

This last week, Dave told me I'm old. Veronica says I'm young. Who's right? Some days, time seems to go by in a flash; other days, time seems to be stuck. Some days time seems to be our friend; other days time seems to be our enemy. Some days, it can be really easy for our heads and our hearts to get mixed up, to lose perspective, on time. Let's start here - Time is Precious; Time is Valuable; and Time is for God's Good and Our Good.

What makes time precious and valuable? There's a movement in Illinois - in so much of our world - an ungodly thinking that claims time is valuable and useful only if you think it's valuable and useful - only if you can do what you want, go where you want, think what you want. And if you can't do what you want, go where you want, think what you want ... if you think your time is no longer valuable and useful, then you should be free to flush your life away. What needs to be flushed away is that toxic kind of thinking that makes our self to be Lord and Judge of time.

What makes time precious and valuable? Not "if I can do what I want, go where I want, think what I want." Not if I do something valuable with time. Me and my doing don't make time valuable and precious. Me and my doing can waste time. Or me and my doing can take advantage and make good use of time. But me and my doing don't make time valuable.

This is what makes time precious and valuable - three things. First, "**This is the day the LORD has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**" Our time is a gift from God; that's what makes time valuable. Second, "**Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.**" Now is our "time of grace," now is a gift from God, now is our opportunity to know God and be saved - that's what makes time precious. And third, time is our opportunity to do God's good; time is our opportunity to do the good that will be rewarded in heaven. Those are just some of the reasons time is precious and valuable.

But what if "I can't do what I want, go where I want, think what I want"? What if life is hard and painful and I can see no purpose? God just might be doing something that I don't see or understand or maybe even appreciate. This might be a time in my life when I am clay on the potter's wheel and God is making something better of me. This might be a time when God is exercising me or (you know how broken bones heal stronger?) this could be a time God is breaking me to make me stronger. Or this might be a time in life when God is prying loose my

death grip on this world. Or “when I can’t do what I want, go where I want, think what I want,” when life is hard and painful, when I am stuck needing help and can see no purpose ... that just might be a time when Jesus is setting me up - not holding me down or holding me back, but setting me up - not to lord and judge - but so we can show people God at work in us - **“I am strong for all things through him who gives me strength.”** Or it could be that God is setting me up - again, not holding me down or holding me back, but setting me up - not to lord and judge, but to give hearts and hands the opportunity to love and care for me, to serve as the heart and hands of God. Just because we can’t do what we want, go where we want, think what we want” doesn’t mean that our time isn’t precious and valuable; God and his doing make our time precious and valuable.

But what about when God isn’t part of our time? The sinful nature in us would say “that’s ‘my time,’ my time for my thing.” And the Jesus in us would say: **“Get behind me, Satan!”** In his war against sin and Satan, Jesus doesn’t see time as neutral; either time is exercised in service to God, or it is fumbled, or handed off in service to Satan. Time is used either in service to God, or it is lost and wasted. That’s why Paul says: **“Redeem the time!”** So it’s not just the time I spend in sin, the time I spend obsessing over my sinful desires, that is lost to God and wasted; the time I spend living focused on the life of this world is time lost to God and wasted. It’s not just the time I spend doing nothing that is lost and wasted ... Now I should say: “doing nothing” isn’t always a waste of time; sometimes “doing nothing” might be a part of purposeful rest and recreation - winding down or resting up for the life God has for us. But sometimes doing nothing is what we do - not to rest or to recreate - but just because we’re stuck in a rut or to avoid what God has for us to do with his time. Anyway, it’s not just time spent “doing nothing” that is lost and wasted; it can be so easy to waste time with a busyness that serves no good purpose, busy with a busyness that serves no godly purpose. And Satan is really fine with that. Satan doesn’t need us to be thieving, whoring, drunk or drugging, violent or abusive. As long as we’re distracted from God’s purposes, as long as we’re wasting time, Satan is pleased, because then he’s winning.

**“Get behind me, Satan.”** Those are harsh words, aren’t they? I tried to think of Jesus’ harshest words. Again and again, they fit with time and how we use time. To those who waste their time of grace and aren’t ready for Jesus - Jesus says: **“I don’t know you.”** To those who are so wrapped up in themselves they can’t be bothered to serve others - Jesus says: **“Depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”** Time and what we do with our time matters to Jesus.

