



O that my ways were directed  
to keep thy statutes!

Psalm 119:5

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**Sunday, September 1, 2024**

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Service Theme

**FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST  
OBEY HIS LAW FROM THE HEART**

A loving father gives his son and daughter a list of rules and regulations. Chores, curfews, civilities, dress code—the father makes his will clearly known. The son strives to follow the rules for two reasons. 1) He wants to get his allowance. 2) He is afraid that if he breaks the rules, his father will punish him. The daughter strives to follow the rules, also for two reasons. 1) She believes her father established those rules not to control her but for her safety and blessing. 2) She wants to demonstrate how much she loves and trusts her father. Those two children's actions might look almost identical. Their hearts are very different! Likewise, following Christ is not simply a matter of outward observance of laws. It is a matter of the heart. The Law was given so we could see God's heart and demonstrate how his heart has affected our own. The followership Christ seeks flows from hearts that have been radically transformed by God's law and gospel. Christ wants his followers to be less like the son described above, and more like the daughter. This week we see that followers of Christ obey his law from the heart.

# 697 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

CW 697



1 May we your pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill and do on  
2 So may we join your name to bless, your grace a -  
3 Spir - it of life, of love, and peace, u - nite our



earth our Fa - ther's will as an - gels do a - bove;  
dore, your pow'r con - fess, to flee from sin and strife.  
hearts, our joy in - crease, your gra - cious help sup - ply.



still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, with all your  
One is our call - ing, one our name, the end of  
To each of us the bless - ing give in Chris - tian



chil - dren, and o - bey the law of Chris - tian love.  
all our hopes the same: a glo - rious crown of life.  
fel - low - ship to live, in joy - ful hope to die.

Text: Edward Osler, 1789–1863, alt.

Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Service *Setting Two (p. 172)*

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## **Confession**

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,  
I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts,  
words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a  
sinner.**

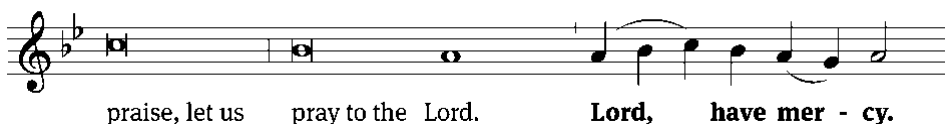
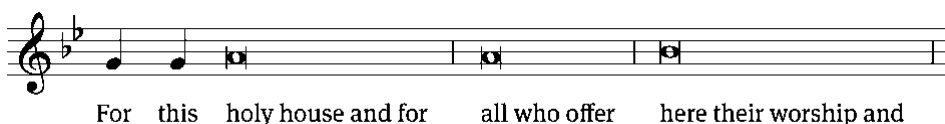
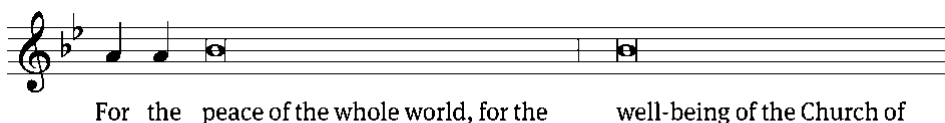
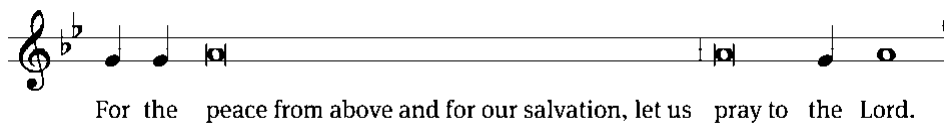
*Silence for meditation and reflection*

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174



Tune: Marty Haugen

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# Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



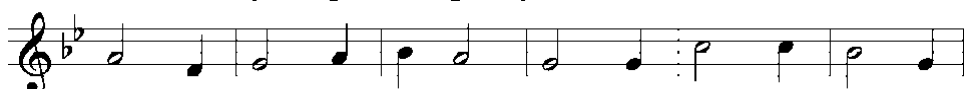
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



