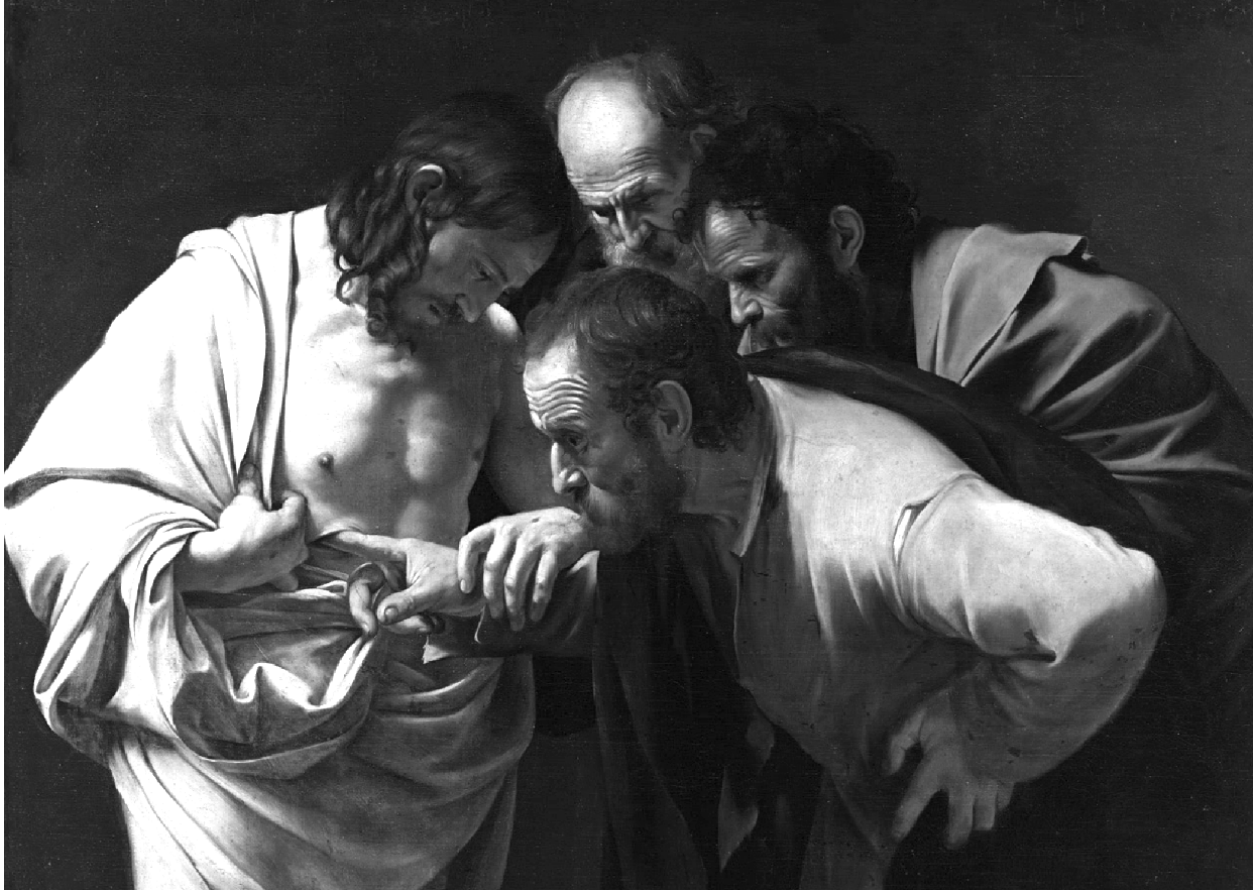


Second Sunday of Easter



Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Oak Creek, WI

April 4 & 7, 2024

Welcome to Saint John's!

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod + founded 1843

- May **God bless your worship** today so that your faith in Christ grows stronger and your love for God and neighbor burns more brightly.
- The **restrooms** are located in the basement at the east end of the building.
- **Your children** are always welcome at St. John's and we encourage you to involve them in the service. *If you need to take your little one out for a bit of a breather, please use our parents' room located in the back of the church.* Parents with small children may wish to consider sitting in the back pews. Thanks for showing respect to your fellow worshipers.
- If you would like **more information** about Saint John's, feel free to...
 - Visit Our website: www.stjohnsoakwood.org
 - Email Pastor Reckzin : d.reckzin@gmail.com
 - Call Pastor Reckzin: 414-232-2953
- If you are **interested in joining St. John's**, Pastor Reckzin is happy to lead you through some Bible classes at your convenience. There is no cost or obligation.

