

# Christ the King Sunday

## First and Foremost

### As We Gather

Too often we think about God's being up in His heaven, looking down on us. Today's Readings give us the correct perspective. Through Ezekiel, God announces that He is the One who will provide pasture for His people and that He will send them David to be their king. In the Psalm, we reflect that God is our maker. Christ is not only the first to rise from death, Paul explains in the Epistle; He is also the foremost, the One to subject all things under Him. And so His decisions when judging on the Last Day cannot be questioned. First and foremost, then, today is a day to let God's Word give us a correct perspective. This last Sunday of the Church Year is an opportunity to "make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise" (Psalm 95:2).

### 905 Come, Thou Almighty King

LSB 905



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy  
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred  
△ 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -  
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy  
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -  
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,  
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,  
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.  
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

## Invocation

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

## Confession and Absolution

Ezekiel 34:11; 1 Corinthians 15:27

- P** Let us confess our unworthiness, and beg for His grace and mercy.

Through Ezekiel, God said that He would “search for My sheep and will seek them out.”

- C** **We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.**

- P** Paul wrote that “God has put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet.”

- C** **We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.**

- P** Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others—the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.

- C** **We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.**

- P** Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who is the one who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. 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. Thanks be to God.**

## Introit

Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;  
let me know how fleeting I am!

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,  
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

My hope is in you.

Deliver me from all my transgressions.

Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!

For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

**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.**

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,  
the home of righteousness.

## Kyrie

LSB 152

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** 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.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray  
to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**


**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** **Amen.**


## This Is the Feast

LSB 155

*Refrain*



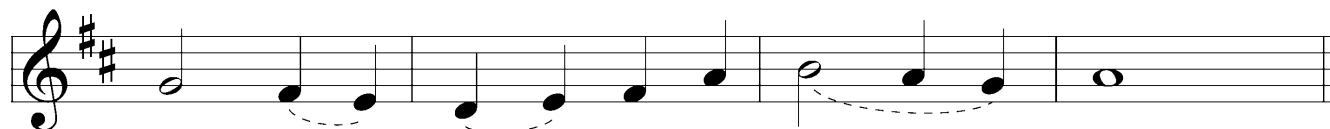
**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



*Final Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Salutation

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

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead.
- C** Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world;
- P** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

<sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Verse

Revelation 22:13

- P** Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,  
**C** the beginning and the end. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

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

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

<sup>41</sup>“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is  
 2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords Is  
 3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The  
 4 To them the cross, with all its shame, With



crowned with glo - ry now; A roy - al di - a -  
 His, is His by right, The King of kings and  
 Joy of all be - low To whom He man - i -  
 all its grace, is giv'n; Their name an ev - er -



dem a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.  
 Lord of lords, And heav'n's e - ter - nal Light;  
 feasts His love And grants His name to know.  
 last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.

- 5 They suffer with their Lord below,  
 They reign with Him above,  
 Their profit and their joy to know  
 The myst'ry of His love.
- 6 The cross He bore is life and health,  
 Though shame and death to Him:  
 His people's hope, His people's wealth,  
 Their everlasting theme.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855

Tune: Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674–1707

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## 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** Let us pray for people here and around the world who are destitute, fearful of God's wrath, shunned by society, unjustly accused, or dealing with issues of health.

As You have promised, Lord our God, seek out, we pray, those who, devoid of basic necessities, face today without homes, with few possessions, and an uncertain future.

**C** **For the sake of our Good Shepherd, lead them to the food, shelter, and security they desperately need.**

**P** With the Gospel in the hearts and on the lips of Christ's Church, heavenly Father, enable our brothers and sisters to answer the spiritual thirst of people here and around the world.



