

Sermon followed by Service

September 19, 2021

James 3:13-18

Who's the smartest, the wisest, person you know? There are people who could come into this room not knowing any of us, and after an hour or two of mingling could call each of us by name. There are people who can read a page and then recite it back word-for-word. There are people who can add, subtract, multiply, and divide all at the same time, all in their heads, faster than I can use a calculator. And there are people who can do none of that, but they know how things work, they know how people work, and they have a way of making things work, a way of bringing people together. There are people who can walk in, and see what's wrong, see who's wrong, see what needs to change, see who needs to change, just like that.

Wouldn't it be great to have some of those smartest, wisest people - or maybe just one of those smartest, wisest people - on your team? It depends, doesn't it? It depends on what they do with their smarts and their wisdom; it depends on how they use their smarts and wisdom, doesn't it? I imagine that most all of us can think of some really smart people who caused some really big hurt, can't we? It's not good enough to be the smartest, the wisest, or even the rightest person in the room. It matters how we use our smarts, doesn't it?

What examples would you use to illustrate this truth?

So, who's the smartest, wisest person you know? Sometimes we'd like to think it's me; me as in me, myself, and I. No matter how humble we are, no matter how ignorant we are, we all have times when we think we know better. We have all thought that we know better than our parents, right? We have all thought that we know better than our teachers, right? We have all thought we know better than our neighbors - "Why are they doing that? What are they thinking?" We have all thought we know better than our co-workers - "Don't they know what they're doing? Don't they care?" We have all thought that we know better, better than our governor, our president, our Supreme Court. We could go on; couldn't we?

And, perhaps, you do know better. Perhaps you are smarter, wiser, even righter. But what we do, how we use our smarts, our wisdom, our rightness can

make the difference between success and miserable failure. How we use our smarts can have the angels cheering or the devils cheering. How we use our smarts can show us to be an agent of heaven or an agent of Satan getting in the way of God's good work, even tearing up God's good work.

So how about you? I know that I've been on the wrong side - using my smarts instead of his smarts, my ways instead of his ways. I've had the devils cheering and God's people wincing. How about you? With your smarts, your ways, do you ever have God's people wincing and the devils cheering? It's not always easy to admit, is it? Whether we're right or wrong, our pride gets in the way. And when we're right and for God, our passion for what's right, our passion for God can get in the way. But just because we may be passionate about what's right and making things right, just because we might be passionate about God, that doesn't mean that everything we say and do is right and godly. Just because we're right about something doesn't mean that whatever we say and do about that something is right and godly. It's easy to see that and hear it in other people, not always so easy to see in ourselves, is it?

So what do we do? We don't rely on our self and our own assessment of self - "I'm right so whatever I say and do is right." No, we listen and pay attention to the nudges, the ways Jesus calls us to check our attitudes

How does Jesus nudge us and call us to check our attitudes?

How does he call us to repent?

- that nudge, that call to repent might be seen in a tear or a look of fear after we tear into someone; the nudge and call to check our attitude and repent might be some well-spoken or maybe some clumsily-spoken words calling us to change our tone, our attitude, our heart. It's easy to find reasons not to listen and pay attention. But the Psalm-writer didn't say: "Be true to yourself; stand up for yourself." No, he wrote: "A broken heart, o God, you do not despise." And neither do we, right? So we swallow our pride and our smarts and we listen to Jesus.

And what does Jesus say? "Peace." Peace. It wasn't just a tossed-off word, easy-come, easy-go. When the world thought itself too smart to listen to God, when the world was insisting on its way, what did Jesus do? He didn't just say: "Peace." He lived peace. He let the world step on him, push him around, judge him wrong. How could he do that? He remembered who he is, where he's from,

where he's going, and why he was here. So as they were getting in his face, he took it. As they were nailing him to the cross, he prayed: "**Father, forgive them.**" As they were messing with his mind, instead of striking back, he took it. He took, not just what they had for him, but he took what God had for him. He took their guilt and our guilt, your guilt and my guilt; he took God's anger, God's judgment - the anger and judgment we had coming for our self-smart, self-righteous ways; he stepped in and paid the price so that we don't have to. Oh, he could have let loose on the world, let loose against the world, instead he let loose into his Father's hands - "**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.**" And his Father didn't let him down. Today that Jesus lives with a promise for you. He answers our guilt: "Peace, I forgive you." He answers our hurt: "Peace. I'm here for you."

