

THE OPEN DOOR

AS WE GATHER

The Gospel of Christ is God’s invitation to salvation and eternal life. Cards or letters of invitation occasionally end with the eloquent phrase from the French language abbreviated only with the letters RSVP, signaling that the sender wishes to know for how many to plan in attendance. (Of course, we may presume God already knows that final number!) But to receive an RSVP invitation requires a response. Today, Jesus issues the invitation to the Kingdom asking all to “strive to enter.” Surprisingly, the response or effort required is simply to receive the benefit of our Lord’s own work on our behalf. You enter the open, narrow door through Baptism into the death of Christ. The baptismal life is a striving to die and rise daily by faith in the way of the cross of Christ. Through the door of the Eucharist we are nourished and faith is strengthened and sustained by Christ’s body and blood. This eating and drinking is necessary for the struggle of faith. Here today you continue your RSVP, entering the door who is Christ by the power of your Holy Baptism.

OPENING HYMN “ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL”

#791



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
3 O en - ter then His gates with praise; Ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy
△ 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His
aid He did us make. We are His folk, He
joy His courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless His
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the



praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1593, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 46:1; 50:1

- P** God is our refuge and strength,
C a very present help in trouble.

- P** The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth
C from the rising of the sun to its setting.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Invited by the grace of God, as His baptized children, we entreat His mercy confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.
C **O merciful Father, hear our plea for Your constant help in the struggle of living in the strength of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We lay our sins on His own atoning death. Raise us in the assurance of Your forgiveness and Your power to create a new and contrite heart, that we may serve You in holiness and forever sing Your praises both now and forever. Hear us for the sake of Jesus, our Lord and our eternal King. Amen.**

- P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit, strengthen you with His grace. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus 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.
C Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 204

- C** Lord, have mercy;
 Christ, have mercy;
 Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 204



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

PSALM READING

Psalm 50:1-2, 14-15

¹The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

[The Lord says]

¹⁴Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,

¹⁵and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 12:4-24

⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather

be healed. ¹⁴Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

¹⁸For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Luke 13:29

C Alleluia. People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:22–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ ²⁶Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’

²⁸In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

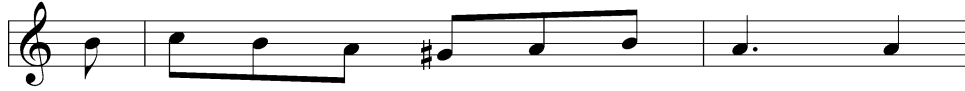
HYMN OF THE DAY

“A MULTITUDE COMES FROM THE EAST AND THE WEST”

#510



1 A mul - ti - tude comes from the east and the west
2 O God, let us hear when our Shep - herd shall call
3 All tri - als shall be like a dream that is past,
4 The heav - ens shall ring with an an - them more grand



To sit at the feast of sal - va - tion
In ac - cents per - sua - sive and ten - der,
For - got - ten all trou - ble and mourn - ing,
Than ev - er on earth was re - cord - ed.



With A - bra - ham, I - saac, and Ja - cob, the blest,
That while there is time we make haste, one and all,
All ques - tions and doubts have been an - swered at last,
The blest of the Lord shall re - ceive at His hand



O - bey - ing the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion.
And find Him, our might - y de - fend - er.
When ris - es the light of that morn - ing.
The crown to the vic - tors a - ward - ed.



Have mer - cy up - on us, O Je - sus!
Have mer - cy up - on us, O Je - sus!
Have mer - cy up - on us, O Je - sus!
Have mer - cy up - on us, O Je - sus!

Text: Magnus Brostrup Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, adapt.

Tune: Swedish, 1694

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON “How God Heals”

Psalm 50:14-15

CREED

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness, and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, for Your Holy Church, for the Means of Grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to remain constant in the struggle of faith empowered by the cross of Christ, filled with hope and confidence. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Save and defend Your whole Church and strengthen Your faithful people through the Word and the Holy Sacraments, establishing in them the faith once delivered to the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Grant Your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold offices of service in Your Church that by their work and example faith may abound and Your kingdom increase into all the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Preserve our nation in justice and honor, and grant health and favor to all who bear the offices of government in our land. Guard and protect also all who serve in the armed forces of our country. Give them faithfulness and success in their service and grant that their homecomings be joyful. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

P By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity, *especially Hedy, Jean, Kathleen, Ray, Sally, Wally, Dana, Dennis, Kaylee, Kris, Jen, John, Jonathan, Leah, Rod and Sharlene*. Be with those also who suffer persecution for the faith. Sustain and bless all who care for those who suffer. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