In our lesson, Jesus knew why God had given him time in this world. Jesus knew the purpose of his time in this world. And no matter the cost to comfort or convenience, no matter the cost of the cross, even though it meant a life and death in service to others, Jesus was determined to live God's purpose for his time.

Why? Jesus knew who he is - he was not his own, here to do his own thing; he's the Son of God, here to do God's thing. Jesus knew who he is - he didn't need to be wrapped up in himself; he's the Son of God - he had God to take care of him. Jesus knew who he is, so Jesus could focus on his purpose in life. And Jesus knew where he was going; he was going to heaven. Yes, here he would live a lifetime; here he would serve a lifetime; here he would sacrifice and suffer and die a lifetime. But here wasn't his forever home; here was only a sliver of his life and time - Jesus knew he was going to heaven. Jesus knew where he was going, so Jesus knew he didn't need to be wrapped up in the things of this world; instead he could be focused on his purpose in this world. And Jesus knew his purpose; he knew why he was here, why he had time in this world - to live his time and life to replace the time and life we have wasted; to give his time and life to pay for the time and life we have wasted. Jesus knew why he was here - so we can have time and life right with God.

Jesus lived his time in this world with the things of God in mind. Think of what that means for you. Like Jesus, baptized into Jesus, every minute, every moment - you get to know who you are - a child of God. Every minute, every moment - you get to know where you are going - to heaven. And every minute, every moment - you get to know why you are here.

That's right, every minute, every moment - you are forgiven; your every wasted minute, your every mis-used moment forgiven! Every minute, every moment - you have God blessing you. Every minute, every moment - you get to look forward to heaven where your minutes and moments with God will be forever!

And between now and then - every minute, every moment - you get to be part of what God is doing in this world. Every minute, every moment - you get to be part of God blessing this world. Every minute, every moment - you get to be part of God showing his love to this world. Every minute, every moment, you get to see time as God's gift to you - for good. Amen.

THE SERVICE – SETTING 3

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** As we go through life, we have our viewfinders. What is in your viewfinder? It is so easy to let our viewfinder get fogged up, out of focus, pointing the wrong direction. And then what happens? Our hearts and minds get fogged up, out of focus, pointing in the wrong direction - and our time is wasted, and worse.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** the Holy Spirit works to renew our focus and so to give us a new Perspective - for our minds, our hearts, and our time!

OPENING HYMN

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"*

Hymn 704



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex -  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, to his im - age  
3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus; his death from the  
4 Let us glad - ly live with Je - sus; since he's ris - en



am - ple pure, flee the world which would de - ceive us and to  
e'er con - form; heav - en's glo - ry soon will please us, sun - shine  
sec - ond death, from our soul's de - struc - tion, frees us, quick - ens  
from the dead, death and grave must soon re - lease us. Je - sus,



sin our souls al - lure. Ev - er in his foot - steps tread - ing,  
fol - low on the storm. Though we sow in tears of sor - row,  
us with life's glad breath. Let us mor - ti - fy, while liv - ing,  
thou art now our head. We are tru - ly thine own mem - bers,



bod - y here, yet soul a - bove, full of faith and  
we shall reap in heav'n - ly joy, and the fears that  
flesh and blood and die to sin, and the grave that  
where thou liv - est, there live we; take and own us



hope and love, let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
now an - noy shall be laugh - ter on the mor - row. Christ, I  
shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
con - stant - ly, faith - ful Friend, as thy dear breth - ren. Je - sus,



Lord, a - bide with me; Sav - ior, lead; I fol - low thee.  
suf - fer here with thee; there, O share thy joy with me.  
here I die to thee, there to live e - ter - nal - ly.  
here I live to thee, al - so there e - ter - nal - ly.

