

Sermon followed by Service - January 18, 2025

- A Time for Everything – Priorities - Ephesians 5:15

I've got books. I've got papers. Books and papers from experts on time management and life management, setting priorities and getting things done. I don't think I'm looking for some magic wand - that would be a fool's errand. Instead, I want to keep it front of me to improve, to do better, to be better. As I said, I've got books and papers and experts. And I have this paper I wrote for summer school some years ago. A couple weeks ago I was reading it. As I was reading, I could feel my chest tighten. It's not easy to face our failures, is it? It wasn't just that I want to do better; I want to be better. But I'm not - and it frustrates and it hurts. That's where God's grace and God's promise in baptism is so freeing. We don't have to live a life of kicking ourselves, beating ourselves up. We don't have to live a life of shoulda, coulda, woulda. We get to start new. Every day we get to start new in God's promise and God's power. And every day we have a new gift of time. So what do we do with our time?

Paul says: "**Be wise.**" Redeem the time. Paul sees time as lost, no, as worse than lost. Paul sees time, he sees the days as evil. So, time isn't just lost because it's in the past. Time isn't just lost when it is wasted. No, time is worst than lost because the days are evil. It's not the passing of time that is evil. It's not the racing of time or the stuckness of time that is evil. It's what the world and the ruler of this world (Satan) have packed into

time that is evil. So Paul says: “**Redeem the time.**” What does that mean - “**redeem the time**”? That’s why so many of our translations say: “**Make the most of every opportunity**” - that makes sense. But “**redeem the time**” has a sense that’s good for us to think about.

Paul sees time as lost; worse than lost, Paul sees time packed with evil. We hear that and what does our instinct do? Our instinct might be to argue with Paul: “Paul is being too harsh; look at all the good things happening in our world today.” Or our instinct might be to pull out the blaming finger: “Look how they pack time with evil.” Or our instinct might be to put up the excusing hands: “I can’t help it - my boss, my job, the kid’s coaches, blah, blah, blah.” Instead of arguing, blaming, and excusing, the Spirit trains in us a better instinct - “God, have mercy on me a sinner.”

It’s such a relief, isn’t it? When we realize how we’ve wasted time ... when we realize how we’ve taken God’s good gift of time and spoiled it with evil ... it’s such a relief to know we don’t have to argue and blame and excuse. And it’s such a relief we don’t have to react with fear and dread - “What’s going to happen to me now!” Instead, with Jesus and his Spirit, we get to confess: - “God, I have wasted your time; God, I have misused your time.” Or together: “**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.**” It’s such a relief to confess knowing Jesus has already redeemed our time. Before our time, Jesus already paid the price to set us free, to loose us from our wasted time, our

misused time, our evil time. Before our time, Jesus already redeemed us and set us free from God's judgment. With Jesus, we are - you are - forgiven. With Jesus, God sees you as right for time with him, right for eternity in heaven. And with Jesus, God sees time, time for you and time with you, not as wasted time, not as a wasted gift, but God sees time for you and time with you as joy to him and blessing for you.

With Jesus, we get to see time the same way. So Paul says: **“Redeem the time”** or as our translations say: **“make the most of every opportunity.”** **“Redeem the time”** - there's a picture in those words. You're at the marketplace. Time is for sale. You have the opportunity to buy it before it's lost, to buy it before it's used for evil. Time is for sale and you have the opportunity to buy it and use it for good, to buy it and use it for godly good before it's wasted and lost to evil. In the word picture Paul has for us, we aren't just perusing time - “how could I, how would I, use that time.” And we aren't just bargain hunting for time that won't cost too much. No, we're like stock traders on Wall Street - when it's time to buy, we're buying up as much as we can. We're out to get as much time as we can - why? - to use it for good; we're going all out to get as much time as we can to use it for godly good. In other words, we are on a mission in life to make the most of every opportunity.

Where do we start? What's most important? Some say: “Happy wife, happy life.” Others live: “Squeaky wheel gets the grease.” Some (but not me) would say that's the same thing. Some say: “Eat the Frog” - start with your most challenging, dreaded task first; then everything else will be easier. Some say:

“ABCDE.” AI told me about that one. Some apply the Eisenhower Method - Do - Decide - Delegate - Delete. And some would say I should do all that.

