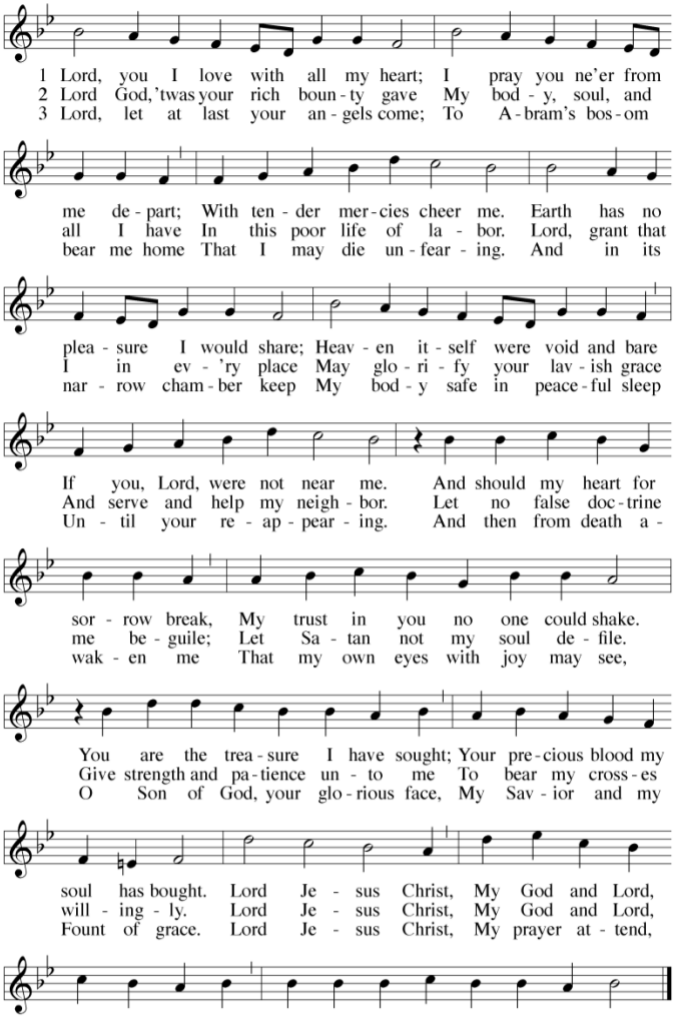
6th Sunday after Pentecost July 6 & 9, 2023

The Season After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

The Sunday This week we begin a 7 week series looking at various aspects of "The Christian." The beautiful Prayer of the Day sets the tone for the Sunday. The Church prays for the love of God that we might always love him above all things. The Verse of the Day describes this total commitment to Christ as denying ourselves and carrying our crosses. The lessons warn of the earthly ramifications of such love, but also point to the promised heavenly rewards. *The Christian loves God above all things*

Opening Hymn *Lord, You I Love with All My Heart* CW 434



Text: Martin M. Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: HERZLICH LIEB HAB ICH DICH, O HERR (887 887 88 88 488) *Zwey Bücher . . . Tabulatur*, Strassburg, 1577, alt.