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*CW 189*

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

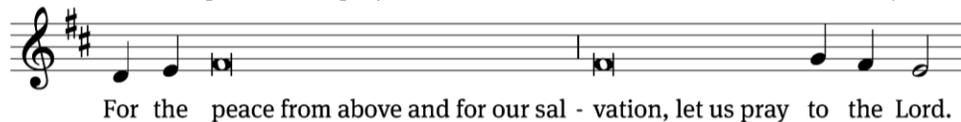
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# LORD, HAVE MERCY

CW 190



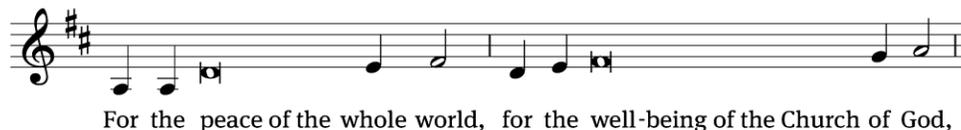
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



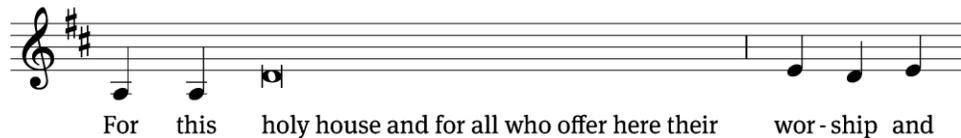
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.



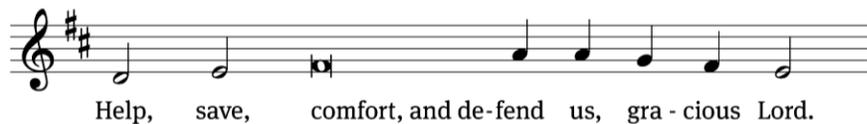
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men. A - men.**

# GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CW 191



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to



God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,



and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus  
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to  
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,  
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**FESTIVAL READINGS**

*Matthew 3:13–17; 4:1*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending

like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

*Galatians 3:26–27*

... in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

*"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"*

Hymn 679



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized  
2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized  
3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized  
4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized  
5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing to this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it, gave my  
in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus'  
in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion, I am  
in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness to in -  
com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing: e - ven



full re - demp-tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures man - y?  
cleans-ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con-science seize me  
not so soon en-ticed. Now that to the font I've trav-eled,  
her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and ash - es  
there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its rais - ing,



I have one worth more than an - y that brought me sal -  
 since my bap - tism did re - lease me in a dear for -  
 all your might has come un - rav - eled, and, a - gainst your  
 faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the  
 still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free, last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
 giv - ing flood, sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood?  
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!  
 strength di - vine to make life im - mor - tal mine.  
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

**LESSON**

*Galatians 6:7-10*

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Romans 6:4*

Alleluia!! We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Alleluia!!

**GOSPEL**

*Mark 8:31-38*

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake"*

Hymn 702



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my  
 2 "I am the light, I light the way, a god - ly  
 3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your  
 4 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord and take the



way a - bid - ing; de - ny your-selves, the world for - sake,  
 life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day,  
 soul's sal - va - tion, your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,  
 cross ap - point - ed and, firm - ly cling - ing to his Word,



o - bey my call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -  
 I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and  
 from sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge  
 in suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, take my ex - am - ple for your guide.  
 well I show how you must so - journ here be - low.  
 of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."  
 bat - tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

**SERMON**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there 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.**

**HYMN**

*"Take My Life and Let It Be"*  
 Hymn 695



1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau-ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes-sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine,  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own,  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## OFFERING

*If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M** May this be a time, O Lord, for confession and repentance. Forgive us for the apathy that harms our faith and hinders our works. Forgive us for boasting of our past achievements and for blaming others for our present problems. Rid us of indifference to public worship and Bible study. Destroy the distrust that plagues us, and shatter every thought and word that harms the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

**C** **Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

M Let this be a time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of those who have gone before us.

**C Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

M Let this be a time, O Lord, when we recommit and reconsecrate ourselves to the ministry of the gospel. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and success in our labor.

**C Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
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

“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”

Hymn 680



1 Bap-tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and  
2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me to be hence-forth your  
3 My faith-ful God, you fail me nev - er; your prom-ise sure - ly  
4 All that I am and love most dear - ly— re - ceive it all, O



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,  
child and heir. My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me  
will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er  
Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;



a - mong your saints, your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and  
the fruit of all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it,  
if words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I  
help me your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I



dead to sin, your Spir - it now shall live with - in.  
com - fort me when threat - ning clouds a - round I see.  
come de - filed; for - give, lift up, re - store your child.  
am or own serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.