As Christians following Jesus, we are called to a life of injustice and persecution, a life in which the world will step on us, push us, and judge us. How might Satan twist that truth in the hearts of the abused?

Peace. Hearing the all-holy Jesus share peace instead of anger and judgment, hearing Jesus share peace when we know we deserve to hear judgment, hearing Jesus share peace changes the way we use our smarts, it changes the way we think about our rightness, doesn't it?

How might Jesus' message of peace affect the way we use our smarts and think about our rightness?

So who's the smartest, wisest person you know? You have him living inside of you. You have his Spirit living inside you to make you wise with the wisdom of Jesus himself. So when James asks: "**Who is wise and understanding among you?**" we don't get to duck and hide. We get to answer James' call: "**Show [your wisdom] by your good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.**"

What does that mean for us? We don't show our wisdom by spouting off. We don't show our wisdom by winning arguments. We don't show our wisdom by getting our way. But we show our wisdom by what we do, by acting with a wisdom that isn't about me and what I want or think. We show our wisdom by doing good with the wisdom of heaven. How did James put it? "**The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.**"

That's not the easy way, is it? And - how do I say it? - being nice doesn't always get the results we think we need. It's easier to show off my wisdom with a big mouth. It's easier to show myself how smart I am by cutting other people down. It's easier to show my wisdom by fighting, arguing, winning. Sometimes it seems easier to get results by cracking a whip.

Can you think of times God showed his wisdom by fighting, arguing, winning? Can you think of times Jesus showed his wisdom by cracking the whip?

*When might it be time for us to fight, argue, win, even "crack the whip"?
What cautions will we want to keep in mind?*

That's another reason James calls for humility - not just humility before each other, but humility before God - it's so easy to think our way to get results is better than his way. But we're not here to get our results; we're here to show him [Jesus]. That means some days the world will treat us like it treated Jesus. But that's OK, because in heaven, God will treat us with Jesus forever.

Friends, we live in a time that calls for wisdom. Let's use the wisdom of heaven - and show off Jesus. Amen.

*Agree / Disagree There is a time and a place to show the attitude of Jesus,
and a time and place not to show the attitude of Jesus.*

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September 18 & 19, 2021

IN OUR WORSHIP THIS WEEK: FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST ARE HUMBLE SERVANTS

The way of this world is to seek recognition and honor. The world sees leadership as a way to wield power. That's not our Savior's way nor is it what he wants for his followers. Leadership is not conforming others to your will but being conformed to the will of Christ and serving those you lead. Followers of Christ, even leaders among them, are humble servants. But that's easier said than done, isn't it? For sinners like us, even our humble service can become a point of pride. Let your Savior's humility be your sin's cure, his example your guide.

WELS NATIONAL HYMNAL WEEK

This week we join many of our sister congregations across the country with an introduction to our new *Christian Worship* hymnal. Our service doesn't have a special theme on worship; instead we focus on the lessons appointed for this September Weekend.

OFFERING

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan
this code with your mobile device.*



Acknowledgments

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The Service

OPENING HYMN

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

1: Cantor/Choir 2-3: All



1 How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all
2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his
3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no



mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his



make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear-ing loss.
out a-mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?



