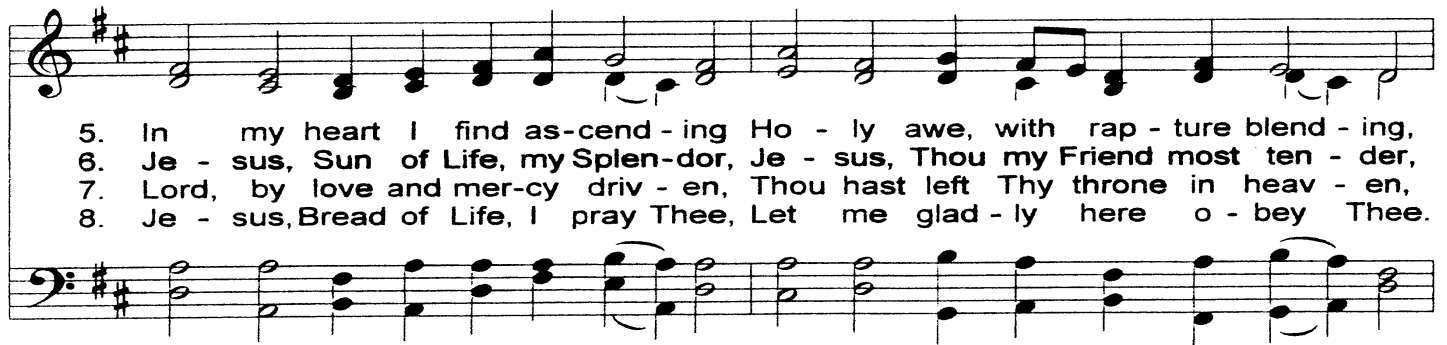
THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE: (Peace Offering, Gift of Life)

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

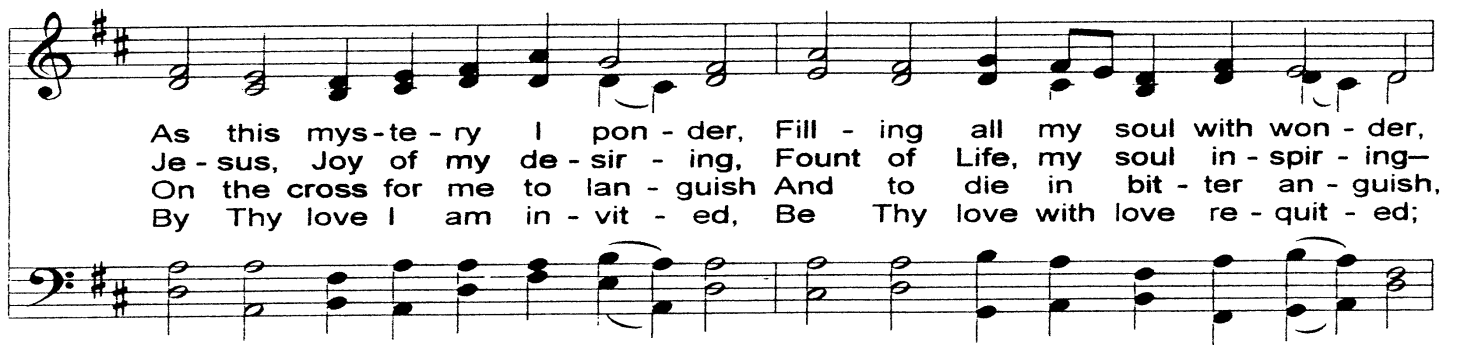
God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks and Celebration:

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

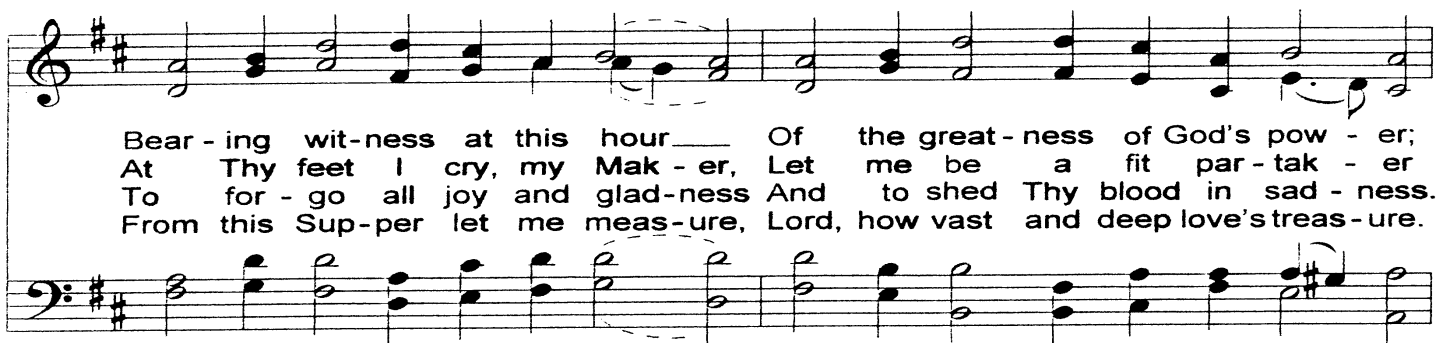
Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness



