

# NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 2—WEEK 8



## THE DIVIDED KINGDOM—1 KINGS 12

# CELEBRATION OF THE REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

### **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

**Pastor Ben Squires**

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: [pastor@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:pastor@bethelgurnee.org)

**Cindy Daluga, Disciple Care Coordinator**

[Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org)

**Ben Sanders, Mission Facilitator**

[office@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:office@bethelgurnee.org)

**Website:** [www.BethelGurnee.org](http://www.BethelGurnee.org)



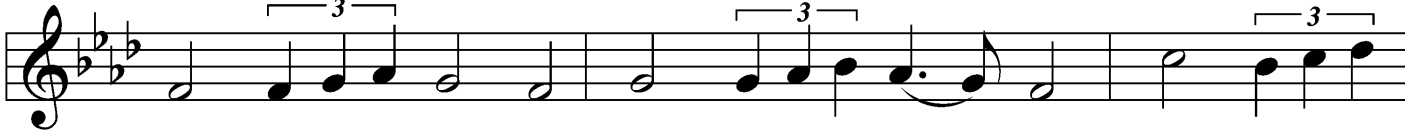
**ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:**  
 BLASKO FAMILY IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN'S BIRTHDAY  
 LANCE RASMUSSEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF PAT



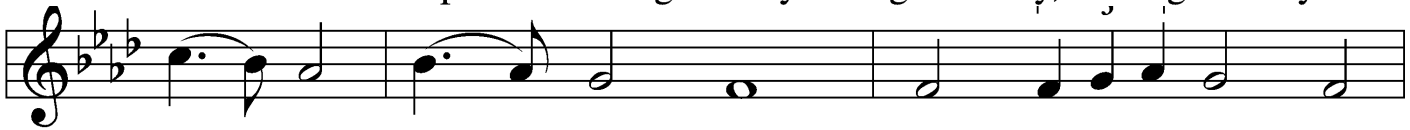
**Opening Hymn**

**Thy Strong Word**

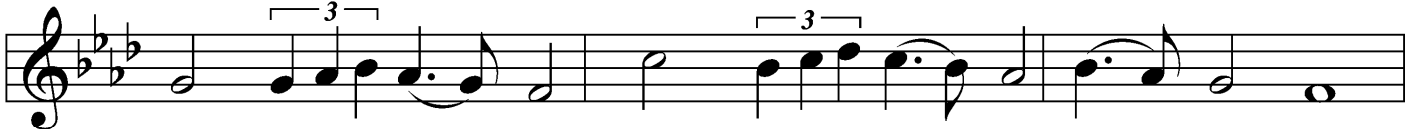
LSB 578 sts. 1, 4-5



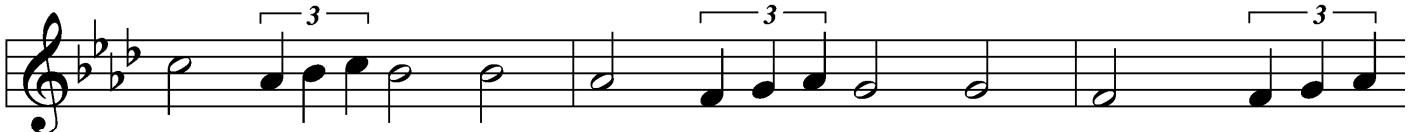
1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth  
 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo - ry, Tongues Thy



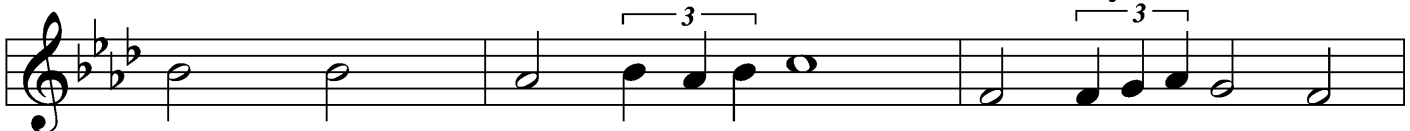
speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -  
 mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats that shout the



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.  
 hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho - ly name.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!

**Invocation**

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: These words remind us of our baptism. What is Baptism?

C: **Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.**

P: What benefits does Baptism give?

C: **It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.**

P: What does God's Word in Romans 6 teach us about Baptism?