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

MORRISON ZION LUTHERAN

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel to help people

Grow

in the **Gospel**

and

Go

with the **Gospel**

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

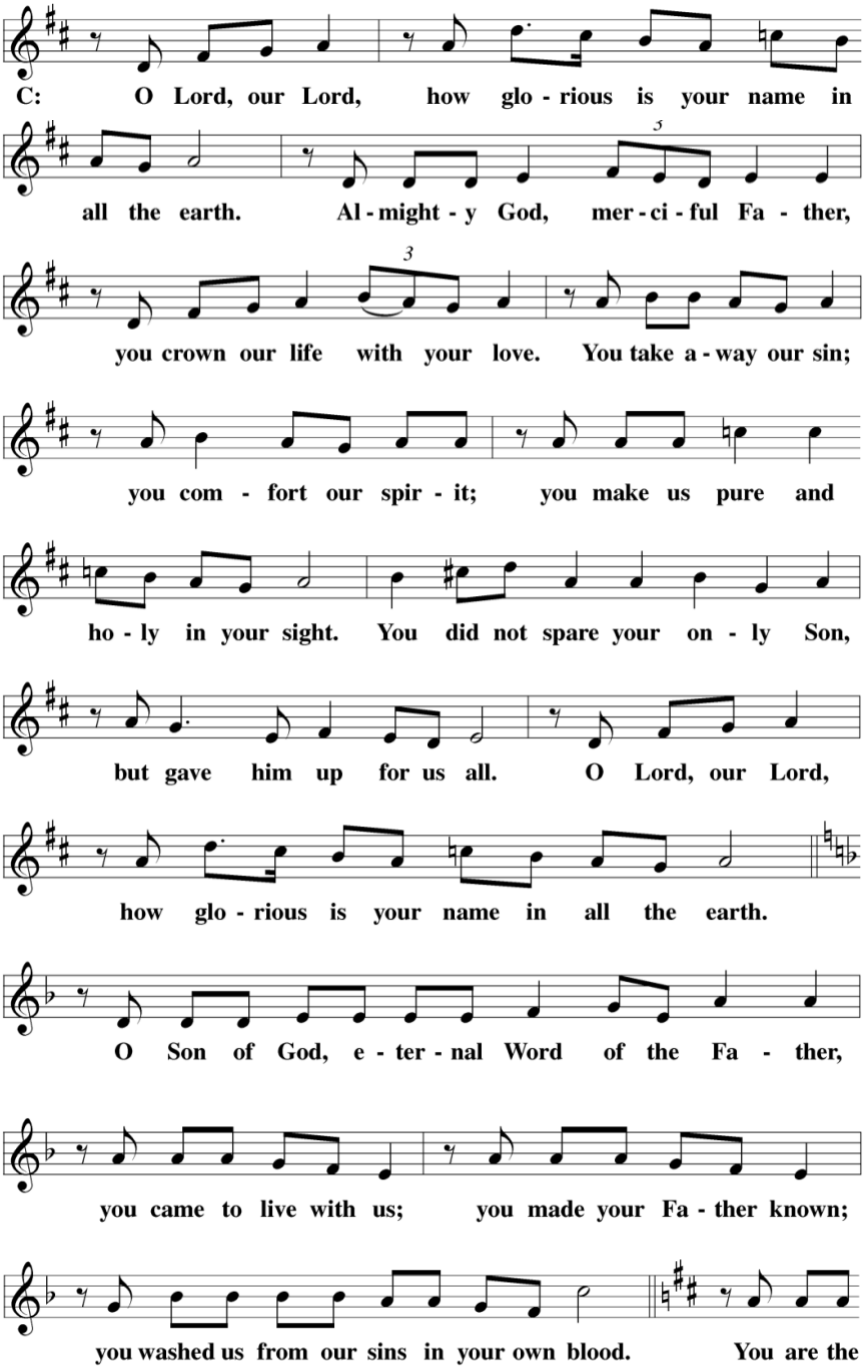
C: Lord, have mercy.

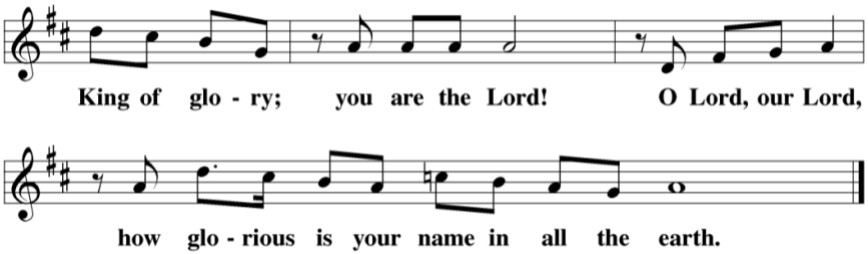
M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O Lord, Our Lord





Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.
O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson: Exodus 32:15-29

Aaron had seen God standing on the sapphire pavement. The seventy elders had partaken of a divine banquet on the mountain (Exodus 24). And only forty days later, they lost it all. Unwilling to face conflict for God, they gave in to the people who wanted to love pleasure, flesh, and idols rather than the God who brought them up out of Egypt. Aaron's feeble excuses remind us of our own shallow rationalizations for failing to love God above all things. The Levites, however, rallied to Moses' call and showed that they loved the LORD even more than they loved their brothers. Total commitment to God did not bring peace, but a sword. Yet their devotion was rewarded by God who gave them the high privilege of being his special servants.