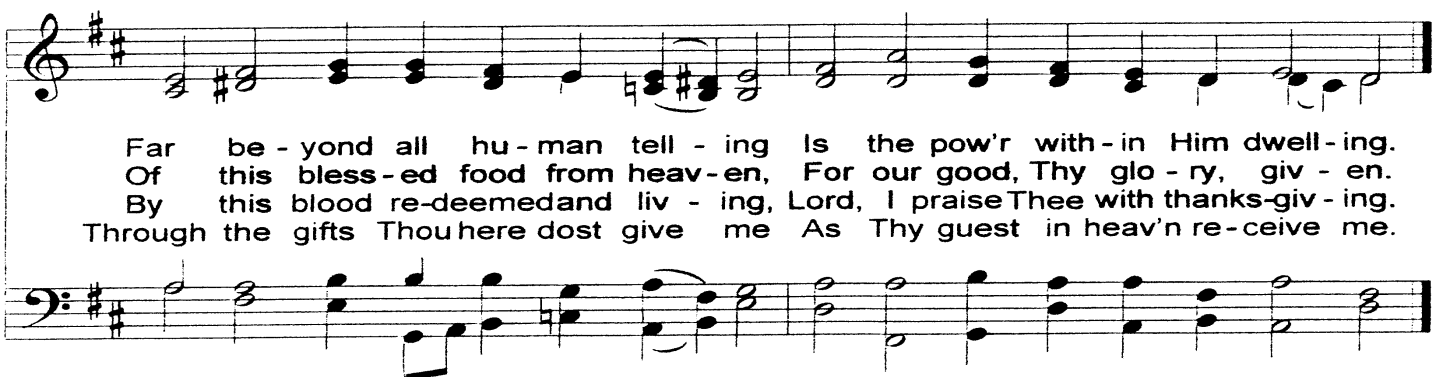
5. In my heart I find as-cend - ing Ho - ly awe, with rap - ture blend - ing,
6. Je - sus, Sun of Life, my Splen - dor, Je - sus, Thou my Friend most ten - der,
7. Lord, by love and mer - cy driv - en, Thou hast left Thy throne in heav - en,
8. Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray Thee, Let me glad - ly here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

"When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen".

[Matthew 28:17-20]

God's People Sing a Hymn of Commissioning:

O God of Earth and Altar

KINGS LYNN (7 6. 7 6. D.)

Traditional English melody

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Gilbert Keith Chesterton, 1906

1. O God of earth and al - tar, Bow down and hear our cry,
2. From all that ter - ror teach - es, From lies of tongue and pen,
3. Tie in a liv - ing teth - er, The prince and priest and thrall;

Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter, Our peo - ple drift and die;
From all the eas - y speech - es That com - fort cru - el men;
Bind all our lives to - geth - er, Smite us and save us all;

The walls of gold en - tomb us, The swords of scorn di - vide;
From sale and prof - a - na - tion Of hon - or and the sword;
In ire and ex - ul - ta - tion A - flame with faith, and free,

Take not Thy thun - der from us, But take a - way our pride.
From sleep and from dam - na - tion, De - liv - er us, good Lord!
Lift up a liv - ing na - tion, A sin - gle sword to Thee.

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.” 2 Corinthians 13:14

The Response to God’s Commission – Simeon’s Prayer & the Gloria Patri

Lord, now let-est 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 40

105. What does God require in the sixth commandment?

That I

do not revile, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor either in thought, word, or gesture, much less in deed, whether by myself or by another,[1] but lay aside all desire of revenge;[2] moreover, that I do not harm myself, nor willfully run into any danger.[3] Wherefore also to restrain murder the magistrate is armed with the sword.[4]

[1] Matt.

5:21–22; 26:52; Gen. 9:6. [2] Eph. 4:26; Rom. 1:19; Matt. 5:25; 18:35. [3] Matt. 4:7; Rom. 13:14; Col. 2:23

[4] Ex. 21:14;

*Matt. 18:6–7.

106. Does this commandment speak only of killing?

No,

but in forbidding murder God teaches us that He abhors its very root, namely, envy,[1] hatred,[2] anger,[3] and desire of revenge; and that in His sight all these are hidden murder.[4]

[1] Rom. 1:28–32. [2] 1 Jn. 2:9–11.

[3] Jas.

2:13; Gal. 5:19–21. [4] 1 Jn. 3:15 *Jas. 3:16; *1:19.