C: **"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."**

**Baptism Verse**

**Baptized into Your Name Most Holy**

LSB 590 st. 1

1 Bap-tized in - to Your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and  
 Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,  
 A - mong Your saints, Your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and  
 dead to sin, Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

**Confession and Absolution (Forgiveness)**

P: What is Confession and Absolution?

C: **Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.**



P: Confess and admit your sins to God the Father.

C: *I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let his love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I pray You, Almighty God, merciful Father, for the sake of the innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.*

P: Do you believe that word of Christ's forgiveness I speak to you is from the Lord Himself?

C: *I do.*

P: Receive the forgiveness Christ won for you by His Passion, death, and resurrection. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**Absolution Verse**

**Thy Strong Word**

LSB 578 st. 6

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are: "God the Fa-ther, light - cre - a - tor, To Thee laud and hon - or be. To Thee, Light of Light be - got - ten, Praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly. Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, Glo - ry, glo - ry be to Thee. Mor - tals, an - gels, now and ev - er Praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!". The score includes several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) and a delta symbol (Δ) above the first measure of the first line.

## **Greeting and Luther's Morning Prayer**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

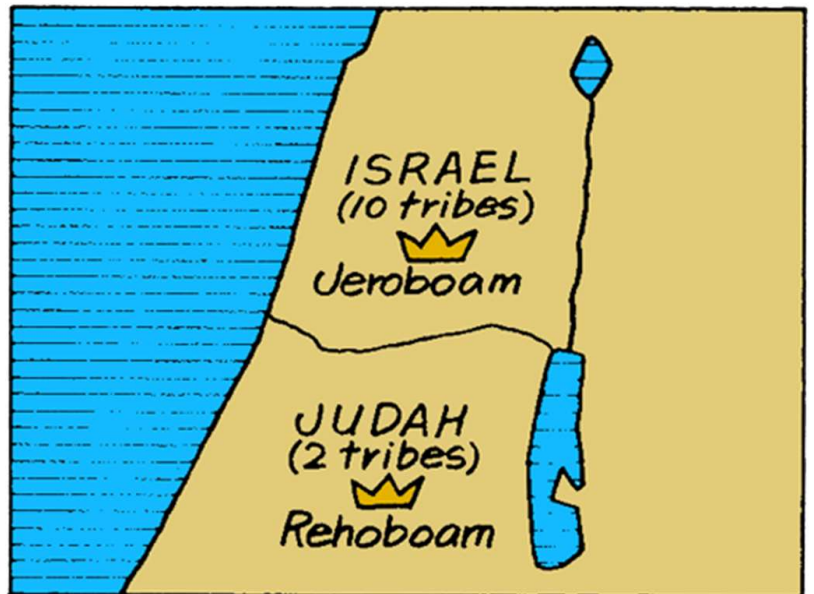
P: Let us pray together.

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

## **This Week's Narrative Lectionary Reading**

**1 Kings 12:1-7 (VOICE)**

Rehoboam traveled to Shechem, a border city between Ephraim and Manasseh, because the entire community of Israel had gathered there to install him as the new king. <sup>2</sup> Jeroboam (Nebat's son) received word of this while he was living in Egypt, hiding from King Solomon. <sup>3</sup> Then the people of the northern tribes called for Jeroboam, and with him the entire community of Israel spoke to Solomon's son, Rehoboam.



**Jeroboam and Israel:** <sup>4</sup> During your father's time, he weighed us down with heavy workloads *and caused us much suffering*. We have come here to ask you to lighten the load your father laid upon us. If you do so, we will be your willing servants.

**Rehoboam:** <sup>5</sup> Go away for three days, then come back to me. *I need to think this over.*

The people left. . . <sup>6</sup> King Rehoboam then went to talk with the elders who had been in the service of his father, Solomon, when he was alive. *He asked for their advice on this matter.*

**Rehoboam (to the elders):** *I have come here for your wisdom. What guidance do you have for me? What should I say to these people who are asking me to lighten their workload?*

**Elders:** <sup>7</sup> Serve your people today; do exactly as they ask, and offer them kind words *and encouragement*. If you serve them *in this way* today, then they will be devoted to you *and will serve you forever*.



**Song of Praise (of the Elders, perhaps?)**

**Be Still and Know**



1. Be still, and know that I am God Be still, and  
2. Be still, and know that I'm the Lord Be still, and  
3. Be still, and know that I am here Be still, and  
4. Be still, and know that you are loved Be still, and

6



know that I am God I stand a - lone a - bove each  
know that I'm the Lord Come un - to me and  
know that I am here At my com - mand wind and  
11 know that you are loved You are my friend I



na - tion of the ear - th Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will give you re - st Be still, and know that I'm the Lord.  
wave both dis - ap - pear Be still, and know that I am here.  
give my life for you Be still, and know that you are loved.