- C** Grant them faith that they may join us in singing praise to You, the rock of our salvation.
- P** Many of the people we see each day are lonely strangers, gracious Lord; but their hopes and fears are known to You.
- C** Increase our faith, Lord Jesus, that we may reach out to them with the news of Your resurrection and the Kingdom You so graciously offer to all. Guide the Church wherever people gather around Your Word for nourishment and strength.
- P** Shower Your blessings, O Holy Spirit, on all whose vocations work for the common good—those who till the soil and tend flocks; those who prepare and distribute food, clothing, and shelter; those who maintain peace at home and abroad; those who are first to respond in emergencies; and those who treat illnesses of all sorts.
- C** Guide them, Lord of all, to use the gifts You have given them, so that praise may resound to You, the Lord, our Maker.
- P** Where people are forgotten, unjustly imprisoned, or oppressed in any way, O God, surround them with caring people intent on meeting their physical and spiritual needs.
- C** Use us to serve You and love them according to Your gracious plans for us all.

*Additional bids may be added.*

- P** Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

## Offering - We Thank the Lord with the Offering

### Preface

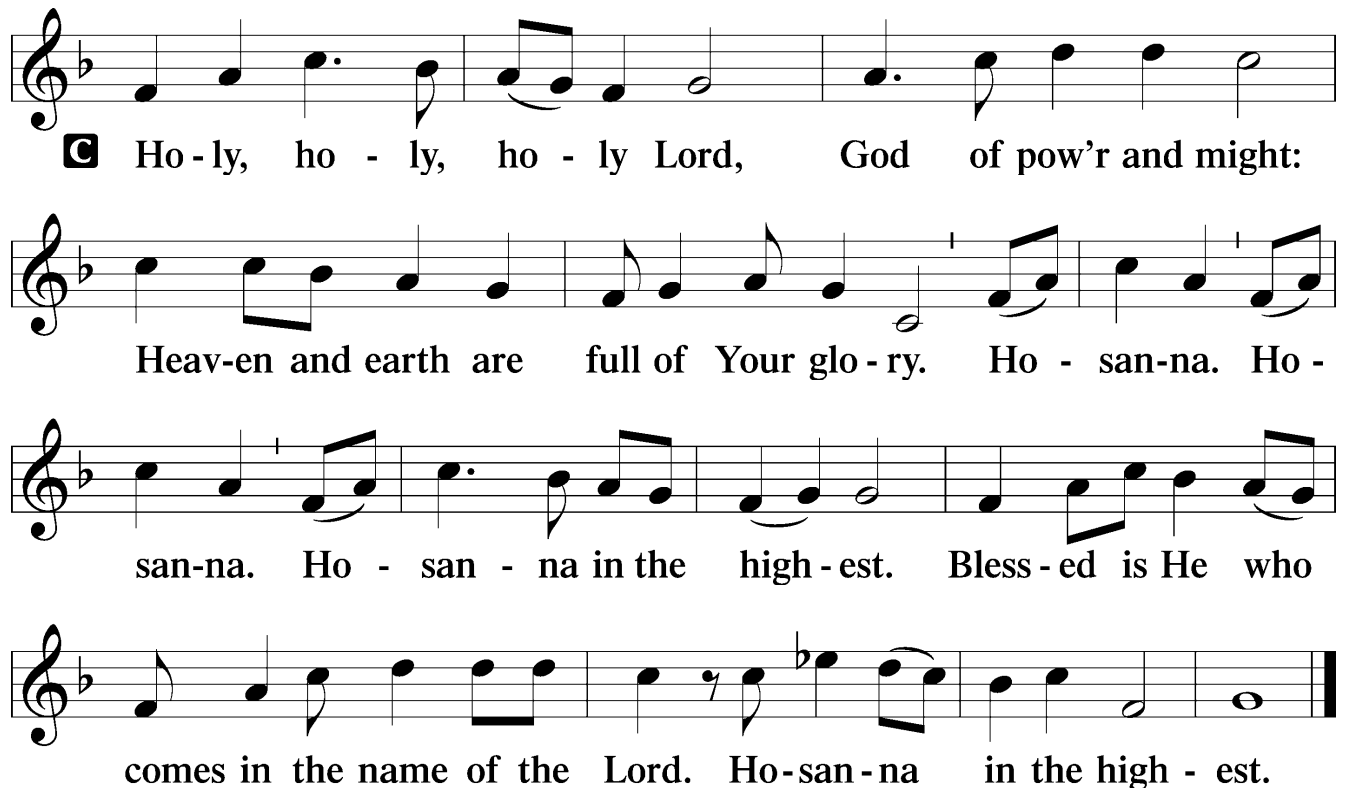
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en 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 who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive

our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** 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.