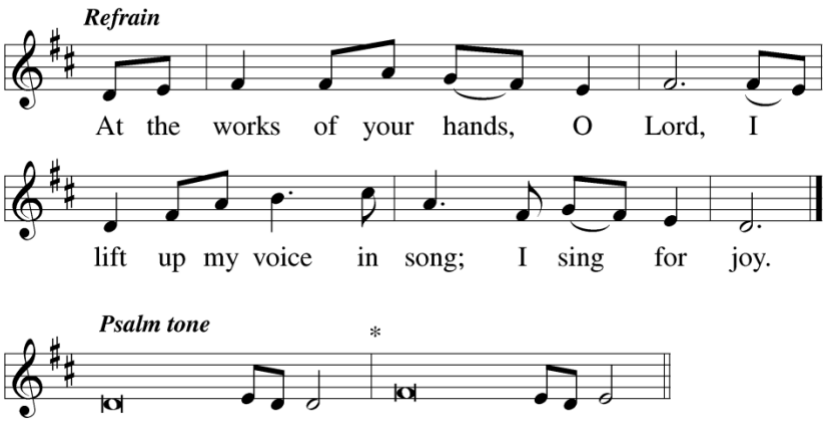
15 Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his
hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. 16 The tablets were the work of God;
the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.
17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound
of war in the camp."
18 Moses replied:
"It is not the sound of victory,
it is not the sound of defeat;
it is the sound of singing that I hear."
19 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and
he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. 20 And
he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder,
scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.
21 He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"
22 "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil.
23 They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us
up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' 24 So I told them, 'Whoever has any

gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. 26 So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.

27 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.'" 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. 29 Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day." (NIV)

Psalm of the Day — Psalm 89 CW



I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;*
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,*
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,*
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?*
You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,*
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;*
they exult in your righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Steven Warner. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson 1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or anything in the world. How easy that is to say; how difficult to do! John repeats Christ's call for total commitment. Love for the world and the love of the Father are mutually exclusive. Loving God above all things means recognizing that our cravings, our lust, and our pride come from this world which will not last. God calls the Christian to love him above all these things and receive a life that will last forever.

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the
Father's not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes,
and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires
pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Alleluia. (Mark 8:34b)

Stand

Gospel Matthew 10:34-42

Persecution reprioritizes life and sharpens faith. However, the further Christians get from the lions' roar or the martyr's stake, the easier it is for us to make our faith in Christ merely moderately important in our lives. Family, friends, work, health—these all vie for our time and attention, and our faith gets pushed further and further down the list. When life is not so bad, who needs the promises of a better life to come? How false our thoughts that faith can be only moderately important! C.S. Lewis said, "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important." In the Gospel, Christ asserts the all-important nature of faith, and the all-consuming nature of discipleship. Jesus calls us to love him above all—more than family or friends, more than personal safety or even life itself. Such total commitment to Christ will not bring peace to your life, but constant conflict with the sinful world around you. Since he did not come to bring peace, but a sword, he points the Christian to rewards in heaven, kept safe by the One who sent him.

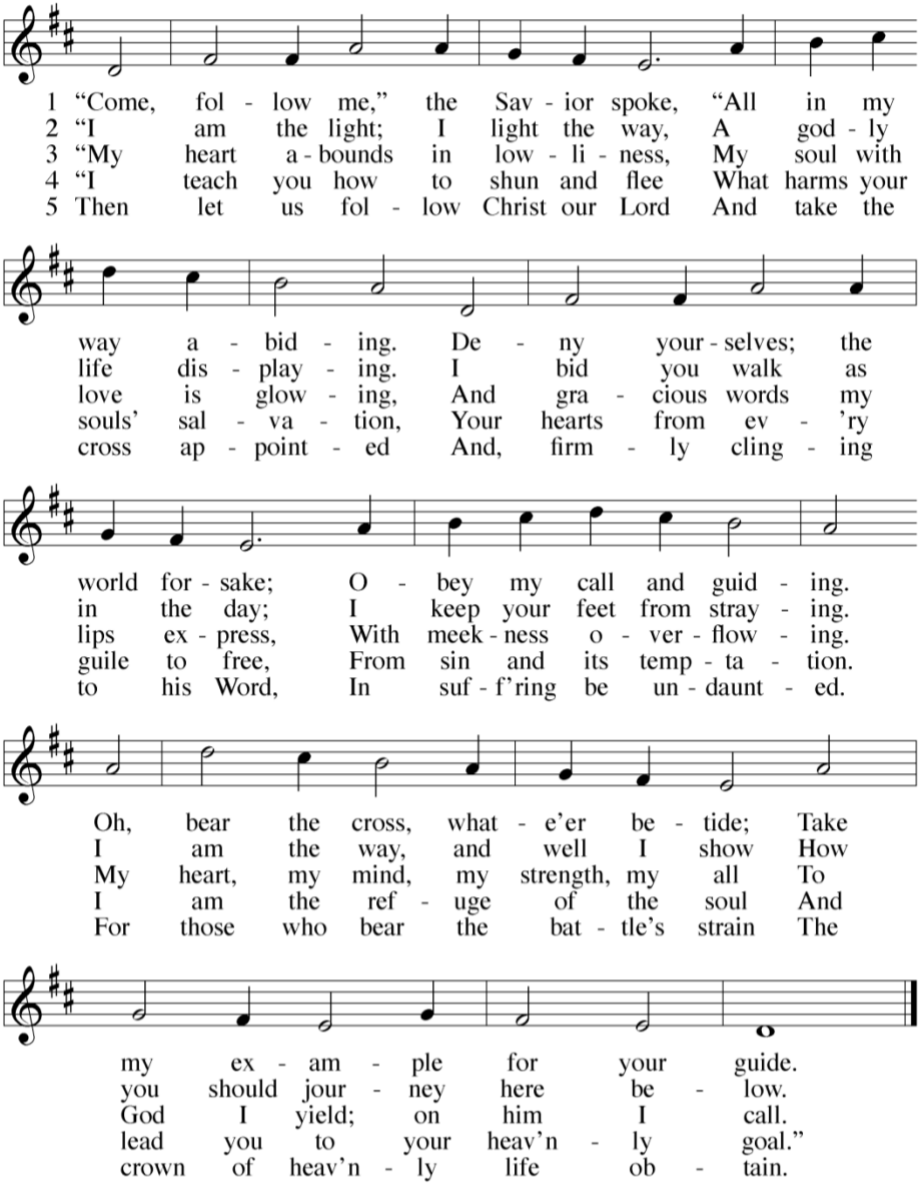
34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace,
but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn
"'a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'[Micah 7:6]
37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who
loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not take up their
cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses
their life for my sake will find it.
40 "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one
who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and
whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's
reward. 42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my
disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

