

WORSHIP FOCUS

The Church forgives as God forgives. Today God tells us to model our forgiveness on his: a boundless, free, and loving forgiveness based on the sacrifice of Christ. The Prayer of the Day asks that we might love God with undivided hearts-hearts always ready to forgive as God does: sins are forgiven, forgotten, forever.

Opening Hymn – 492*Son of God, Eternal Savior*

**Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us,
Honors all our human race,
You our head, who, throned in glory,
For your own will ever plead:
Fill us with your love and pity;
Heal our wrongs and help our need.**

**Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion;
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
By your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst for pleasure;
Stem our selfish greed for gain.**

**Bind us all as one together In your Church's sacred fold,
Weak and healthy, poor and wealthy,
Sad and joyful, young and old.
Is there want or pain or sorrow?
Make us all the burden share.
Are there spirits crushed and broken?
Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.**

**As you, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
Freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.**

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855-1932, abr., alt.

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

C: **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.**

LORD HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G minor (one flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

P: 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

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

GLORY TO GOD *Gloria in Excelsis*

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



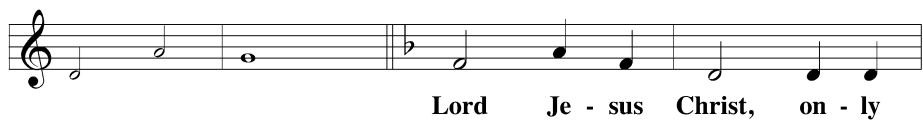
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



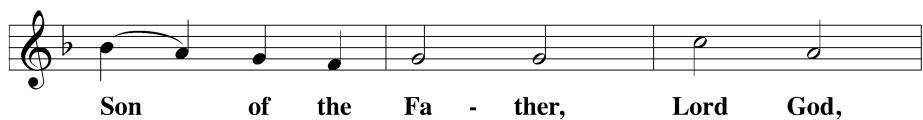
praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



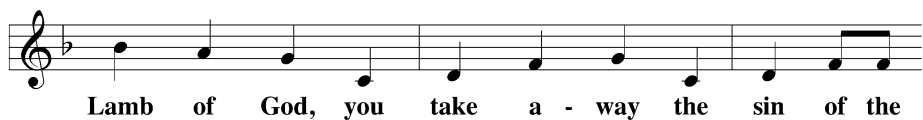
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



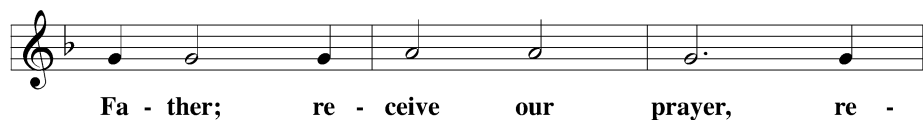
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



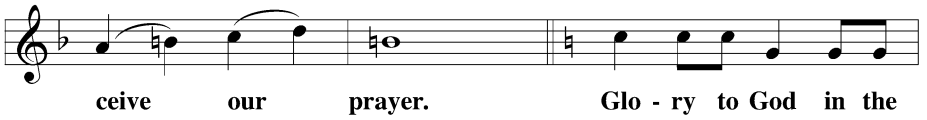
world; have mer - cy on us.



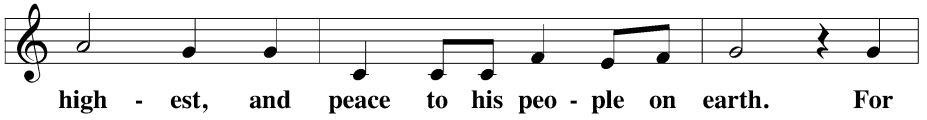
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -



ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



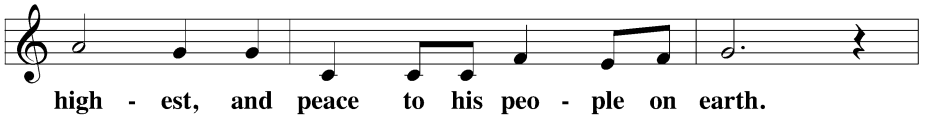
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.**
- P: Let us pray . . .

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken together*)

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Ring Praise Handbells (Sun.)

We Have Met to Worship

First Lesson

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹Now therefore do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

Hymn 238 (in place of Psalm)

Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Let all within me join

And aid my tongue to bless his name

Whose favors are divine.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul,

Nor let his mercies lie

Forgotten in unthankfulness

And without praises die.

'Tis he forgives my sins;

'Tis he relieves my pain;

'Tis he that heals my sicknesses

And makes me young again.

He fills the poor with good;
He gives the sufferers rest;
The Lord has judgments for the proud
And justice for th' oppressed.

His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world his truth and grace
By his beloved Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt.

Second Lesson

Romans 14:5-9

⁵One person values one day above another. Another person values every day the same. Let each person be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The person who honors a certain day does this for the Lord, and the person who eats does this for the Lord, because he gives thanks to God. And the person who does not eat does this for the Lord and gives thanks to God.

⁷In fact, not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself. ⁸Indeed, if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹For this reason he died, rose, and lived, to be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia. (Romans 15:4)



Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35



²¹Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?"

²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he

be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶“Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹“So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³²“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”



C Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

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

in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
 pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Prayers & 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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of 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. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*

O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

The musical score is written on seven staves of a single treble clef. The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics placed below the notes. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men. A - men." The score ends with a double bar line.

Distribution

For our Visitors: "May I receive the Lord's Supper here today?"
The Lord's Supper is a priceless medicine for the soul. We do everything we can to encourage its proper use. We also recognize from God's Word (1 Corinthians 11:23-32) that this medicine is a prescription item. Used for the wrong reasons by someone who does not understand it correctly, the Lord's Supper can actually cause spiritual harm. For that reason we,

like the corner druggist, do not dispense it over-the-counter. Out of concern for each individual's spiritual welfare, we try to ensure that communion will be properly used by all in accord with our Lord's own will. We ask that if you have not received this sacrament here before, to please refrain from communing until you have had an opportunity to talk with one of our pastors. We also offer a light color non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray for those who cannot have alcohol because of medical conditions.

Distribution Hymn – 331

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer, Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises I will ever give to thee.**

Text: William Williams, 1717-91, abr.; tr. Peter Williams, 1722-96, st. 1; William Williams, st. 2-3.

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: 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: A - men. A - men. A - - men.

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Serving Us Today:

Preacher: Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel

Organist: Nancy Perez

Handbell Director: Tina Graham