The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with



Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin,
we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

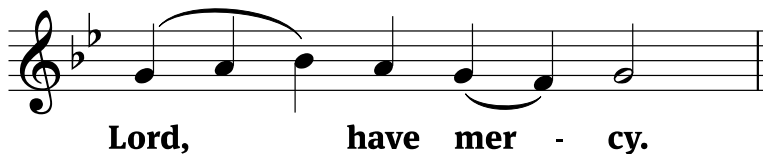
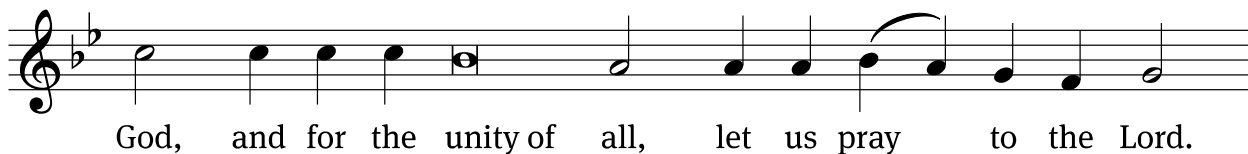
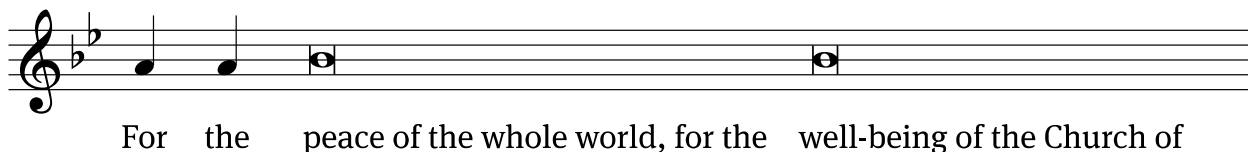
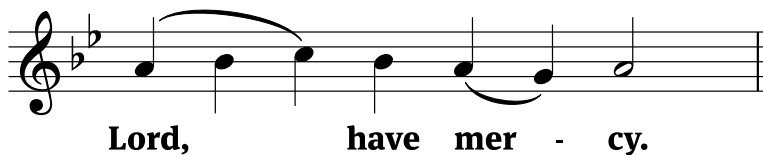
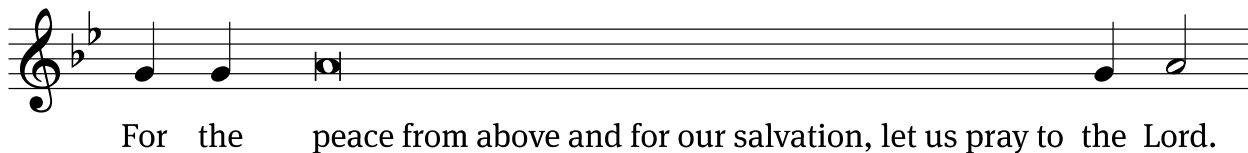
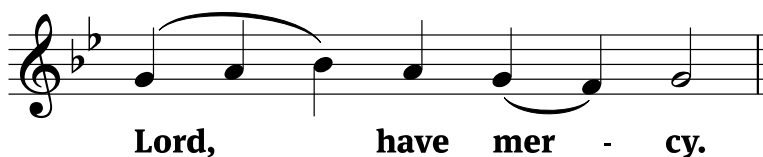
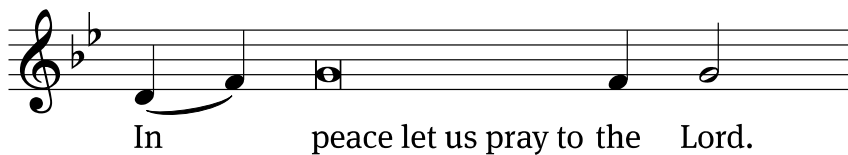
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY (KYRIE)

*A cantor sings each invitation to pray. Cantor/choir sing responses 1 and 2.
All sing responses 3, 4, and the Amen.*



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and
 praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
 Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - - - men.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST (Gloria in Excelsis)

The cantor/choir sings the first refrain and verses.