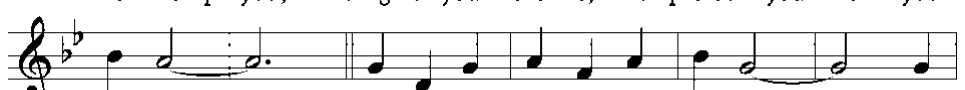
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



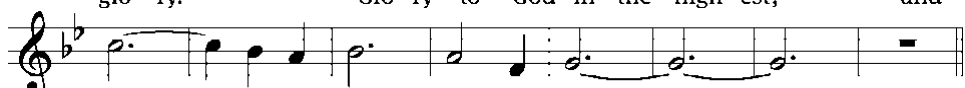
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



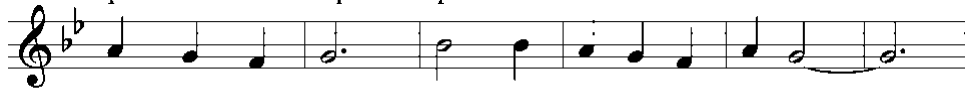
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



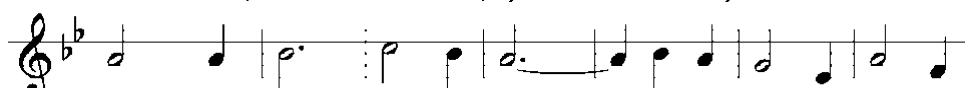
peace to his peo - ple on earth.



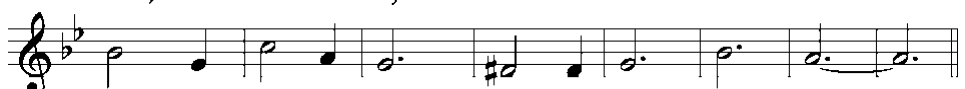
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



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.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
peo - ple on earth. 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. A - men.  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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## The Word

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9*

*God is serious about his law because he knows that when his children follow the law carefully, the result is blessing and honor.*

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances that I am teaching you, and carry them out so that you may live and so that you may enter the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving to you and take possession of it. <sup>2</sup>Do not add to the word that I am commanding you, and do not subtract from it, so that you keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you.

<sup>6</sup>Keep them and put them into practice, because in this way your wisdom and your understanding will be recognized by all the people who hear about all these statutes; and they will say, “This great nation is certainly a wise and understanding people,” <sup>7</sup>because what other great nation is there that has a god as close to it as the LORD our God is to us whenever we call on him? <sup>8</sup>What other great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances as righteous as this entire law that I am presenting to you today?

<sup>9</sup>But guard yourselves and guard your whole being diligently, so that you do not forget the things that your eyes have seen and so that those things do not disappear from your heart all the rest of the days of your life. Make them known to your children and to your children's children.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 119:1-8**

NASB95

M: <sup>1</sup> How blessed are those whose way is blameless,

**C: Who walk in the law of the LORD.**

M: <sup>2</sup> How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,

**C: Who seek Him with all their heart.**

M: <sup>3</sup> They also do no unrighteousness;

**C: They walk in His ways.**

M: <sup>4</sup> You have ordained Your precepts,

**C: That we should keep them diligently.**

M: <sup>5</sup> Oh that my ways may be established

**C: To keep Your statutes!**

M: <sup>6</sup> Then I shall not be ashamed

**C: When I look upon all Your commandments.**

M: <sup>7</sup> I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart,

**C: When I learn Your righteous judgments.**

M: <sup>8</sup> I shall keep Your statutes;

**C: Do not forsake me utterly! Amen.**



## Second Reading

Romans 9:30—10:4

*Followers of Christ obey the law, not to attempt to become righteous, but to show heartfelt love to the God who declares us righteous through faith in Jesus.*

<sup>30</sup>What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, have obtained righteousness, a righteousness that is by faith. <sup>31</sup>But Israel, while pursuing the law as a way of righteousness, did not reach it. <sup>32</sup>Why? Because they kept pursuing it not by faith, but as if it comes by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. <sup>33</sup>Just as it is written:

Look, I am putting a stone in Zion over which they will stumble and a rock over which they will fall.

