

# GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

415 10<sup>th</sup> Street ~ DeWitt, Iowa 52742 - Church: 563-659-9153 ~ [www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org)

+ The Order of Service +

## The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025 - 8:00 a.m.

**WELCOME GUESTS!** We are delighted to have you join us for worship this morning. Please come and worship with us again!

We are following the Divine Service, Setting 4, beginning on page 203 in the Lutheran Service Book.
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The Preservice Music

A Time for Meditation

The Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

The Ringing of the Bell

Words of Welcome by Pastor Merle Warnsholz

### Opening Hymn

### #837 “Lift High the Cross”

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore His sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. Refrain
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain
- 5 Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

## Confession and Absolution

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

**C Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C Who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Ps. 75:1–2, 6, 9; antiphon: Ps. 75:7*

**P** It is God who executes judgment,

**C Putting down one and lifting up another.**

**P** We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near.

**C We recount your wondrous deeds.**

**P** At the set time that I appoint

**C** I will judge with equity.

**P** For not from the east or from the west

**C** And not from the wilderness comes lifting up,

**P** But I will declare it forever;

**C** I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

**C** 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.

**P** It is God who executes judgment,

**C** Putting down one and lifting up another.

**Kyrie**



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**Gloria In Excelsis**

pg. 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**P** O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Proverbs 25:2-10*

It is the glory of God to conceal things,

but the glory of kings is to search things out.

As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,

so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

Take away the dross from the silver,

and the smith has material for a vessel;

take away the wicked from the presence of the king,

and his throne will be established in righteousness.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence

or stand in the place of the great,  
for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen  
do not hastily bring into court,  
for what will you do in the end,  
when your neighbor puts you to shame?  
Argue your case with your neighbor himself,  
and do not reveal another's secret,  
lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,  
and your ill repute have no end.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 131

**A** O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised to high;

**C** I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

**A** But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother;

**C** Like a weaned child is my soul within me.

**A** O Israel, hope in the Lord

**C** From this time forth and forevermore.

### Epistle

*Hebrews 13:1-17*

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is,

the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

Alleluia and Verse - 

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 14:1-14*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

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

One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on

a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” And they could not reply to these things.

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”



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

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

### Nicene Creed

**C** 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.

*Sit*

### Hymn **#842 “Song of God, Eternal Savior”**

1 Son of God, eternal Savior,  
Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
Hallows 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.

2 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.

3 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 of pleasure,  
Stem our selfish greed of gain.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior,  
Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
Hallows all our human race:  
By Your praying, by Your willing  
That Your people should be one,  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:  
Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.

## Sermon

## "Excuses, Excuses" *Luke 14:13-14*

*Stand*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** Hear our prayer.

*Stand*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**[P]** Lift up your hearts.

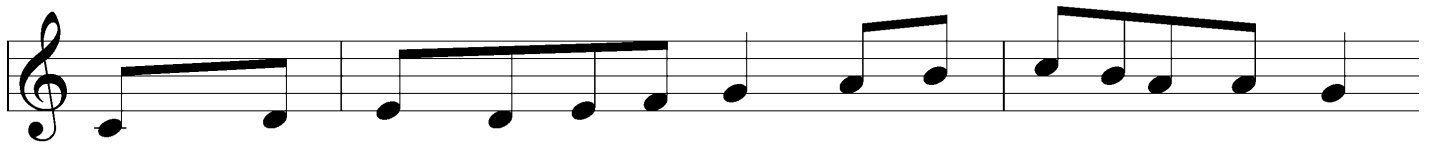
**C We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

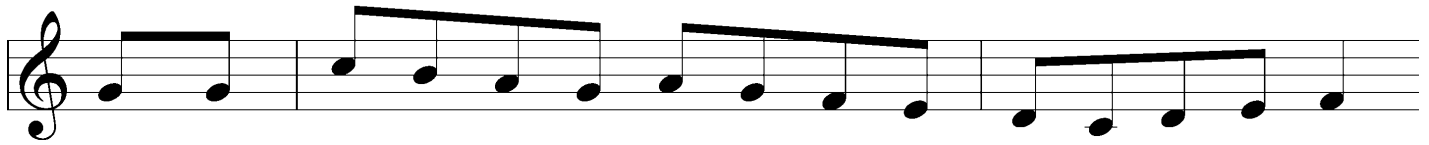
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