The congregation joins on the following refrains.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
 to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Numbers 12:1-15

Miriam and Aaron learn the importance of humble leadership.

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. ²“Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this.

³(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

⁴At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out. ⁵Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, ⁶he said, “Listen to my words:

“When there is a prophet among you,
I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions,
I speak to them in dreams.

⁷But this is not true of my servant Moses;
he is faithful in all my house.

⁸With him I speak face to face,
clearly and not in riddles;
he sees the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid
to speak against my servant Moses?”

⁹The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.

¹⁰When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam’s skin was leprous^[a]—
it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had
a defiling skin disease, ¹¹and he said to Moses, “Please, my lord, I ask you
not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. ¹²Do not let
her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother’s womb with its flesh
half eaten away.”

¹³So Moses cried out to the LORD, “Please, God, heal her!”

¹⁴The LORD replied to Moses, “If her father had spit in her face, would she
not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for
seven days; after that she can be brought back.” ¹⁵So Miriam was confined
outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she
was brought back.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 115

The cantor/choir sings first refrain.

All repeat the refrain and sing the following refrains.

The congregation sings the verses responsively with the cantor/choir.

Refrain

Not to us, O Lord, but
to your name be the glo - ry.

Refrain

Why do the nations say, "Where / is their God?"

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.

The Lord remembers us and will / bless us:

He will bless his people / Israel,
he will bless those who / fear the LORD—
small and / great alike.

Refrain

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—
he is there / help and shield.

House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

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*

SECOND READING

James 3:13-18

James teaches that true wisdom shows itself in deeds of humility.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The cantor/choir sings the refrain and verse.

The congregation joins to sing the final refrain

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Rejoice in the Lord
for his love and faithfulness.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus uses a little child as an example of the kind of humility he wants from those who follow him.

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.

They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.”³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?”³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

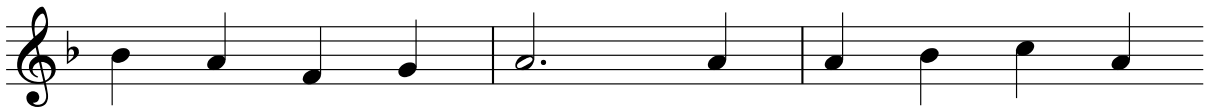
Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



1 Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way wher -
 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, but
 3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel you
 4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride nor
 5 Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way wher -



ev - er love may lead and, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r you laid a - side. You lived your years in
 place with - in the hands of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove the low - est place, the
 ev - er love may lead and, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, each serve the oth - er's need.
 ser - vant - hood, in low - li - ness you died.
 fol - low you and live by your com - mands.
 mean - est task that waits the gift of love.
 get - ting self, each serve the oth - er's need.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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 fully 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 believe in 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

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.
Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. *Pour out your special blessing on . . . (here name the person and the cause of the petition).* Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

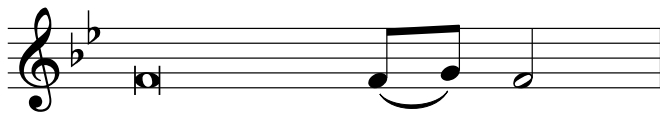
Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people.
Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and
grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT



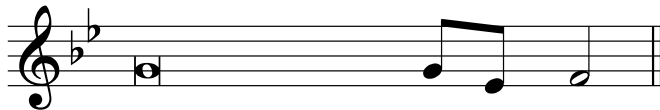
The Lord be with you.



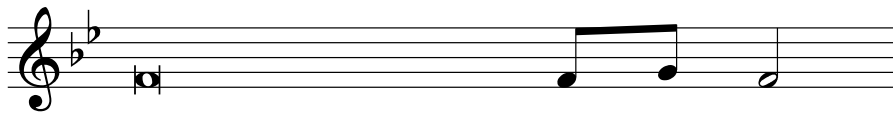
And al - so with you.