107. But is this all that is required: that we do not kill our neighbor?

No,

for in condemning envy, hatred, and anger, God requires us to love our neighbor as ourselves,[1] to show patience, peace, meekness,[2] mercy,[3] and kindness [4] toward him, and to prevent his hurt as much as possible;[5] also, to do good even unto our enemies.[6]

[1] Matt. 7:12; 22:39. [2] Eph. 4:2; Gal. 6:1–2; Rom. 12:18. [3] Matt. 5:7; Lk.

6:36. [4] Rom. 12:10. [5] Ex. 23:5. [6] Matt. 5:44–45; Rom. 12:20–21; *Col. 3:12–14; *Matt. 5:9.

The Heidelberg Catechism – Questions 1–12

1. What is your only comfort in life and in death? **That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,[1] am not my own,[2] but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,[3] who with His precious blood [4] has fully satisfied for all my sins,[5] and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;[6] and so preserves me [7] that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head;[8] indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.[9] Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,[10] and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live unto Him.[11]**[1] Rom. 14:7–8. [2] 1Cor. 6:19. [3] 1Cor. 3:23. [4] 1Pet. 1:18–19. [5] 1Jn. 1:7; 2:2. [6] 1Jn. 3:8. [7] Jn. 6:39. [8] Matt. 10:29–30; Lk. 21:18. [9] Rom. 8:28. [10] 2Cor. 1:21–22; Eph. 1:13–14; Rom. 8:16. [11] Rom. 8:1
2. How many things are necessary for you to know, that in this comfort you may live and die happily? **Three things:[1] First, the greatness of my sin and misery.[2] Second, how I am redeemed from all my sins and misery.[3] Third, how I am to be thankful to God for such redemption.[4]** [1] Lk. 24:46–47; 1 Cor. 6:11; Tit. 3:3–7. [2] Jn. 9:41; 15:22. [3] Jn. 17:3. [4] Eph. 5:8–11; 1 Pet. 2:9–12; Rom. 6:11–14; *Rom. 7:24–25; *Gal. 3:13; *Col. 3:17.
3. From where do you know your misery? **From the Law of God.[1]** [1] Rom. 3:20; *Rom. 7:7.
4. What does the Law of God require of us? **Christ teaches us in sum, Matthew 22, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”[1]** [1] Matt. 22:37–40; Lk. 10:27. *Deut. 6:5. *Gal. 5:14.
5. Can you keep all this perfectly? **No,[1] for I am prone by nature to hate God and my neighbor.[2]** [1] Rom. 3:10–12, 23; 1 Jn. 1:8, 10. [2] Rom. 8:7; Eph. 2:3.
6. Did God create man thus, wicked and perverse? **No,[1] but God created man good and after His own image,[2] that is, in righteousness and true holiness, that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love Him, and live with Him in eternal blessedness, to praise and glorify Him.[3]** [1] Gen. 1:31. [2] Gen. 1:26–27. [3] 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24.
7. From where, then, does this depraved nature of man come? **From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise,[1] whereby our nature became so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin.[2]** [1] Gen. 3 (The whole chapter). Rom. 5:12, 18–19. [2] Ps. 51:5; *Ps. 14:2–3.
8. But are we so depraved that we are completely incapable of any good and prone to all evil? **Yes,[1] unless we are born again by the Spirit of God.[2]** [1] Jn. 3:6; Gen. 6:5; Job 14:4; Isa. 53:6. [2] Jn. 3:5; *Gen. 8:21; *2 Cor. 3:5; *Rom. 7:18; *Jer. 17:9.
9. Does not God, then, do injustice to man by requiring of him in His Law that which he cannot perform? **No, for God so made man that he could perform it;[1] but man, through the instigation of the devil, by willful disobedience deprived himself and all his descendants of those divine gifts.[2]** [1] Eph. 4:24. [2] Rom. 5:12.
10. Will God allow such disobedience and apostasy to go unpunished? **Certainly not,[1] but He is terribly displeased with our inborn as well as our actual sins, and will punish them in just judgment in time and eternity, as He has declared, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”[2]** [1] Heb. 9:27. [2] Deut. 27:26; Gal. 3:10; *Rom. 1:18; *Matt. 25:41.
11. But is not God also merciful? **God is indeed merciful,[1] but He is likewise just;[2] His justice therefore requires that sin which is committed against the most high majesty of God, be punished with extreme, that is, with everlasting punishment both of body and soul.** [1] Ex. 34:6–7. [2] Ex. 20:5; Ps. 5:5–6; 2 Cor. 6:14–16; *Rev. 14:11.
12. Since, then, by the righteous judgment of God we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, how may we escape this punishment and be again received into favor? **God wills that His justice be satisfied;[1] therefore, we must make full satisfaction to that justice, either by ourselves or by another.[2]** [1] Ex. 20:5; 23:7. [2] Rom. 8:3–4.