

Worship Focus

The love of God who lives in us leads to a life of obedience. Jesus' promise of another Counselor is a loaded one: the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to do what Jesus asks. This Sunday's lessons teach that love for our risen Lord means obedience to his commands. Only Jesus' promises make that possible. The Prayer of the Day sets the tone: "Put your Spirit in us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good..."

THE SERVICE for TODAY

**Service of the Word
(p. 38 in the Hymnal)**

*Personal Prayers for worship can be found on pages 10 & 11
and 134-139 in the front of the hymnal*

Opening Hymn – 235 *Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him*

Praise the Almighty; my soul, adore him!

Yes, I will laud him until death.

With songs and anthems I'll come before him

As long as he allows me breath.

From him my life and all things came;

Bless, O my soul, his holy name. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,

Pardon and peace from him obtain;

Ever the wants of the poor supplying,

Their faithful God he will remain.

He helps his children in distress,

The widows and the fatherless. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Trust not in princes, they are but mortal;

Earthborn they are and soon decay.

Vain are their counsels at life's last portal

When the dark grave will claim its prey.

Since, then, no one can help afford,

Trust only Christ, our God and Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise him solely,
With happy heart its Amen sings!
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Text: Johann D. Herrnschmidt, 1675-1723, abr.; tr. Alfred E. R. Brauer, 1866-1949, alt.

Confession of Sins **p. 38**

Prayer and Praise **p. 39**

PRAYER of the DAY (spoken together)

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Cong. Sings) Amen.

First Lesson

Genesis 4:1-16

¹The man was intimate with Eve, his wife. She conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have gotten a man with the LORD." ²She also gave birth to Cain's brother Abel.

Abel tended sheep, but Cain worked the ground. ³As time passed, one day Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil. ⁴Abel also brought some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD looked favorably on Abel and his offering, ⁵but he did not look favorably on Cain and his offering. Cain was very angry, and his face showed it.

⁶The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you have that angry look on your face? ⁷If you do good, will you not be lifted up? If you do not do good, sin is crouching at the door. It has a strong desire for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Cain said to Abel, his brother, "Let's go into the field." When they were in the field, Cain attacked Abel, his brother, and killed him.

⁹The LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel, your brother?" He said, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰The LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the soil. ¹¹Now you are cursed and sent away from the soil which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the soil, it will no longer give its strength to you. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great for me to bear.

¹⁴Look, today you have driven me away from the soil. I will be hidden from

your face, and I will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth. And whoever finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵The LORD said to him, “No! If anyone kills Cain, he will face seven-fold revenge.” And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, so that anyone who found him would not strike him down.

¹⁶Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Choir Sings in Place of Psalm

Song of Faith

Second Lesson

1 John 3:11-18

¹¹This is the message you have heard from the beginning: Love one another. ¹²Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the Evil One and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own works were evil, while those of his brother were righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have crossed over from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. ¹⁶This is how we have come to know love: Jesus laid down his life for us. And we also should lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷Whoever has worldly wealth and sees his brother in need but closes his heart against him—how can God’s love remain in him? ¹⁸Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

Verse of the Day

p. 40

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.
(John 14:23)

Gospel

John 14:15-21

¹⁵“If you love me, hold on to my commands. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him.”

Hymn of the Day – 343

Christ is the World's Light

**Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;
Born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high!**

**Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other;
No one can serve him and despise another.
Who else unites us, one with God the Father?
Glory to God on high!**

**Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other;
Sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother.
He who redeemed us reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high!**

**Give God the glory, God and none other;
Give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;
Give God the glory, God with us, my brother:
Glory to God on high!**

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Sermon

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Don't Try to Go It Alone!

Apostles Creed **p. 41**

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer **p. 43**

Closing Hymn – 476

Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

**Thee will I love, my strength, my tower;
Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.
Thee will I love with all my power,
With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.
Thee will I love, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.**

**Thee will I love, my life, my Savior,
Who art my best and truest friend.
Thee will I love and praise forever,
For never shall thy kindness end.
Thee will I love with all my heart-
Thou my Redeemer art!**

**Oh, keep me watchful, then, and humble;
Do not allow my steps to stray.
Uphold me when my feet would stumble,
And keep me on the narrow way.
Fill all my nature with thy light,
O Radiance strong and bright!**

**Thee will I love, my crown of gladness;
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
Amid the darkest depths of sadness,
And not for hope of high reward,
For thine own sake, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.**

*Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624-77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, st. 1, 3-4, alt.;
The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941, st. 2.*

Prayer and Benediction

p. 43-44



SERVING US TODAY

Preacher – Pastor Thomas W. Kneser

Organist – Dee Ann Techlin