**Continued. . . Narrative Lectionary Reading**

**1 Kings 12:8–17, 25–29 (VOICE)**

<sup>8</sup> But Rehoboam ignored the advice of the elders. Instead he went to consult *his childhood friends*—the young men with whom he had grown up and who served him.

**Rehoboam:** <sup>9</sup> What guidance do you have for me? What should I say to these people who have made this request to me: “Lighten our load, the one your father has placed upon us”?

**Young Men:** <sup>10</sup> *When you meet again with these people who have made this request to you: “Your father weighed us down with heavy workloads and caused us much suffering. We ask you to lighten the load your father laid upon us,” speak firmly: “You think my father was hard on you? My little finger is more potent than my father’s loins! <sup>11</sup> My father weighed you down with a heavy load, but I will make your load even heavier. My father used whips to command you, and you thought that was harsh. I will use a scourge with the sting of scorpions.*

<sup>12</sup> Jeroboam and all the people of *Israel* came back to meet with Rehoboam after they had been away for three days. They did this because Rehoboam had given them this instruction: “Go away for three days, then come back to me.” <sup>13</sup> So Rehoboam spoke to the people in a tyrannical tone and completely ignored the advice of the *experienced* elders. <sup>14</sup> Rehoboam instead heeded the advice of the young men *with whom he had grown up*.

**Rehoboam:** My father weighed you down with a heavy load, but I will make your load even heavier. My father used whips to command you, *and you thought that was harsh*. I will use a scourge *with the sting* of scorpions.

<sup>15</sup> After King Rehoboam had finished speaking to Jeroboam and the Israelites, the king did not listen to them as the Eternal intended. Thus Rehoboam fulfilled the promise the Eternal One gave through *the prophet*, Ahijah the Shilonite, to Jeroboam (Nebat’s son). <sup>16</sup> The people of Israel realized the king had not listened to them.

**Israelites:** What lot of David’s belongs to us?

We have no inheritance in Jesse’s son;

Go back to your tents, Israel!

Take care of your own house, David! *There is no good news for us!*

The Israelites left and went back to their homes. <sup>17</sup> But Rehoboam ruled over all the Israelites who lived in the cities that were a part of Judah.

<sup>25</sup> *In Israel* Jeroboam fortified Shechem in the hilly land of Ephraim. He lived there for a time, then he *took on another project and* fortified Penuel.

**Jeroboam (in his heart):** <sup>26</sup> *It is possible that* the kingdom might return to the house of David. <sup>27</sup> If these people make sacrifices in the Eternal’s temple in Jerusalem, then their hearts will go back to their lord, even to Rehoboam, Judah’s king. They will surely execute me and go back to Rehoboam, Judah’s king.

<sup>28</sup> The king sought out advice and then cast two calves out of gold.

**Jeroboam (to Israel):** It’s too difficult for you to travel all the way to Jerusalem *to make your sacrifices*. These are your gods, Israel, who led you out of Egypt.

<sup>29</sup> Jeroboam placed one *of the golden calves* in Bethel and the other in Dan.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

**Praise the Everlasting King!**

**Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to His feet your tribute bring;  
 Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing.  
 Praise Him for His grace and favor to all people in distress.  
 Praise Him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Fatherlike, He tends and spares us; all our hopes and fears He knows.  
 In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.  
 Let us then adore Him, living God of love and grace!  
 Earth and heaven, bow down before Him; all who dwell in time and space.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: Mighty God, Your servant Rehoboam divided Your kingdom with his tyranny, yet You remained faithful to both kingdoms, even in the midst of conflict. And You sent Your Son, our true King, the Servant King, who showed us how to live through humbling ourselves and serving others for the glory of Your Name. Grant us this way of life by Your Holy Spirit, who lives and reigns with You and the King of Kings, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Hymn of the Day**

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

LSB 656



1 A    might - y    for -    tress is    our    God,  
 2 With    might    of    ours    can    naught    be    done,  
 3 Though    dev -    ils    all    the    world    should    fill,  
 4 The    Word    they    still    shall    let    re -    main



A    trust -    y    shield    and    weap -    on;  
 Soon    were    our    loss    ef -    fect    -    ed;  
 All    ea -    ger    to    de -    vour    us,  
 Nor    an -    y    thanks    have    for    it;





