

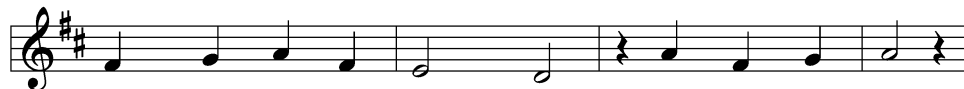
*St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Rost, Minnesota*  
*Pentecost 17 - Proper 20 A - September 24, 2023*  
*Responsive Prayer 2*

LSB # 557

Seek Where You May to Find a Way



1 Seek where you may To find a way That  
 2 Seek whom you may To be your stay, None  
 3 Seek Him a - lone Who did a - tone, Who  
 4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright, O



leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is stilled,  
 can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers failed;  
 did your souls de - liv - er. O seek Him first,  
 Christ, my joy for - ev - er. Not wealth nor pride



On Christ I build, He is the one foun - da - tion.  
 This man pre - vailed, The God - man and none oth - er,  
 All you who thirst For grace that fails you nev - er.  
 Nor for - tune's tide Our bonds of love shall sev - er.



His Word is sure, His works en - dure; He o - ver - throws  
 Our Ser - vant - King Of whom we sing. We're jus - ti - fied  
 In ev - 'ry need Seek Him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart  
 You are my Lord; Your pre - cious Word Shall guide my way



All e - vil foes; Through Him I more than con - quer.  
 Be - cause He died, The guilt - y be - ing guilt - less.  
 He will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.  
 And help me stay For - ev - er in Your pres - ence.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt. Tune: Johann Stobäus, 1580–1646

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**Opening Versicles** *page 285*

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**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.**

**Old Testament Reading** *Isaiah 55:6–9*

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your

thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . . for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Holy Gospel Reading Matthew 20:1–16

[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last

worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Kyrie** *page 285*

**L** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**L** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

**Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

**LSB # 867** *Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds*



1 Let chil - dren hear the might - y deeds Which God per -  
2 So make to them His glo - ries known, His works of  
3 Our sons and daugh - ters we shall tell And they a -  
4 O teach them with all dil - i - gence The truths of  
5 To learn that in our God a - lone Their hope se -



formed of old, Which in our youn - ger  
pow'r and grace; And we'll con - vey His  
gain to theirs That gen - er - a - tions  
God's own Word, To place in Him their  
cure - ly stands, That they may nev - er



days we saw, And which our par - ents told.  
won - ders down Through ev - 'ry ris - ing race.  
yet un - born May teach them to their heirs.  
con - fi - dence, To fear and trust their Lord,  
doubt His love But walk in His com - mands.

Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; (st. 4): Bernhard Schumacher, 1886–1978. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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## Children's Message

LSB # 844

## Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace  
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide  
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred  
4 Give me Thy cour - age, Lord, to speak  
5 With Thine own love may I be filled



To love all peo - ple, ev - 'ry race;  
Thy chil - dren, Lord, on ev - 'ry side.  
By love - less act and thought - less word.  
When - ev - er strong op - press the weak.  
And by Thy Ho - ly Spir - it willed,



And in each per - son may I see  
My neigh - bor's good let me pur - sue;  
Make me to see the wrong I do  
Should I my - self the vic - tim be,  
That all I touch, wher - e'er I be,



My kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by Thee.  
Let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.  
Will grieve my wound - ed Lord a - new.  
Help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring Thee.  
May be di - vine - ly touched by Thee.

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## Sermon

## Noisy Offering

## Versicles *page 286*

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
**C** let my cry come to You.
- P** In the day of my trouble I call upon You,  
**C** for You answer me.
- P** Hide Your face from my sins,  
**C** and blot out all my iniquities.
- P** Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**C** and renew a right spirit within me.
- P** Cast me not away from Your presence,  
**C** and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
- P** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
**C** and uphold me with a willing spirit.

- P** Because Your steadfast love is better than life,  
**C** **my lips will praise You.**
- P** For You have been my help,  
**C** **and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**
- P** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;  
**C** **unite my heart to fear Your name.**
- P** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
**C** **and I will glorify Your name forever.**
- P** May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.  
**C** **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**
- P** Save Your people and bless Your heritage!  
**C** **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**
- P** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
**C** **listen to my plea for grace.**

### Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: O Lord, grant that we would rejoice in the light of Christ and His salvation, and that sinners would find refuge in His mercy and comfort in His forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, embolden our congregation and all sister churches throughout the world to confess the truth steadfastly and to witness boldly to our only Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Merciful Lord, we give You humble thanks for instituting the estate of holy marriage and for the blessing of family. Grant that these gifts would be cherished and honored in our society and especially within the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty Lord, bless this nation and all people in their rightful callings. Grant that we may serve our neighbors in love, and that all authorities would exercise their callings with humility and wisdom on behalf of the defenseless. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Loving God, we thank You for the gift of health. Hear our prayers on behalf of the sick, the aged, the infirm, the mourning, or the dying, especially Bonnie, Asheton, Dave, Amanda, Marilyn, Tom, Jessica, Christine, Tony, Juanita, John, Loretta, Guy, and those we name in our hearts. Grant them healing in accord with Your will and grace to sustain them in their need. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord, grant that the Church may steadfastly proclaim Your irrevocable gifts and calling, that the disobedient may receive mercy and that those who hear would become grafted onto Jesus Christ, the true vine. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord and Savior, we pray that you would bless those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection to this and every place. Spare them from the loneliness of separation; guide and protect them and their families; give all of them Your grace and peace; and shower them all with good things in abundance as they have need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Lord, the time of harvest is upon us. We implore you to give us weather suitable for a good harvest, that you would send guardian angels to protect our farmers, and that you would bless their families as they support them in their work. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Merciful Lord, grant that, in Christ, we may seek You while You may be found and call upon You while You are near, forsaking all wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Collect of the Day

**P** We pray:

**Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### Morning

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.**

### Benedicamus *Page 287*

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Blessing

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

## Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go



1 Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My dai - ly  
 2 The task Thy wis - dom has as - signed, O let me  
 3 Thee may I set at my right hand, Whose eyes my  
 4 Give me to bear Thine eas - y yoke, And ev - 'ry  
 5 For Thee de - light - ful - ly em - ploy What - e'er Thy



la - bor to pur - sue, Thee, on - ly Thee, re -  
 cheer - ful - ly ful - fill; In all my works Thy  
 in - most sub - stance see, And la - bor on at  
 mo - ment watch and pray, And still to things e -  
 boun - teous grace has giv'n, And run my course with



solved to know In all I think or speak or do.  
 pres - ence find, And prove Thy good and per - fect will.  
 Thy com - mand, And of - fer all my works to Thee.  
 ter - nal look, And has - ten to Thy glo - rious day.  
 e - ven joy, And close - ly walk with Thee to heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Barry L. Bobb, 1951. Text: Public domain

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