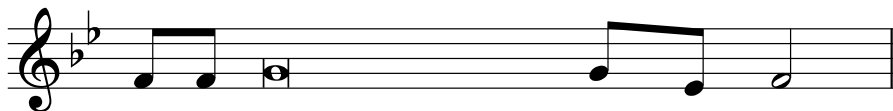
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sanctus)

The cantor/choir sings the first time.

The congregation joins to sing a second time.

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est,
ho - san - na in the high - est!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you— the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

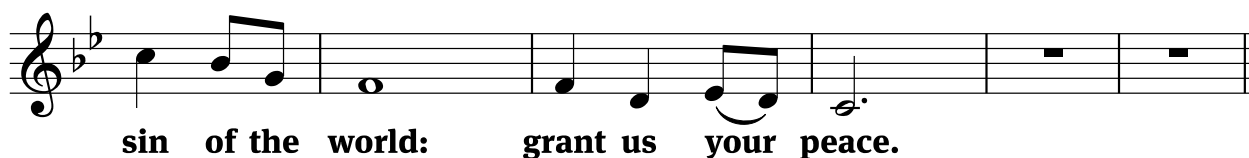
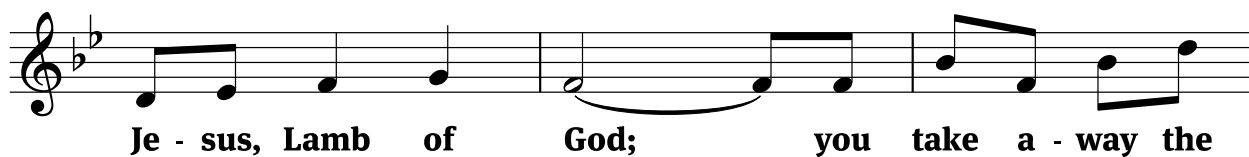
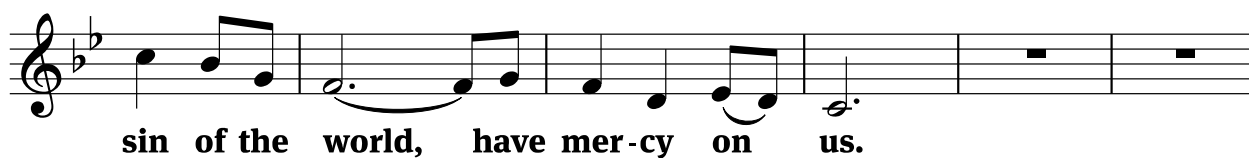
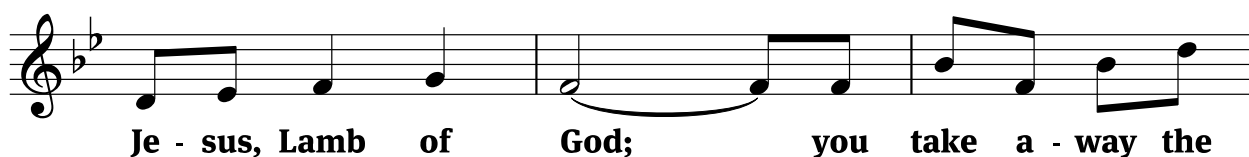
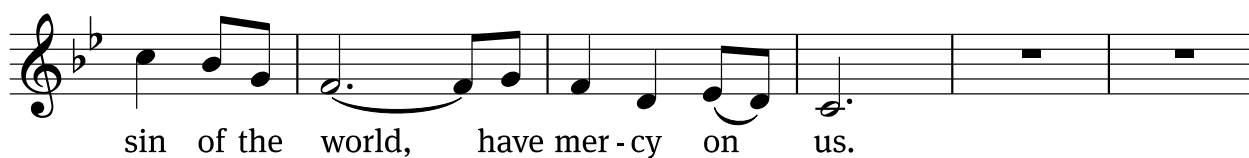
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)

The cantor/choir sings the first phrase.