Hymn *Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke* CW 453



Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–77, abr., st. 1-3, 5; *Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge*, 1695, st. 4; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96, alt.
Tune: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT (87 87 88) Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.

Sermon Do You Love and Serve the Seen or the Unseen? Exodus 32:15-29

Stand

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 worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge 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

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

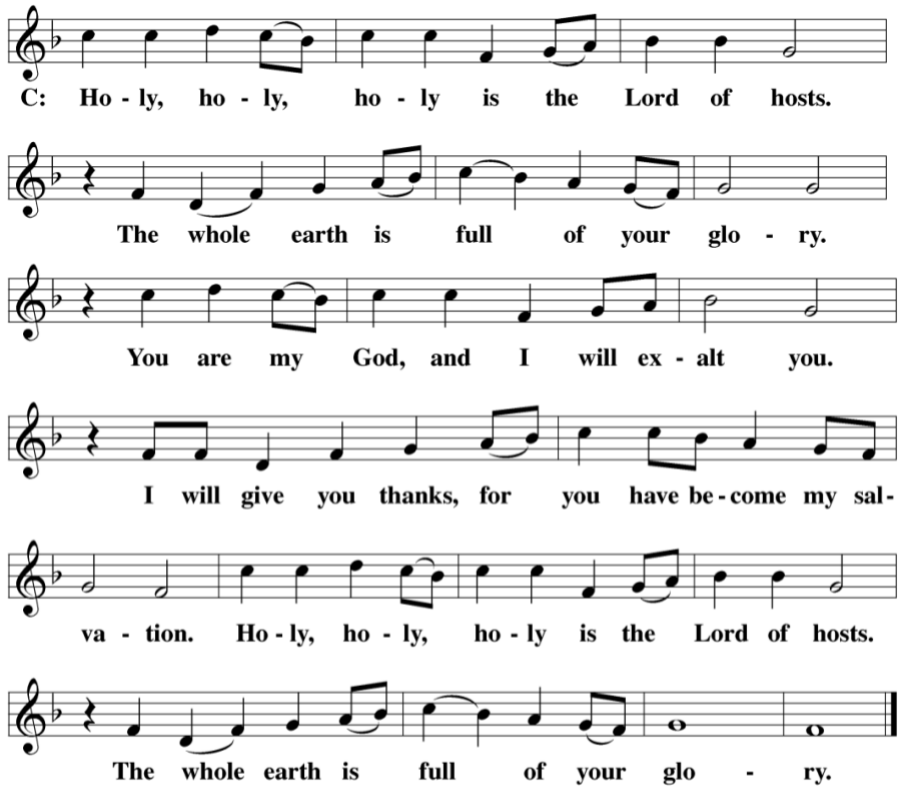
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Words of Institution

