

## As We Gather

We hear today of eternal life that is given to us because of God's great love for us, shown to us in perhaps the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16. This verse speaks of God's genuine love for us and the world shown in Jesus' death on the cross for us. The love of God never ends. God's love is present here and now and extends into eternal life as eternal love. May we be so encouraged by God's love to share it with others. Thanks be to God for such love!

## 430 My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430



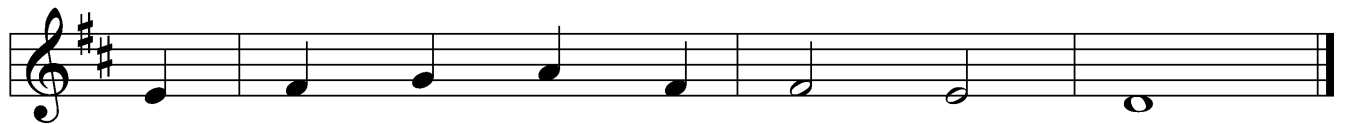
1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es  
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would  
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their  
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,  
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,  
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
Who at my need His life did spend!  
And for His death They thirst and cry.  
Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683

Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962

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## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

John 3:16

**P** God so loved the world,

**C** that He gave His only Son,

**P** that whoever believes in Him should not perish

**C** but have eternal life.

**P** Our Lenten journey leads us to the cross where Jesus gave His life,

**C** and then to the resurrection and eternal life.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Though Christ has loved us with this genuine love that gives us eternal life, we sometimes ignore His love and refuse to share Christ's love with others. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in hope and confidence to ask for His grace.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** Heavenly Father,

**C** we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved our enemies. Forgive us, renew our love, on account of Jesus. Amen.

**P** Jesus Christ was lifted up on the tree of the cross so that we might be forgiven. His genuine love is for the world and is for you. 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. We are forgiven by the genuine love of Jesus.

## Introit

Psalm 27:3–5; antiphon: v. 1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.  
**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.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

## Kyrie

LSB 186

**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Salutation

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

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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

Numbers 21:4–9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take

away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

Ephesians 2:1–10

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse

John 3:16

**P** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,

**C** that whoever trusts in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

## Holy Gospel

John 3:14–21

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

<sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

<sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

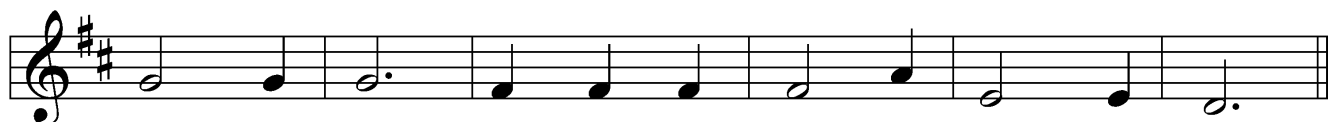
LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made  
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all  
 Δ 6 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in  
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the  
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To You, O bless - ed



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, Be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

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## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

**C** 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

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** Lord Jesus Christ, as we come before You with our prayers and petitions, we thank You for Your genuine love, and we pray, Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, show Your love to all those who have experienced broken families, homes, and churches. Surround them with Your love and with people who will love them as You love them. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, extend Your love to all those who have abandoned the faith. Strengthen us to lovingly invite them toward Your genuine love for the world. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, in Your earthly life You experienced the death of those You loved. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in such grief, [*especially* . . .]. Point them to the hope of eternal life with You. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, be present with all those who are single. Encourage them with the love of friends and family. Provide caring people to remind them that they are not alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared many good works for us to do in our earthly lives. Give us courage to do those good works with joy, expecting nothing in return, knowing we are saved by grace alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

**C** **with more fervent love for You.**

**P** Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised in love to hear our prayers; for You live and reign with the Father 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.

## Benediction

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**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen

## 430 My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430



5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -  
6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might  
7 Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di -



way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they  
have; In death no friend - ly tomb But what a strang - er  
vine! Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like



slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes  
gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home  
Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise





That He His foes From thence might free.  
But mine the tomb Where - in He lay.  
I all my days Could glad - ly spend!

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