What does Paul say? **“Be wise.”** Not just wise with books, but wise with His Book. Solomon says: **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.”** Giving God his due, putting God first, is the beginning of wisdom. We see Joshua do that in our first lesson today. Joshua is getting ready to die. He gathers his people to him. They’re in a new land; he’s about to leave them - it’s time for a new start. **“Fear the LORD and serve with him with all faithfulness. [And if not, then] - Choose whom you will serve ... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!”** Not just “Choose whom you will call God” - words are easy - “Choose whom you will serve as God.” Before Joshua, Moses set our priorities: **“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”** And Jesus didn’t let us off the hook, did he? Jesus ordered our priorities: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ... [and] ... “Love your neighbor as yourself.”** When I say “Jesus ordered our priorities,” I’m not saying he’s holding a stick over us. No, in our Gospel lesson, you heard Jesus order our priorities holding a promise out for us - **“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and [everything you need] will be given you.”**

When Jesus says: **“Seek first the kingdom of God”** he’s not just talking about these four walls; he’s not just talking about what we do at church or with church or for church.” **“Seek first the kingdom of God”** applies to every day of the week, every

part of our lives - seek first the kingdom of God, seek first the reign of God, seek first to have God's say and God's way first in everything you do.

I'd love to say that's easy. I wish it were. I'm living proof it's not easy. In our first lesson, Joshua made it clear it's not easy. And Joshua was right; the book of Judges shows how hard it was for God's people to set priorities and then live by those priorities. So what did God do? We could say God judged them. We could say God spanked them, spanked them hard with the Canaanites, Midianites, Philistines, and more. We could also say God helped them. God helped them let go of their misplaced priorities.

When we're stuck in a rut of misplaced priorities, when our hearts and minds are set and stuck with a death grip on our misplaced priorities, when we have built our lives and our families' lives on and around misplaced priorities - it's not easy to let go, is it?

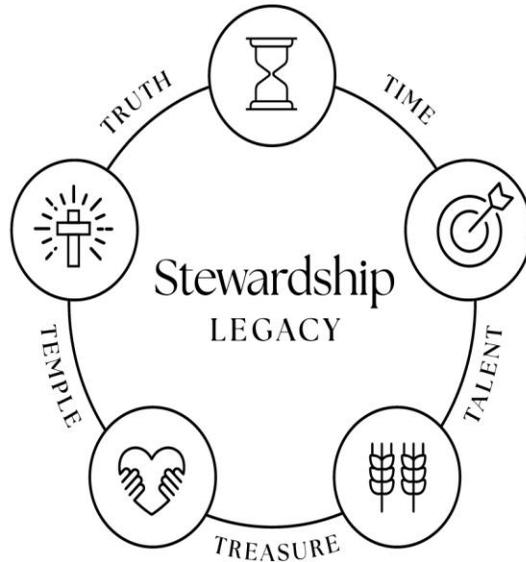
I think of my father-in-law's millet mill. To separate the grain from the hull, to separate the good from the waste took a beating over and over again. First, the grain was run through a huller - squeezing and cracking, squeezing and cracking. Then the grain was run over a shaking table, shaking and shaking until grain and hull let go of each other. Then run through the shaker all over again. Separating the good from the waste isn't easy.

Sometimes we might wonder if it's worth it. So often, we like our misplaced priorities, don't we? And when we hear we're forgiven, our sinful nature tells us, "Why bother? You're forgiven anyway."

The Jesus in us doesn't think that way. The Jesus in us doesn't see forgiveness as a license to hold on to our misplaced priorities. The Jesus in us doesn't see our misplaced priorities as too good for us to let go, or too hard for us to let go off. The Jesus in us hears God's order for life ... the Jesus in us hears God's promise for life ... and instead of arguing, blaming, excusing ... the Jesus in us grabs hold of God's promise and God's order of things - **"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness [and everything you need] will be given to you."** And then, the Jesus in us grabs hold and prays the psalms - **"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."** ... **"Search me and know me See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."** Amen.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Family Connecting in Christ



Pastor Kevin Raddatz
Principal David Retzlaff
501 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
847-362-4424
www.StJohnsLib.com

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 "church bags" (with paper, colors, and Bible story books) are available in the Narthex Gathering Area.
- 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

- **Large Print** Service Folders are available from an usher.
- **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.

THE SERVICE – SETTING 3

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... it can be a real struggle to prioritize. Who comes first? Is it “Me, Myself, and I” or the squeaky wheel or ??? And what comes first? Is it the buzz on my phone or the buzz on my watch or the buzz I get from chasing around like a squirrel?

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... the Spirit brings us peace, first with the promise of our Father, and then by giving us focus and direction - we get to simplify our lives - cut out the ungodly; focus on our Father’s Kingdom.

OPENING HYMN

“With the Lord Begin Your Task”

Hymn 776



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.
2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, praise and ad - o - ra - tion.
3 With your Sav - ior at your side foes need not a - larm you;
4 If your task is thus be - gun with the Sav - ior’s bless - ing,



For his aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.
On the Lord cast ev - ’ry care; he is your sal - va - tion.
in his prom - is - es con - fide and no ill can harm you.
safe - ly then your course will run, naught your soul dis - tress - ing.



Ev - ’ry morn with Je - sus rise, and, when day is end - ed,
Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,
All your trust and hope re - pose in the might - y Mas - ter,
Good will fol - low ev - ’ry - where while you here must wan - der;



in his name then close your eyes; be to him com - mend - ed.
save you from the tempt - er's might, with his pres - ence cheer you.
who in wis - dom tru - ly knows how to stem dis - as - ter.
you at last the joy will share in the man - sions yon - der.