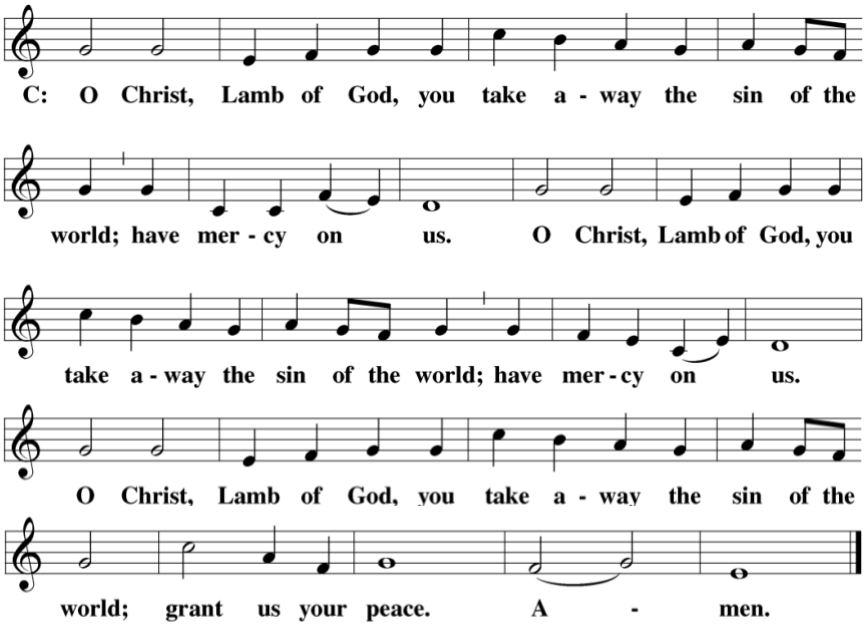
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

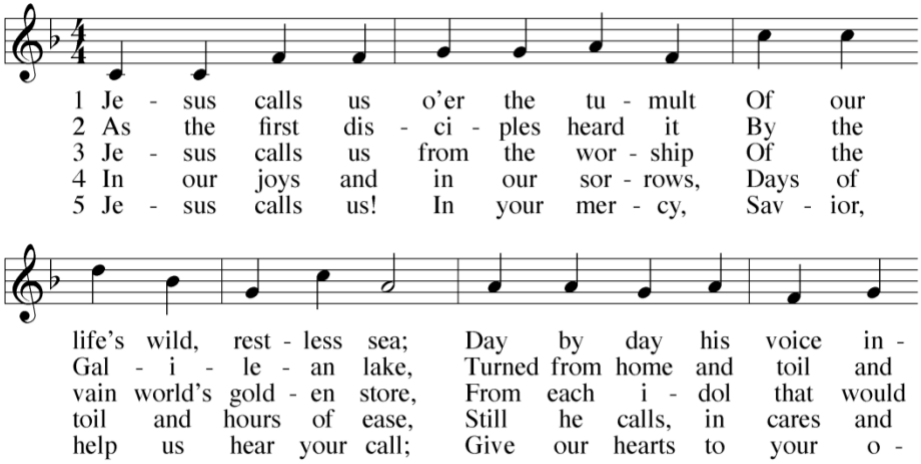


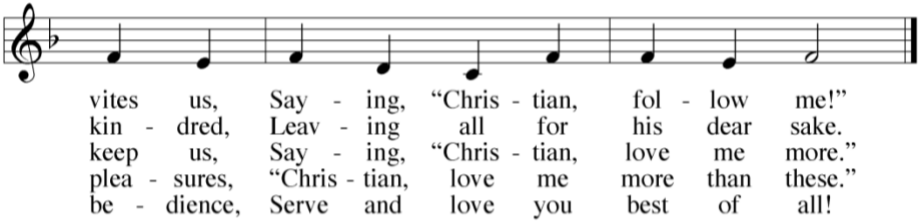
Be Seated

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor before communing. If you would like to learn more about communing with us in the future, please contact pastor.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult* CW 463