The congregation joins on the following phrases.



DISTRIBUTION

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

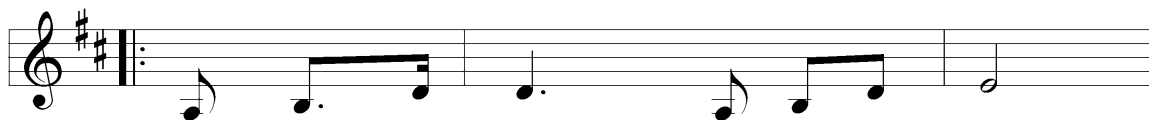
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"In Christ Alone"

Hymn 752



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found.
 2 In Christ a - lone— who took on flesh,
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay,
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,



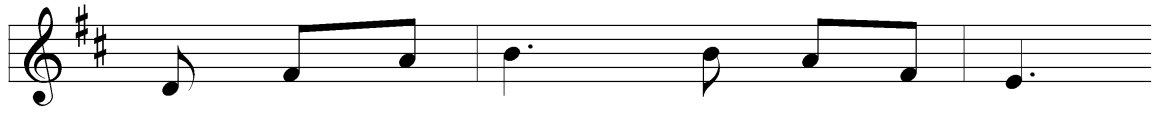
He is my light, my strength, my song;
 Full - ness of God in help - less babe.
 Light of the world by dark - ness slain;
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me;



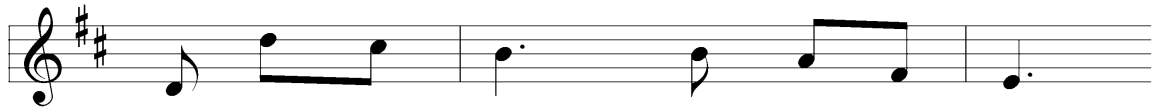
This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground,
 This gift of love and right - eous - ness,
 Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day
 From life's first cry to fi - nal breath,



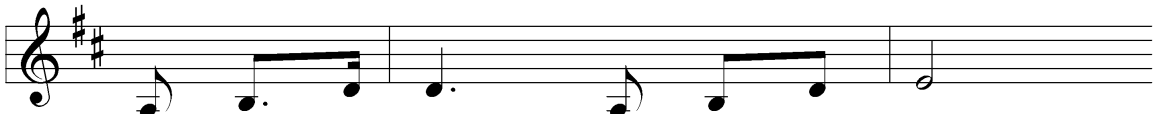
Firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 Scorned by the ones he came to save.
 Up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 Je - sus com - mands my des - tin - y.



What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 Till on that cross, as Je - sus died,
 And as he stands in vic - tor - y,
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man



When fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!
 The wrath of God was sat - is - fied;
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
 Can ev - er pluck me from his hand;



My Com - for - ter, my all in all,
 For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid.
 For I am his and he is mine—
 Till he re - turns or calls me home,



Here in the love of Christ I stand.
 Here in the death of Christ I live.
 Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.



(Fine)

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Masked

With the renewed mask mandate across Illinois, we now offer masked worship - Saturdays at 5 and Sundays at 9. If you have questions, please ask!

To Our Guests

- We pray that you receive a warm welcome and are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns. If you have questions, please ask!
- Our service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ – forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven.
- Please join us after Sunday service for fellowship and Family Bible Hour.

Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church. We invite our congregation members and visitors from sister WELS or ELS congregations to join us, but ask Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice. Further explanation is in the pew racks or from our pastor.

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

- Children's worship bulletins and "church bags" (with paper, colors, and Bible story books) are available from an usher.
- If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

- **Hearing Assistance** for those with hearing aids is provided through our Hearing Loop or personal hearing devices available at the "sound table."
- A **wheelchair lift** is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.



Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.

Our Ministry

St. John offers an excellent preschool-8th grade school program. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - www.wels.net.