### 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."

### Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

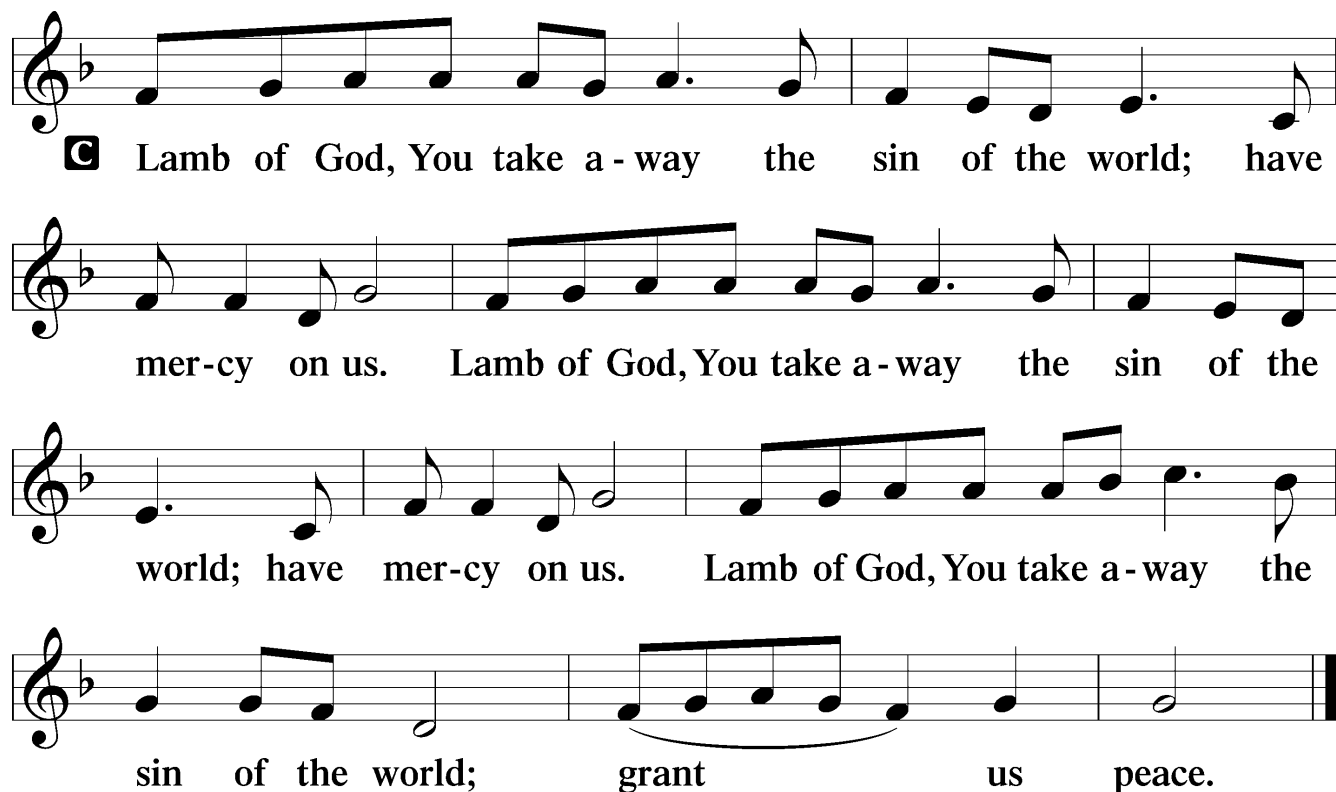
### Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

