

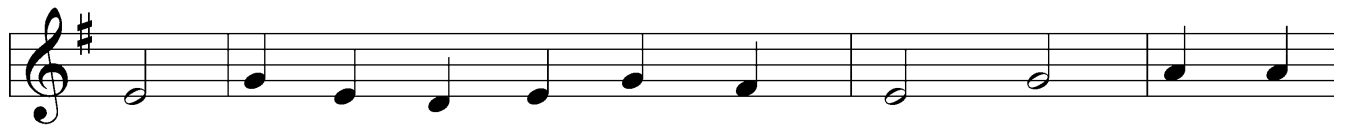
God's Plans

As We Gather

God's plans are far beyond our understanding. Even His divine existence sends our minds reeling. No wonder that Jesus' disciples, and we who follow them, cannot figure out why He lets His and our spiritual enemies live with us. But because we have been given faith by the Holy Spirit, and although we cannot understand God's plans, in the death and resurrection of Christ, our Lord, we trust His divine wisdom. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit and know that the Spirit intercedes for us. Thus, even in the groans of our prayers, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In sure hope, we wait for the day when we shall "shine like the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

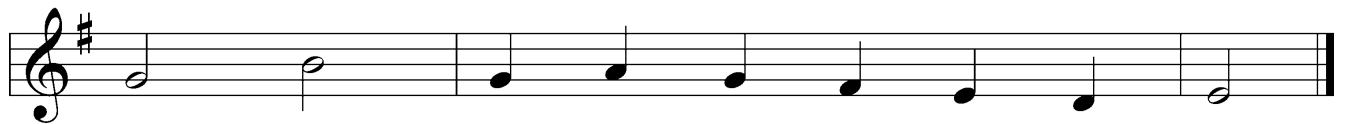
LSB 655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8–9

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **We confess, gracious God, that we groan not only because of sin in the world, but our failure to trust You for all that we need. We have not waited patiently; we have demanded reasons from You; we have sought to excuse ourselves. Yet You have given us the Spirit, who intercedes for us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to hope not in ourselves but in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
- P** The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where you were redeemed as God's beloved children. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 86:11–15; antiphon: v. 6

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life,
and they do not set you before them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.

Kyrie

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For peace and salvation from God above, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For peace in this sin-sick world, growth in the Church, and unity among its members, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, ourselves, and all who worship here, let us pray to the Lord.

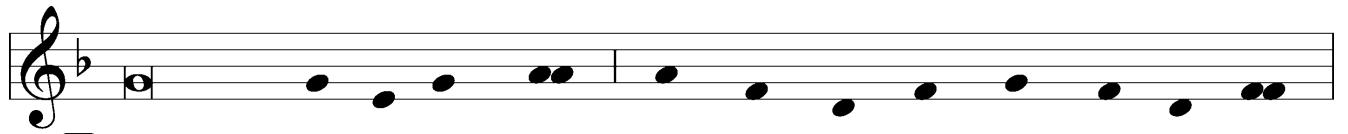
C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

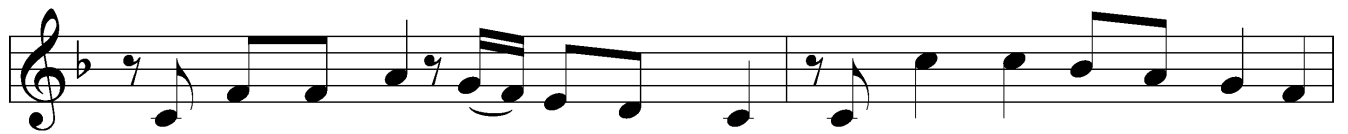
154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C 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.