Participation in Holy Communion In respect for the Scriptures and the true presence of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament, Saint John's follows the ancient and biblical practice of member communion. We ask that only members of Saint John's or of WELS/ELS congregations come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you have questions about close communion, Pastor Reckzin is happy to explain the practice according to Holy Scripture. We appreciate your respect for our practice. Thank you.

***Prayer upon entering Church:** Lord Jesus, you know the weakness of my faith far better than I do. Have mercy on me. I do believe. Help me overcome my unbelief. By the Holy Spirit's power of your Gospel, fill my heart with faith in you. Erase all my doubts. Strengthen every strand of my faith. Draw me closer to you so that I may proclaim the glorious truth: Christ is risen! You are risen, indeed. AMEN!*

NOTE: On Thursday evening the minister's liturgical parts will be spoken.

462 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

CW 462



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 See the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 For to - day a - mong his own Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry to our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;
with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;
bless - ed peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal.



loosed from Phar - aoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
comes to glad - den faith - ful hearts which with true af - fec - tion
Nei - ther could the gates of death nor the tomb's dark por - tal
Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
wel - come in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
nor the watch - ers nor the seal hold him as a mor - tal.
God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness!

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754
Tune: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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!

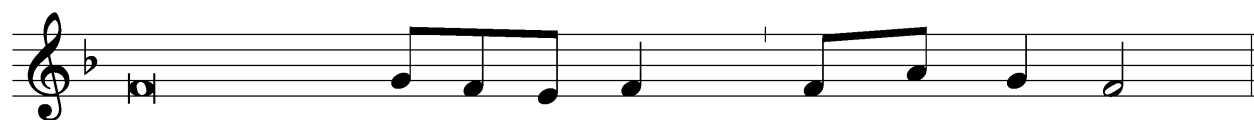
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

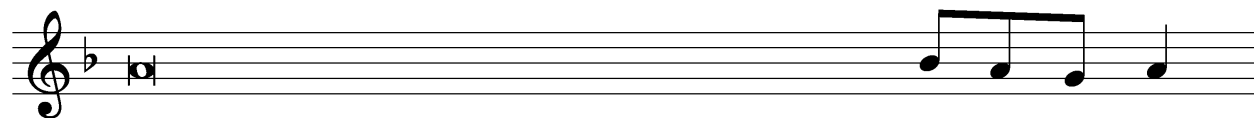
Silence for meditation and reflection

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



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



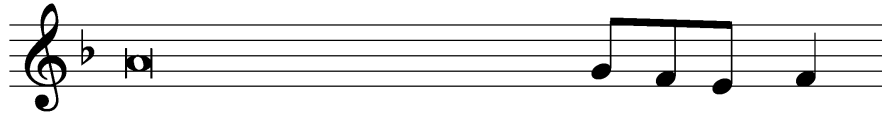
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



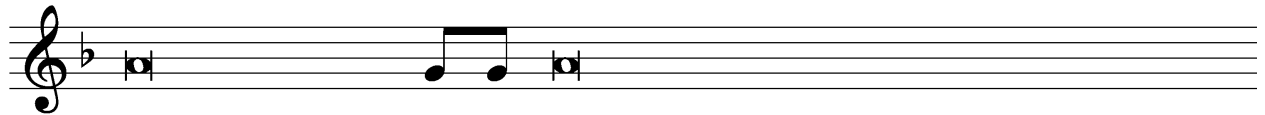
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



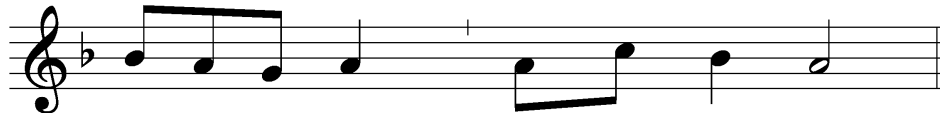
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



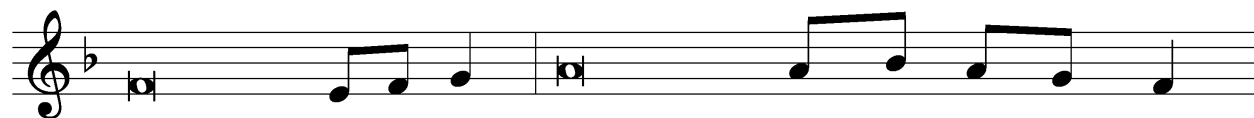
A - men.

