

## AS WE GATHER

## Greater Love

The "greater love" that Jesus has for us--the love that empowered Him to come to heal, teach, and even lay down His life for His friends--is also alive in us and can empower us to bear the fruit of love for all we meet.

### *LSB 912 CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE*

- 1 Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.  
On His great love Our hopes we place  
Of present grace And joys above.
- 2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore  
Until that day When all the blest  
To endless rest Are called away.
- △ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim In joyful song,  
Both loud and long, That glorious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.

Text: Public domain

### *INVOCATION*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*OPENING SENTENCES*

Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10

**P** Praise the LORD!

**C** Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**P** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**C** I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**C** whose hope is in the LORD his God.

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION*

**P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**C** Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity.

Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Abide with us and grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work within

**our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect  
Your goodness and love.**

**P** God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS*

LSB 154

**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**C** **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You  
for Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,  
Lamb of God:**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive  
our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the  
Lord,**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the  
Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## *SALUTATION*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## *PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **+ GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY +**

### *FIRST READING*

Acts 10:34–48 NIV

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

<sup>39</sup> “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” <sup>48</sup> So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*EPISTLE*

1 John 5:1–8 NIV

<sup>5:1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. <sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

<sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*HOLY GOSPEL*

John 15:9–17 NIV

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*LSB 895 NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD*

1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers’ arms Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!

△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

*MESSAGE*

"Greater Love"

*CREED*

Nicene Creed

**© I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;**



**who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;**

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures**

**and ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,**

**whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord and giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

*OFFERING*

OFFERING HYMN

## *HWC 513 O, HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME*

- 1 Oh how He loves you and me  
Oh how He loves you and me  
He gave His life What more could He give  
Oh how He loves you Oh how He loves me  
Oh how He loves you and me
  
- 2 Jesus to Calv'ry did go  
His love for sinners to show  
What He did there Brought hope from despair  
Oh how He loves you Oh how He loves me  
Oh how He loves you and me

Text: Kurt Kaiser

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## *OUR PRAYERS*

### **+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +**

## *INTRODUCTION TO HOLY COMMUNION*

## *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 WORDS OF OUR LORD*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### *PAX DOMINI*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

### *AGNUS DEI*

LSB 163

**C** **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

**+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +**

*LSB 770 WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS*

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86

Text: Public domain

*LSB 469 CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY*

sts. 1–4

- 1 “Christ the Lord is ris’n today!”  
Saints on earth and angels say;  
Raise your joys and triumphs high;  
Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth, reply.
- 2 Love’s redeeming work is done,  
Fought the fight, the battle won;  
Lo! Our Sun’s eclipse is o’er;  
Lo! He sets in blood no more.
- 3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids His rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.
- 4 Lives again our glorious King!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Once He died our souls to save;  
Where thy victory, O grave?

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

## *BENEDICTION*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

*LSB 924 LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING* sts. 1, 3

1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,

Fill our hearts with joy and peace;

Let us each, Your love possessing,

Triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us; O refresh us,

Trav'ling through this wilderness.

3 Savior, when Your love shall call us

From our struggling pilgrim way,

Let not fear of death appall us,

Glad Your summons to obey.

May we ever, may we ever

Reign with You in endless day.

Text (st. 1): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

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