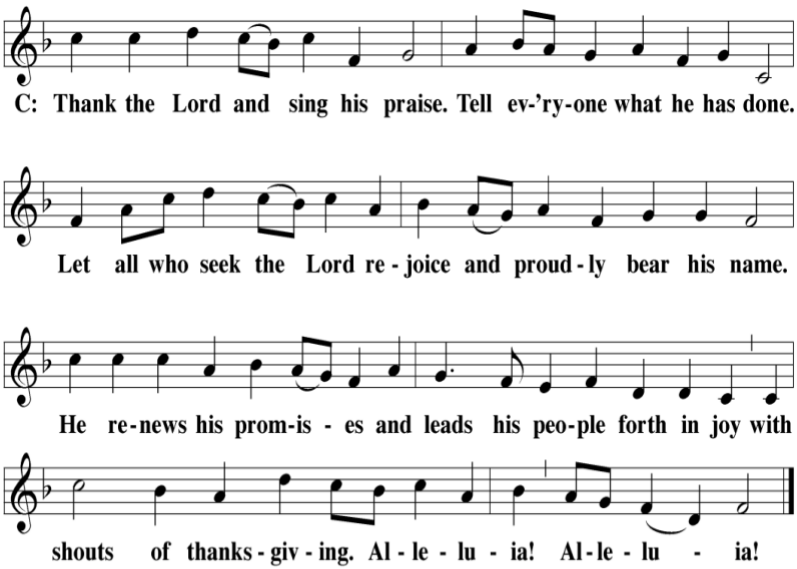




Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.
Tune: STUTTGART (87 87) Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716, alt.

Stand

Thank The Lord



M: Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

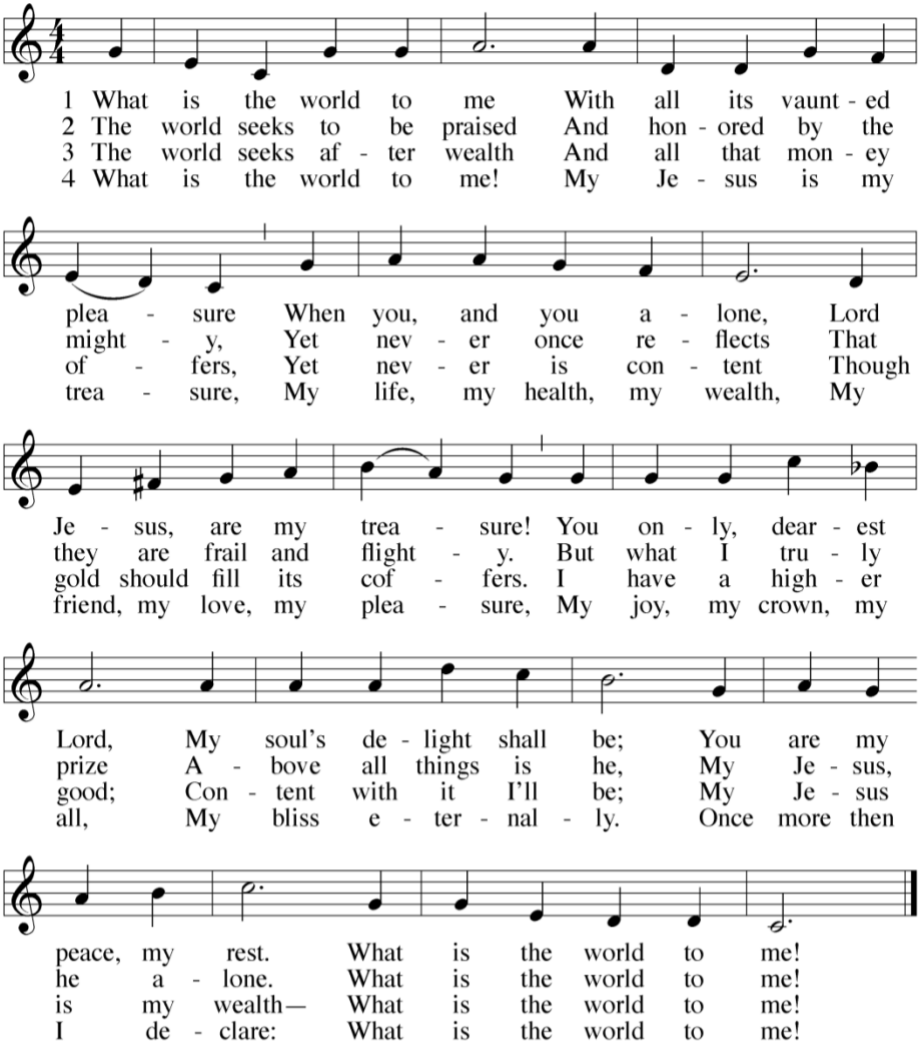
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

What Is the World to Me CW 477



Text: Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT (67 67 66 66) Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701, alt.

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