He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
 But for us fights the val - iant One,  
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er - tak - en.  
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



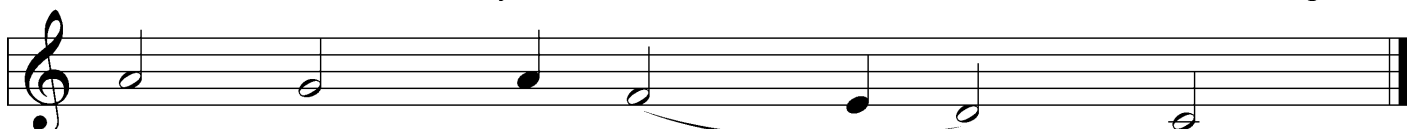
The old e - vil foe Now means  
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus  
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce  
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might  
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,  
 as he will, He can harm us none.  
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth  
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds  
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -  
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.  
 the field for - ev - er.  
 tle word can fell him.  
 dom ours re - main - eth.

**Confession of Faith 3rd Article of the Apostles’ Creed and Luther’s explanation**

P: What do you believe about the Holy Spirit?

C: *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.*

P: What does this mean?

C: *I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.*

**Offering & Prayer Requests**

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

**Offertory On My Heart Imprint Your Image**

LSB 422

*(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)*

On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,  
 That life’s rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;  
 Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
 Is my life, my hope’s foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

## **Prayers**

P: The Lord invites us to pray saying:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.**

P: Therefore, we bring our prayers to You this day, Father. . .

## **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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 Lord's Supper: What We Believe**

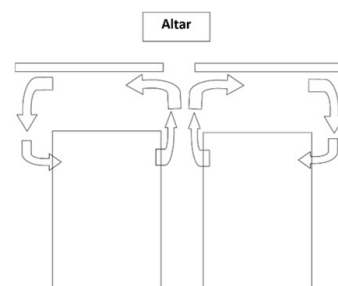
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



## **Communion Distribution**

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace. Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



### **Preparation for the Lord's Supper**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

C: **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

P: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

C: **These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," shows us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

P: Who receives this sacrament worthily?

C: **The person who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.      C: **And also with you.**

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

#### **Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**

LSB 163

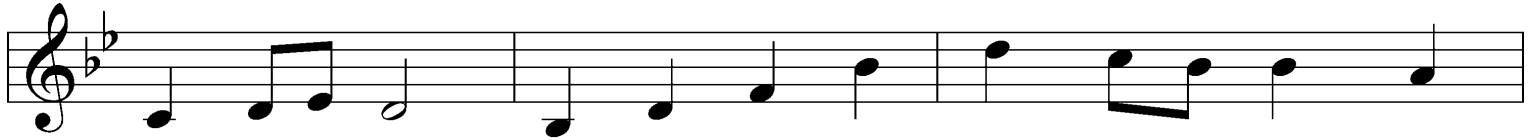
☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**First Distribution Hymn** *Glory Be to God the Father*

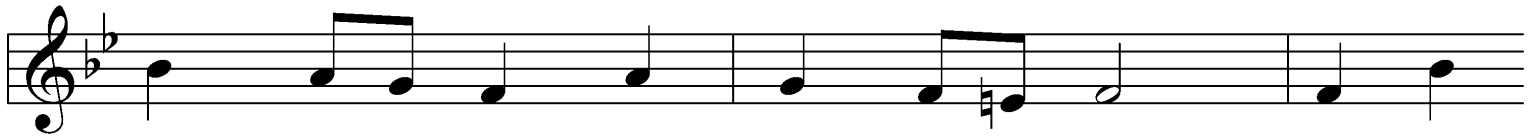
LSB 506



1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to  
2 Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each  
3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, Glo - ry to the  
4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal! Thus the choir of



God the Son, Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:  
spot and stain; Glo - ry be to Him who bought us,  
Church's King, Glo - ry to the King of na - tions;  
an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!



Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,  
Made us kings with Him to reign! Glo - ry,  
Heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,  
Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,



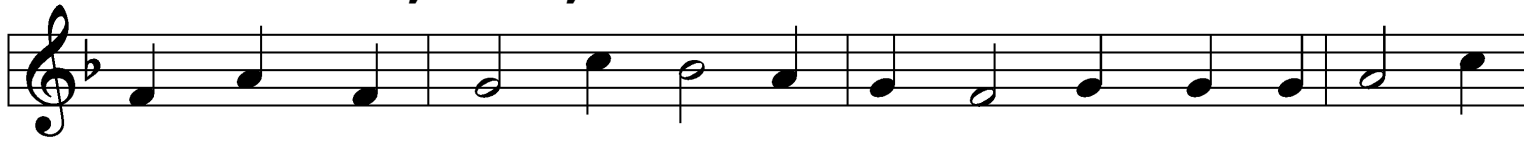
glo - ry While e - ter - nal a - ges run!  
glo - ry To the Lamb that once was slain!  
glo - ry To the King of glo - ry sing!  
glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89  
Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865–1919



**Second Distribution Hymn By Grace I'm Saved**

LSB 566 sts. 1-4



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and  
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct  
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to  
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?  
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,  
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it  
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,

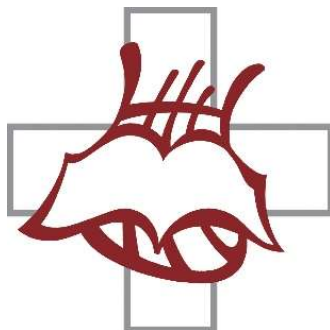


Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must  
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our  
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and  
What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.  
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.  
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.  
God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709-61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697-1775





### **Common Dismissal**

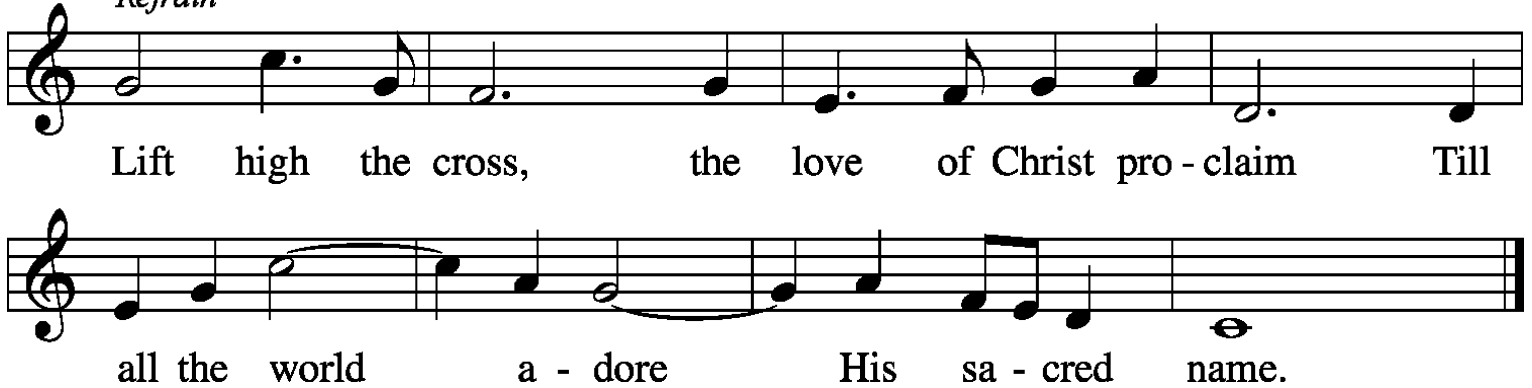
P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord... C: Amen.

### **Thanksgiving Verse**

### **Lift High the Cross**

LSB 837 ref

#### *Refrain*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till  
all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

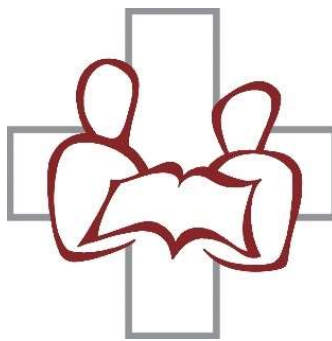
### **Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this blessed gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: Amen.

### **Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.



#### **Acknowledgments**

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2019.

This order of worship uses words taken from *Martin Luther's Small Catechism*, 1986 edition, LCMS.

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**Closing Verse**

**Lift High the Cross**

LSB 837 sts. ref, 4

*Refrain*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.



1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Cap-tain trod,

*Refrain*



Our king vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.

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**Announcements**

# UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM**

**FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM**

**EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM**

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM**

**FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM**

**EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM**

CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. USHERS, READERS, AND VARIOUS OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND COMMUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THOSE ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT [OFFICE@BETHELGURNEE.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@BETHELGURNEE.ORG).