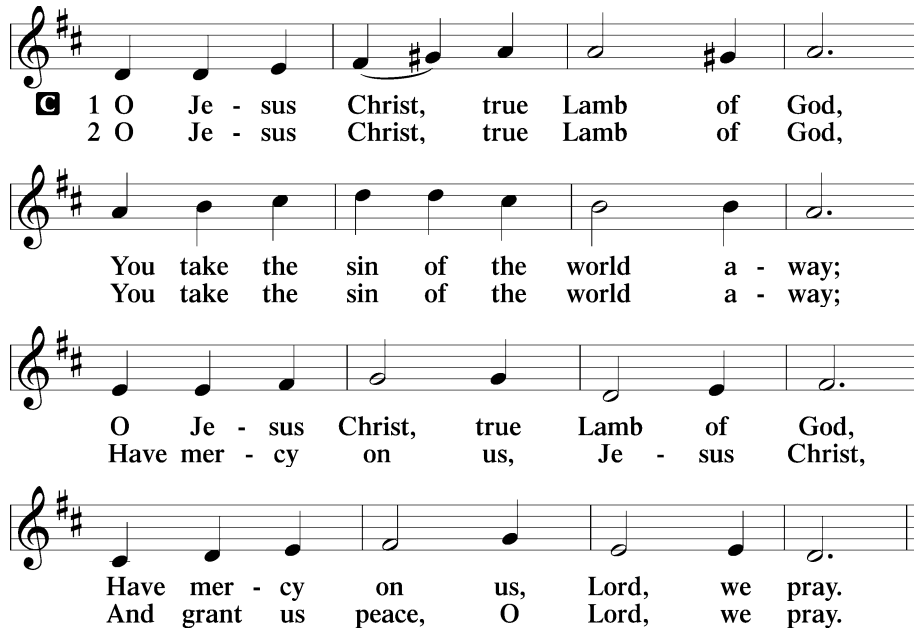
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 210



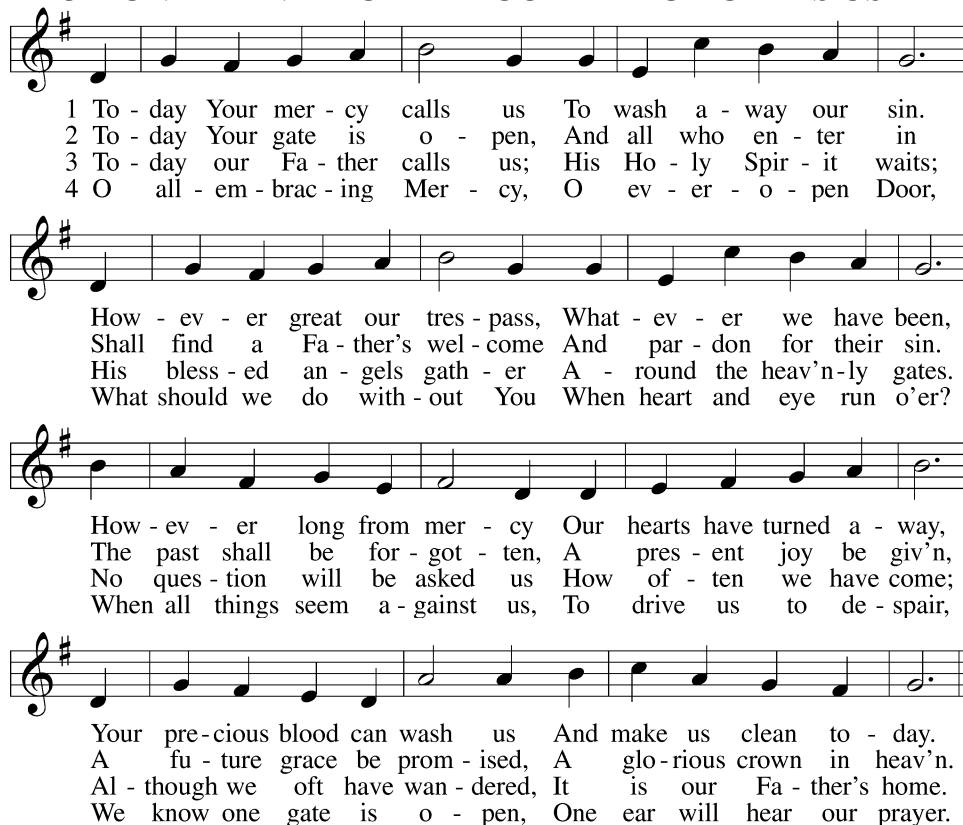
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US"

#915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,
How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?
How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,
Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary 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.

CLOSING HYMN “THINE THE AMEN, THINE THE PRAISE”

#680



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the
3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the
4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929

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