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

O Lord, we are so easily distracted - by evil and by blessing, by worry and by contentment. By your Spirit help us to discern and to appreciate, to focus and to keep focus - to prioritize what you see as best for us and the mission and ministry you set for us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:14–24

“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD.”

Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.”

“Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

“Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”

And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 111A



1 LORD, I must praise you when I stand in won - der at your
2 Noth - ing but good you give to those who fear you; ev - er
3 You sent your peo - ple long - de - sired sal - va - tion, mak - ing



might - y works and splen - dor. There is no oth - er God, no
near those who re - vere you. To you the hun - gry come for
us a bless - ed na - tion. You are the rock: on you our



one a - bove you, yet so close to those who love you.
dai - ly feed - ing, and the poor for jus - tice plead - ing.
hopes are found - ed; safe we dwell, by love sur - round - ed.



O Lord, have mer - cy! All your works de - clare your maj - es - ty
O Lord, have mer - cy! All your deeds are hon - est and sin - cere;
O Lord, have mer - cy! Make us wise to fol - low in your ways,



in an end - less grand dox - ol - o - gy; e - ven more would I praise
all your vows as true as they ap - pear. Per - fect love, rar - est kind,
and re - ceive our sac - ri - fice of praise. We are yours, yours to use



your com - pas - sion, love, and grace. O Lord, have mer - cy!
all I need in you I find. O Lord, have mer - cy!
for your dream as you may choose. O Lord, have mer - cy!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR

“Blessed Assurance”

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
(Refrain) This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
2. Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of Heaven now burst on my sight: Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)
3. Perfect submission-- all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest; Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love. (Refrain)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 6:33

Alleluia! Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Alleluia!

GOSPEL*Matthew 6:25–34*

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY*“What Is the World to Me”***Hymn 717**

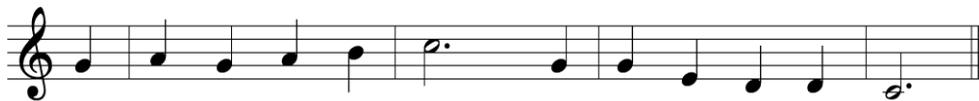
1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure
 2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,
 3 The world is like a cloud and like a va - por fleet - ing,
 4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.
a shad - ow that de - clines, swift to its end re - treat - ing.
my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, my soul's de - light shall be;
I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll be;
My Je - sus shall re - main, though all things fade and flee,
my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
my Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
my ev - er - last - ing rock. What is the world to me!
Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to 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.

OFFERING PRAYER

Dear Savior, help us to believe that when you ask us to worship you with our gifts this is not just a business proposition, and surely not an invasion of our privacy, but rather an exercise of our faith, and a fitting response to the mercy you have shown us. **Amen.**

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, 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.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)



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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CW 184

The musical score is written on seven staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff contains the first two measures of the melody. The second staff contains the next four measures, with the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,'. The third staff contains the next four measures, with the lyrics 'God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your'. The fourth staff contains the next four measures, with the lyrics 'glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The fifth staff contains the next four measures, with the lyrics 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the'. The sixth staff contains the next four measures, with the lyrics 'Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -'. The seventh staff contains the final four measures, with the lyrics 'san - na in the high - est!'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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!

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

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"All Depends on Our Possessing"

Hymn 807



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
 2 He who to this day has fed me and to man - y
 3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting o - ver tri - fles
 4 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope a - new my



grace and bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me is and ev - er shall be mine.
 and in get - ting things that have no sol - id ground.
 heart will quick - en; all my long - ing shall be stilled.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en in their God are
 He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, he who dai - ly
 I shall strive to win a trea - sure that will bring me
 To his lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der soul and bod - y



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
 last - ing plea - sure and that now is sel - dom found.
 I sur - ren - der, for on God a - lone I build.

Well he knows what best to grant me;
 all the longing hopes that haunt me,
 joy and sorrow, have their day.
 I shall doubt his wisdom never;
 as God wills, so be it ever;
 I commit to him my way.

If my days on earth he lengthen,
he my weary soul will strengthen;
all my trust in him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
like a stream away is gliding;
safe I anchor in his grace.

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

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Hymn 705



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep,
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands—'tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

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.

"Blessed Assurance" Lyrics by Fanny Crosby, Music by Phoebe Knapp

**LET'S CELEBRATE LUTHERAN
SCHOOLS SUNDAY!**

SUNDAY JANUARY 25

**CHILI
COOK-
OFF**



SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9AM

TOUR CLASSROOMS

PARTICIPATE IN A SCAVENGER HUNT

COMPETE IN THE CHILI COOK-OFF

ENJOY CHILI AND FIXIN'S