# Agnus Dei

LSB 163

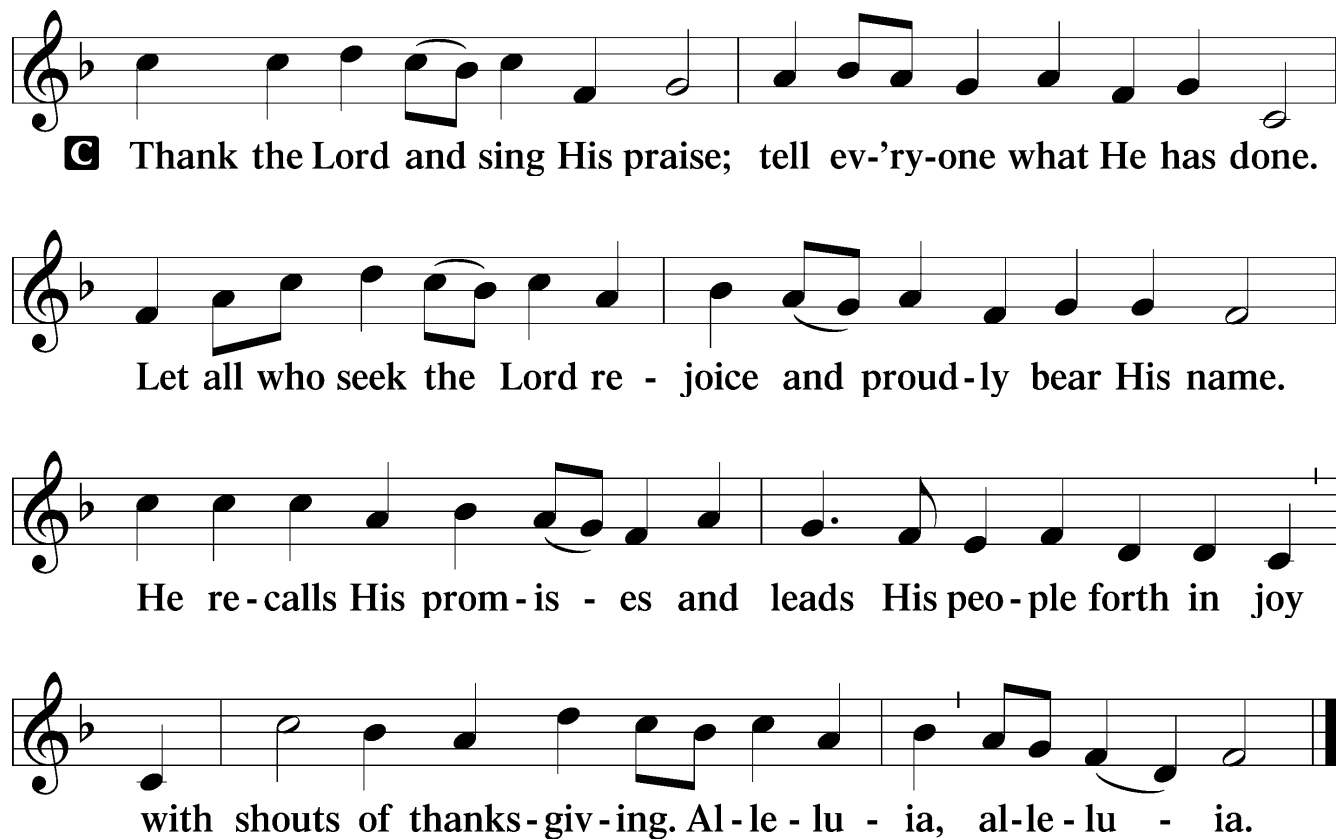


☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution - Organ Music

# Thank the Lord

LSB 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.  
He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.

**C** **Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end;**

**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.**

## 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.**

## 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

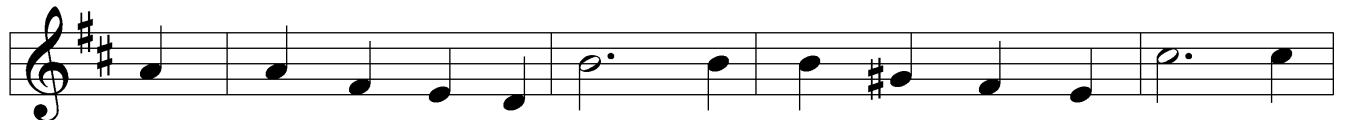
LSB 525



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,  
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,  
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:  
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri-fied.  
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The  
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who  
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.  
down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and tune: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments—Do Not Remove**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.

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