

“NO! No, you can’t! No, you don’t get to do that.” What do you say when God says, “No”? I’ve heard people say, “Nobody’s going to tell me what I can’t do, not even God.” And I’ve heard people wonder: “Why does God keep telling me, ‘NO’? What am I supposed to do? What am I doing that’s so wrong that God keeps telling me, ‘No’?”

In our lesson God was telling King David, “No, you don’t get to do what you want.” And what did David want to do? It wasn’t something evil. David wanted to build a temple for God. He had a fine palace for himself, but God’s house was still a tent. So David is thinking, “My house shouldn’t be better than God’s house. I should build a temple for God.” But God said, “No, you don’t get to do that.” Why? Why did God say “no” to such a fine sounding idea? First, God wasn’t punishing David. But God had a plan, not just for David but for the people around David. God said “No” to David, so he could say “Yes” to David’s son Solomon who would build the temple. And more importantly, God had a plan to say “yes” to David in an even bigger, better way.

God does the same thing for us. He says “no” to us so he can give us a bigger, better “yes.” For example, when sin is looking good, God says, “No, you can’t do that,” not because he’s a mean grinch trying to take the fun out of our lives, but he says, “No, you’re going the wrong way,” so he can say, “yes” to us in a better way. And there are times we might have some plan

that seems good and godly, but it doesn't fit God's plan, so God says, "No, you can't do that," not because he's a control freak, but because he has an even better way to say "yes" to us. Either way, God says "no" to give us a bigger and better "yes."

Does that "no" ever frustrate or discourage you? For those times, listen to the bigger and better "yes" that God gives in our lesson – **"When you can't build the house you want, look at the house God is building you."** Or in other words - "When you can't do what you want, look what God is doing for you."

God had said "no" to David - "No, you don't get to build my house." David could have been heartbroken or even angry with God. But God didn't leave David with just a "no." God also gave David a "yes" - "yes, look at the house I am building for you."

Through the prophet Nathan, God told David – **"I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel." "Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth." "I will raise up your offspring to succeed you ... and I will establish [your] kingdom ... forever."**

Do you remember how God made David king? David was just a shepherd boy, number 8 of Jesse's 8 sons. When the prophet Samuel had Jesse gather his sons for God's choosing, Jesse didn't even bother getting shepherd-boy David in from the fields. But God chose David and took him from the pasture; God took David from following sheep to be ruler and king over his

people. Through David, God defeated the enemies of his people, and gave his people peace. Through David and for David, God established a kingdom that will last forever.

But it didn't always look that way, did it? Within a few generations, David's kingdom looked to be little better than a dead, rotting stump. But even as God was saying, "no," God was still saying "yes." From the rotting stump of David's line, God brought forth a little shoot, a sprout of life. From a virgin named Mary, of the line of David, God brought his Son Jesus into the world. Even when it looked as if God were still saying "no," God was keeping his promise. Even when the world was saying "no" to God, God still kept his promise. God said, "Yes," and our Savior was born.

You might remember what the angel Gabriel told Mary - **"You will be with child and give birth to a son He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."** God had planned and he had promised. Through David God would bring his Son Jesus into the world to be king to deliver us from our enemies, to give us a kingdom where we can live in peace forever. Through David, God would bring his Son into the world to rule and to save the world. That was God's "yes" plan, God's "yes" promise for David.

That's the way God works - from ordinary to extraordinary, from common to kingly, through trouble to triumph! That's God's way. From nothing God created all the beauty of this

world; from nobodies God raises up people to be great in his kingdom. Here we see David; at Christmas we see Mary and Joseph and the shepherds; later we see the disciples - common fishermen, hated tax-collectors, sinners.

And today we see us. What were we when God chose us? Nobodies; God chose us before all creation; we didn't even exist when God chose us. And what were we when God called us? We were worse than nobodies; we were enemies of God fighting to be our kind of people, doing our thing, going our way. We were nothing; but we didn't know that. We thought we were something - we thought we could take care of ourselves, that we could impose our idea of right and wrong on God, that we could tell God what do to - like two-year-olds, twelve-year-olds, 59-year-olds. But without God, whatever we did was bound to fail; without God, we were bound for hell; without God, we were nothing and our future was worse than nothing.

But God made us something. From ordinary to extraordinary, from common to kingly, Peter put it this way – **“you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.”** In baptism, by his Word, God has made you alive and adopted you to be his people. Washed in the water of baptism, forgiven in the blood of Jesus, God calls you his sons and daughters. By water and the Word, Jesus has taken the filthy and the damned, and he has washed us and taken us to be his bride. By water and the Word, Jesus has taken his enemies and has called us to be his priests with the power and authority of God to distribute the holy things of God. By water and the Word, Jesus has set us aside to join him on his throne in heaven to rule

the world. From common to kingly, from ordinary to extraordinary, from damned nobodies to live and rule with Christ forever – that’s the “yes” God has for you in Christ Jesus.

Does that sound too good to be true? With all the “no’s” that you hear, does God’s “yes” seem impossible? Think about the way God said “yes” to David. When David’s house was little more than a dead, rotting stump ... when God’s people could well have been saying: “God’s left us. He’s forgotten us. He’s turned against us. He’s punishing us ...” even then God kept his promise. Even when it seems that all we can see or hear from God is “no,” God is still working his “yes” promise. From ordinary to extraordinary, from common to kingly, through trouble to triumph, God will bless us with a house better than we could ever hope to build for ourselves or for God. A house where everything and everybody is right; a house where everything goes right and gets done right; a house where we are right with each other and we’re right at home with God. That’s the house God has for you with Jesus.

So when you’re discouraged by God’s “no,” look to God’s “yes.” **“When you can’t build the house you want, look at the house God is building for you.”** When you don’t get to do what you want, look what God is doing for you. His “yes” is best! Amen.