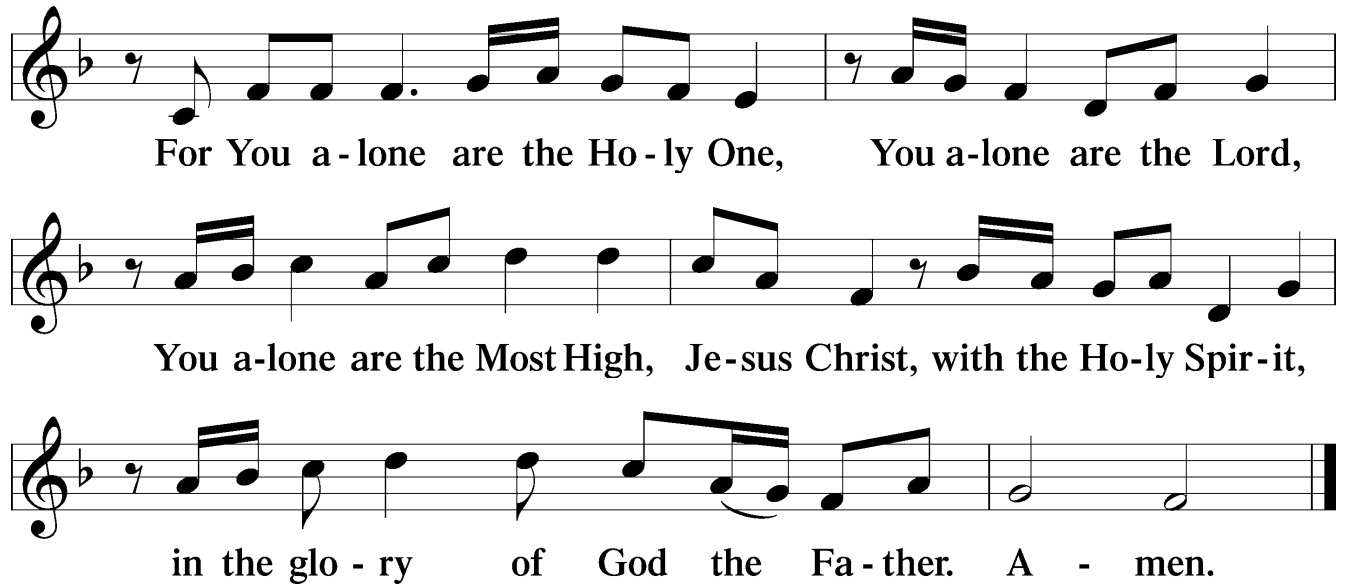
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
 O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment,
- C** we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter;
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6–8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
 and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
 “I am the first and I am the last;
 besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
 Let him declare and set it before me,
 since I appointed an ancient people.
 Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.
⁸Fear not, nor be afraid;
 have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual and Verse

Romans 11:33, 36; Matthew 13:35b

- P** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
- C** **How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**

- P** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
- C** **To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

- P** Alleluia. I will open My mouth in parables;
- C** **I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

772 In Holy Conversation

LSB 772



1 In ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion We speak to God in prayer,
 2 These ho - ly con - ver - sa - tions Be - gin in child-like ways;
 3 As ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion, In si - lence or by word,



And at His in - vi - ta - tion Our deep-est thoughts we share.
 We bring our sup - pli - ca - tions And words of thanks and praise.
 In ev - 'ry sit - u - a - tion Through Je - sus, we are heard.



We come, His will o - bey - ing, As chil - dren bring - ing needs;
 With care our Fa - ther lis - tens To ev - 'ry thought ex - pressed,
 So let us pray se - cure - ly, Ex - press - ing hopes and fears



And to sup - port our pray - ing, His Spir - it in - ter - cedes.
Then an - swers our pe - ti - tions In ways He knows are best.
With con - fi - dence that sure - ly Our Fa - ther ev - er hears.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946

Tune: Swedish

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Sermon

Apostles' Creed

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.**

Offering - We Thank the Lord with the Offering

Offertory

LSB 192



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

P When we look at the storms gathering around us, many people are in dire straits. Let us pray for them, for the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

For the human powers that be, that God would enable them to make and administer laws to order society within their borders and to establish peace across them, let us pray to the Lord.

C Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

P For the disenfranchised and homeless, the forgotten and oppressed, the unemployed and disheartened, that God would protect and defend them, open doors of opportunity for them, and move them to rely on Him for all their needs, let us pray to the Lord.

C Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

P For those near and dear to us in their illnesses, anger, grief, or despair, [*especially* . . .], and those whom we name in our hearts now [*pause for silent prayer*], that God would visit, relieve, strengthen, and renew them according to His gracious plan, let us pray to the Lord.

C Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

P For those who tend flocks and till the soil, who provide transportation and manage shops, who provide protection in their communities and defense of their nation, and who respond to sudden emergencies and work to increase health and wellbeing, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.**

P For ourselves and all who come to the Lord's Table in true faith, that God would bestow on us His forgiveness, life, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.**

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father,

C **grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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.**

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.**

Announcements



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
 2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
 3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
 doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
 hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
 shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
 sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

Tune: Irish

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.

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