Tune: Kevin Becker

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727825

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



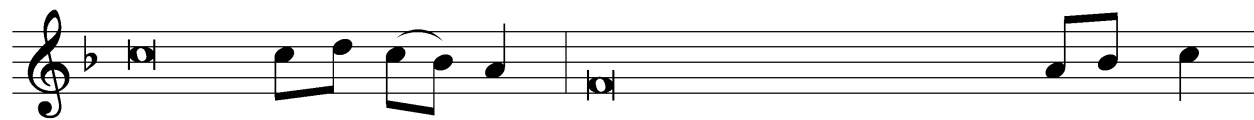
Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



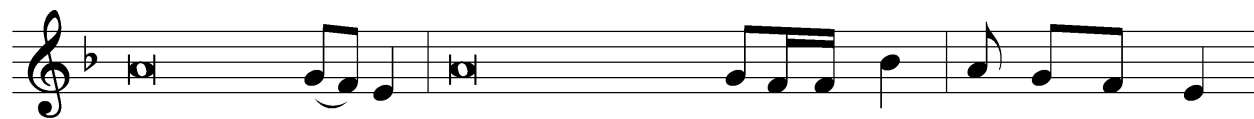
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 18:1–11

The promised presence of the living Lord gave Paul the courage to keep on speaking the gospel, even when Paul was facing harsh persecution.

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

16C You Will Show Me the Path of Life

Psalm 16C

Refrain



You will show me the path of life, you, my hope and my shel-ter;



in your pres-ence is end-less joy, at your side is my home for - ev - er.

Verses



1 Faith - ful God, _____ I look to you, you a - lone my life and
 2 From of old you are my her - i - tage, you my wis - dom and my
 3 So my heart _____ shall sing for joy, in your arms I rest se -



for - tune, nev - er shall I look to oth - er gods,
 safe - ty, through the night you speak with - in my heart,
 cure - ly, you will not a - ban - don me to death,



you shall be my one hope.
 si - lent - ly you teach me.
 you shall not de - sert me.

Second Reading

1 John 1:1-4

St. John reminds us that there were witnesses who saw and touched Jesus raised from the dead. This resurrection serves as proof that eternal life is ours.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

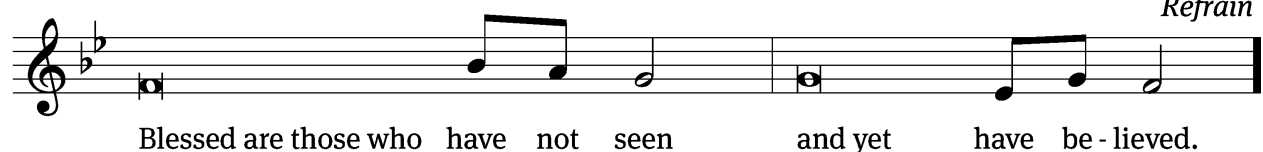
John 20:29



Refrain



Tone



Christian faith is not blind. The risen Savior offers proof and peace to his disciples.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, whom heav'n - ly
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, the faith - ful
 3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee, for thus he
 4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear; a - mong them



hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the grave has lost its sting!
 wom - en went their way to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
 spoke un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
 came their Lord most dear and said, "My peace be with you here."



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 **When Thomas afterwards had heard
 that Jesus had fulfilled his word,
 he doubted that it was the Lord.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 **"Thomas, behold my side," said he,
 "my hands, my feet, my body see;
 and doubt not, but believe in me."**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 **No longer Thomas then denied;
 he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 "You are my Lord and God," he cried.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**8 Blessed are they that have not seen
and yet whose faith has constant been;
in life eternal they shall reign.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**9 On this most holy day of days
to God your hearts and voices raise
in laud and jubilee and praise.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615; Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

John 20:24-29

"Stop Doubting and Believe!"

Stand

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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition*]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [*especially . . . here name the person*]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.
Amen.