August 6 & 7, 2022

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we don't like to hear "no." "No" is considered to be unloving and un-accepting, and so unacceptable.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see how the love of our God surpasses the love of this world. When something isn't good for us, he's willing to say "no." And when he says "no," he has an even better "yes" for us!

OPENING HYMN

"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

Hymn 919

Blessèd Jesus, at your Word we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you,
by your teachings, sweet and holy, drawn from earth to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks our night with the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; you must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light from Light, from God proceeding,
open now our heart and mind; help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your Church now raises;
hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your Word may trust, confident of our salvation,
while we here below must wander, till we sing your praises yonder.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.**

M: 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 +

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

Refrain

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa - ther, you crown our life

with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;

you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your

on - ly Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,

how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. O Son of

God, e - ter-nal Word of the Fa - ther, you came to live with us;

you made your Fa - ther known; you washed us from our sins in

your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!

Refrain

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and willing to give far more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-19, 25, 26

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."

But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said:

“Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign LORD, is for a mere human! ...

“And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, ‘The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!’ And the house of your servant David will be established in your sight.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 27C

Refrain

The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of
whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?



Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.
Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.
I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.
Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Refrain



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Samuel 7:25

Alleluia. "Lord God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised." Alleluia.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:36–46

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Leave All Things to God's Direction"

Hymn 799

I leave all things to God's direction; he loves me both in joy and woe.
His will is good, sure his affection; his tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is he: what pleases God, that pleases me.

God knows what must be done to save me; his love for me will never cease.
Upon his hands he did engrave me with purest gold of loving grace.
His will supreme must ever be: what pleases God, that pleases me.

God gives me help in all temptation, his loving goal my soul to save.
Calm in the face of life's frustration, all earthly trouble I will brave.
His will be done eternally: what pleases God, that pleases me.

My God has all things in his keeping; he is my ever-faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping, and all his ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally: what pleases God, that pleases me.

SERMON

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 truly 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 Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

We praise you for every grace and blessing.

Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

Grant us prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring to you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

Amen.

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

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

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

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.
You are my God and I will ex - alt you.
I will give you thanks for you have be - come my sal -
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

The image shows a musical score for the Sanctus. It consists of six staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is written in a simple, clear style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests. The lyrics are: 'C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glo - ry. You are my God and I will ex - alt you. I will give you thanks for you have be - come my sal - va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.'

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

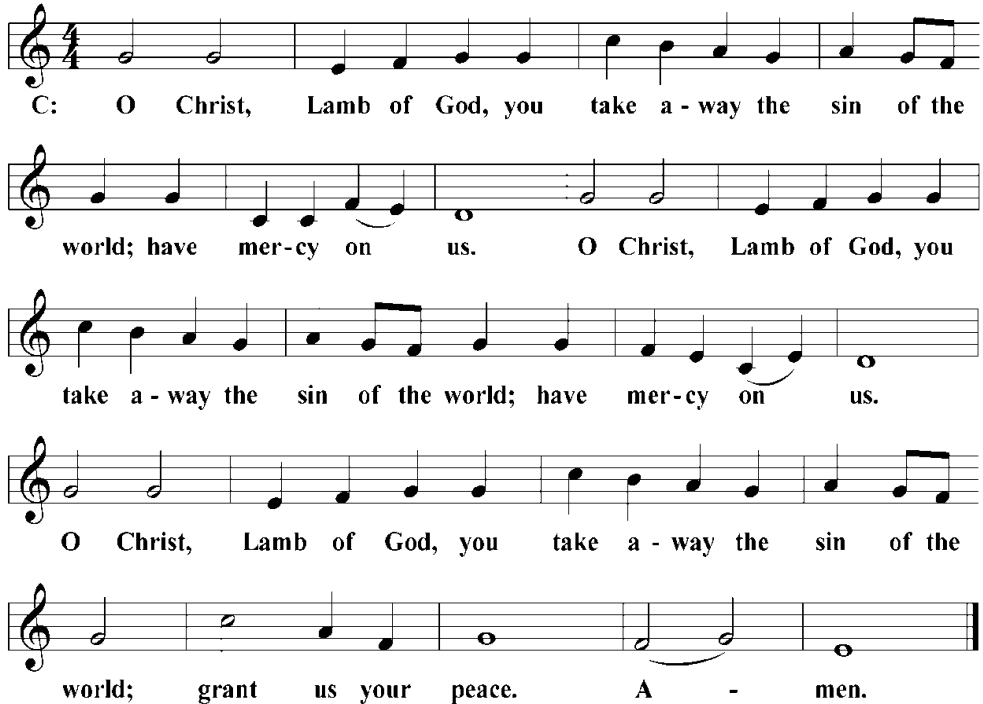
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*



C: 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

Hymn 823

Jesus, priceless treasure, fount of purest pleasure, truest friend to me.

Ah, how long in anguish shall my spirit languish, yearning, Lord, for thee?

Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!

I will suffer naught to hide thee; naught I ask beside thee.

In thine arms I rest me; foes who would oppress me cannot reach me here.

Though the earth be shaking, ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.

Lightnings flash and thunders crash;

yet, though sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; death, I now decry thee; fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me nor thy threats alarm me
while I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r guards ev'ry hour; earth and all its depths adore him,
silent bow before him.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss or shame or cross shall not from my Savior move me
since he deigns to love me.

Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, though the storms may gather,
still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear, thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

Hymn 924

Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with your grace
that Satan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with your Word
and thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav’nly brightness among us, precious Light;
your truth direct and keep us from error’s gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;
let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through your Word.

Abide with your protection among us, Lord, our strength,
lest world and Satan fell us and overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with your love;
grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.

OFFERING

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