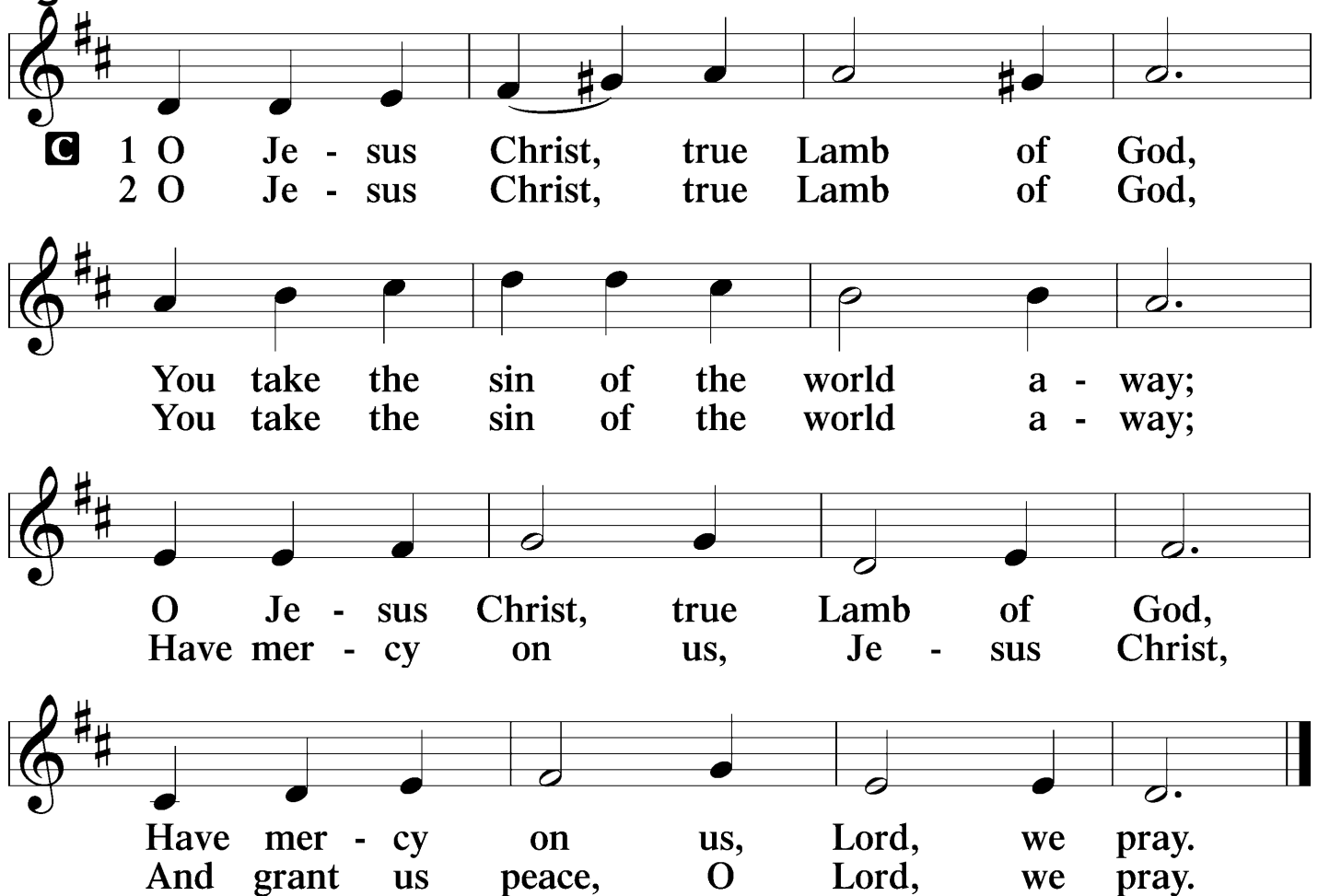
The Words of Institution of Our Lord – *spoken by the Pastor*

**Pax Domini**

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

**C** Amen.

**Agnus Dei**



**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

**Distribution & Distribution Hymns**

## **#636 “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”**

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,  
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
Come into the daylight's splendor,  
There with joy your praises render.  
Bless the One whose grace unbounded  
This amazing banquet founded;  
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,  
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,  
And with loving rev'ence greet Him.  
For with words of life immortal  
He is knocking at your portal.  
Open wide the gates before Him,  
Saying, as you there adore Him:  
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,  
That I nevermore will leave You.
- 3 He who craves a precious treasure  
Neither cost nor pain will measure;  
But the priceless gifts of heaven  
God to us has freely given.  
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,  
None could buy the gifts here offered:  
Christ's true body, for you riven,  
And His blood, for you once given.
- 4 Now in faith I humbly ponder  
Over this surpassing wonder  
That the bread of life is boundless  
Though the souls it feeds are countless:  
With the choicest wine of heaven  
Christ's own blood to us is given.

Oh, most glorious consolation,  
Pledge and seal of my salvation!

- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,  
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
Peace beyond all understanding,  
Joy into all life expanding:  
Humbly now, I bow before You;  
Love incarnate, I adore You;  
Worthily let me receive You  
And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,  
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
Jesus, joy of my desiring,  
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
At Your feet I cry, my maker,  
Let me be a fit partaker  
Of this blessed food from heaven,  
For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,  
You once left Your throne in heaven  
On the cross for me to languish  
And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forego all joy and gladness  
And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
By this blood redeemed and living,  
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,  
Let me gladly here obey You.  
By Your love I am invited,  
Be Your love with love requited;  
By this Supper let me measure,

Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
Through the gift of grace You give me  
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5); tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8); tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

## **#685 “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”**

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us  
And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading,  
Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love,  
Let us do the Father's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where You guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus  
And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy  
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe;  
Help me there Your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction,  
Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in



Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
 Jesus, here with You I die,  
 There to live with You on high.

- 4 Let us also live with Jesus.  
 He has risen from the dead  
 That to life we may awaken.  
 Jesus, You are now our head.  
 We are Your own living members;  
 Where You live, there we shall be  
 In Your presence constantly,  
 Living there with You forever.  
 Jesus, let me faithful be,  
 Life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus and Benediction

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**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.

## **The Closing Hymn      #850    “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,  
    On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
Crown Your ancient Church's story;  
    Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
    For the facing of this hour,  
    For the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
    Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
    Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
    For the living of these days,  
    For the living of these days.
- 3 Cure Your children's warring madness;  
    Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
    Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
    Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
    Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation  
    To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation  
    Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
    Serving You whom we adore,  
    Serving You whom we adore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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