Offertory

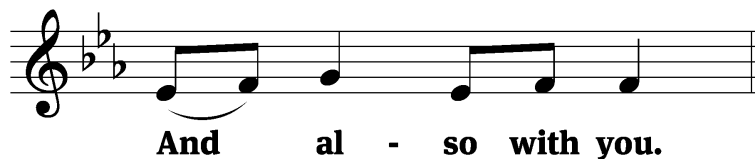
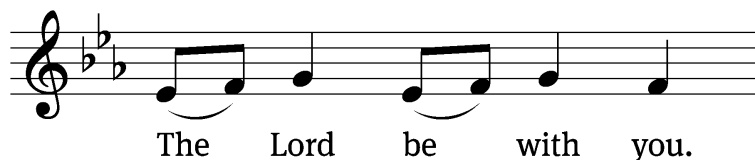
The offertory serves as a 'hinge' between the service of the Word and the service of the sacrament. It is a time to reflect on what you have heard and to prepare for the reception of Holy Communion (See page 295 in the hymnal for **Christian Questions** to prepare for Holy Communion.)

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 165





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 by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. 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 167



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -



san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,



bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases marked with slurs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Distribution

464 I Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again

CW 464



1 I am con-tent! My Je-sus lives a - gain, in whom my
 2 I am con-tent! My Je-sus is my head; his mem - ber
 3 I am con-tent! My Je-sus is my light, my ra - diant
 4 I am con-tent! Lord, set me ev - er free and wake me



heart is pleased. He has ful - filled the law of God for me,
 I will be. He bowed his head when on the cross he died
 sun of grace. His cheer - ing rays beam bless - ings forth for all:
 from the dead that I may rise for - ev - er - more to be



God's wrath he has ap - peased. Since he in
 with cries of ag - o - ny. Now death is
 sweet com - fort, hope, and peace. This Eas - ter
 with you, my liv - ing head. The chains that

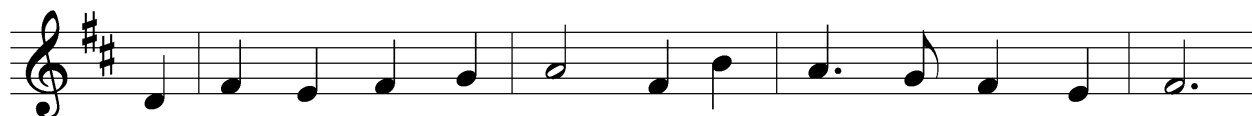


death could per - ish nev - er, I al - so shall not
 brought in - to sub - jec - tion for me by Je - sus'
 sun has brought sal - va - tion and ev - er - last - ing
 hold my bod - y, sev - er; then shall my soul re -

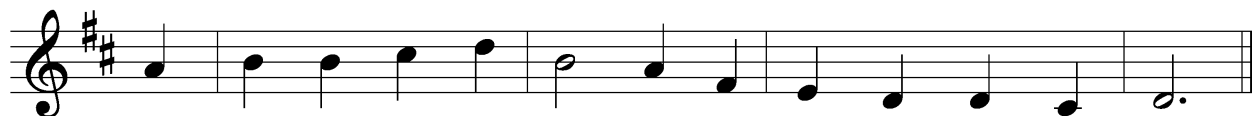


die for - ev - er. I am con-tent! I am con - tent!
 res - ur - rec - tion. I am con-tent! I am con - tent!
 ex - ul - ta - tion. I am con-tent! I am con - tent!
 joice for - ev - er. I am con-tent! I am con - tent!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.; attr. Johann J. Möller, 1660-1733, abr
 Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673
 Text and tune: Public domain



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace
 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, a - mong us with your Word
 3 A - bide with heav'n-ly bright - ness a - mong us, pre - cious Light;
 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings a - mong us, boun-teous Lord;



that Sa - tan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.
 and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford.
 your truth di - rect and keep us from er - ror's gloom - y night.
 let us in grace and wis - dom grow dai - ly through your Word.

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

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

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632
 Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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 thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

443 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

CW 443 sts. 4-5

4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my
 5 He brings me to the por - tal that leads to
 Sav - ior dear. My Lord will leave me nev - er; with
 bliss un - told, where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal is
 him I need not fear. He rends death's i - ron
 found in script of gold: "Who there my cross has
 chain; he breaks through sin and pain. He shat - ters
 shared finds here a crown pre - pared; who there with
 hell's dark thrall; I fol - low him through all.
 me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied."

Text: tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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