The one who believes in him will not be put to shame.

<sup>1</sup>Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of the Israelites is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but it is not consistent with knowledge. <sup>3</sup>Since they were ignorant of the righteousness from God and sought to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness from God. <sup>4</sup>For to everyone who believes, Christ is the end of the law, resulting in righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*



<sup>8</sup>“You abandon God's commandment but hold to human tradition like the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.”

<sup>14</sup>He called the crowd to him again and said, “Everyone, listen to me and understand. <sup>15</sup>There is nothing outside of a man that can make him unclean by going into him. But the things that come out of a man are what make a man unclean.

<sup>21</sup>In fact, from within, out of people's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual sins, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things proceed from within and make a person unclean.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## 740 O God, My Faithful God

CW 740



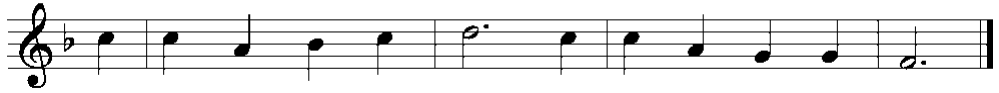
1 O God, my faith - ful God, O Foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
2 Grant me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
3 Keep me from say - ing things that lat - er need re - call - ing;  
4 Lord, let me win my foes with kind - ly words and ac - tions,



who good and per - fect gifts in mer - cy are be - stow - ing,  
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing,  
grant that no i - dle words may from my lips be fall - ing,  
and let me find good friends for coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
that I do what I should while trust - ing you to bless  
but when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,  
Help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small



a con-science free from blame, a soul un - hurt by sin.  
the out - come for my good, for you must give suc - cess.  
then fill my words with grace lest I of - fend the weak.  
and by your Spir - it's might to live in peace with all.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Johann Heermann, 1585-1647, abr.  
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon - Psalm 119:1-8

**Oh, that my ways may be established to keep Your statutes!**

- 1) For there is happiness in keeping them,
- 2) As I learn your righteous judgments.

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and  
unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,  
not made, of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from  
heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the  
Virgin Mary, and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right  
hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in  
unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped  
and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of  
sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of  
the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [*Special petitions.*] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

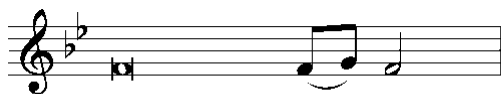
**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Offering**

# The Sacrament

## Preface

CW 183



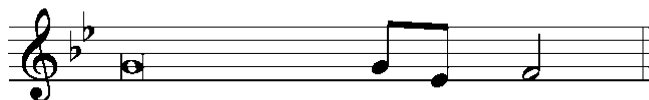
The Lord be with you.



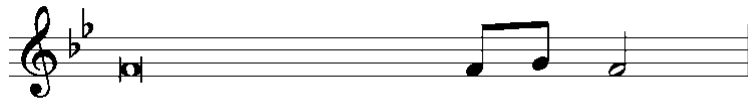
And al - so with you.



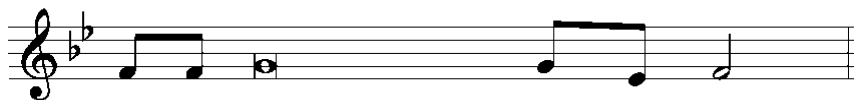
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. 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 184

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Marty Haugen

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.



Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**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 T 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 T 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.**

# Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." The first two staves contain the first line of the lyrics. The next two staves contain the second line. The final three staves contain the third line, which ends with "grant us your peace." The score includes a double bar line at the end of the seventh staff.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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## Distribution

*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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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 T give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 705 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways CW 705



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep,
- 4 Make me to walk in your com - mands - 'tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Text and tune: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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