

LET US THEN WITH CONFIDENCE DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE. THAT WE MAY

RECEIVE MERCY
&
FIND GRACE

TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.

HEBREWS 4:16

Sunday, September 6, 2024

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme

**FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST
MAINTAIN PROPER PRIORITIES**

People think that establishing priorities is about ranking things in order of importance. But it is more than that. We do not have unlimited time and energy. So, establishing priorities enables us to say “no” to things which might be good yet not truly important. Without proper priorities, one inevitably will pursue that which is nice while downplaying that which is needed.

Throughout Scripture believers are urged to prioritize. It is the heart of the First Commandment: “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3). Jesus calls for prioritization when he says, “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). Good news: followers of Christ maintain proper priorities. Even better news: followers of Christ receive his forgiveness for all the times their priorities have been improper.

753 My Worth Is Not in What I Own

CW 753 sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



1 My worth is not in what I own, not
 2 My worth is not in skill or name, in
 3 As sum - mer flow'rs we fade and die; fame,



in the strength of flesh and bone, but in the
 win or lose, in pride or shame, but in the
 youth, and beau - ty hur - ry by. But life e -



cost - ly wounds of love at the cross. v. 2
 blood of Christ that flowed at the cross. Refrain
 ter - nal calls to us at the cross. v. 4

Refrain



I re-joyce in my Re - deem - er— great - est trea - sure,



well-spring of my soul. I will trust in him, no oth - er; my



soul is sat - is - fied in him a - lone.

4 I will not boast in wealth or might,
 or human wisdom's fleeting light.
 But I will boast in knowing Christ
 at the cross. (Refrain)

5 Two wonders here that I confess:
 my worth and my unworthiness.
 My value fixed—my ransom paid
 at the cross. (Refrain)

The Service
Setting Three (p. 188)

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 188

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.**

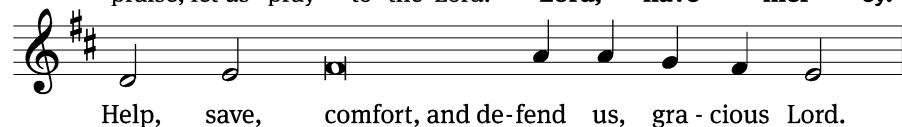
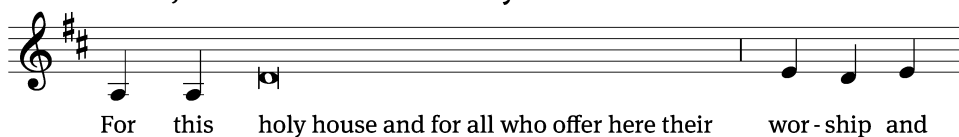
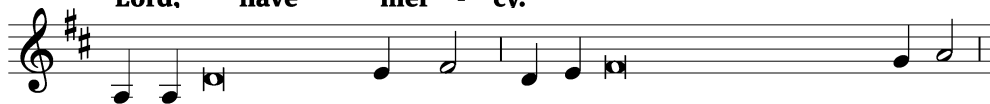
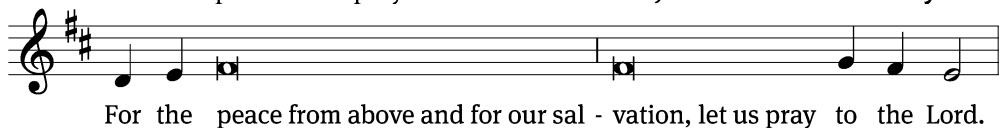
Silence for meditation and reflection

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.

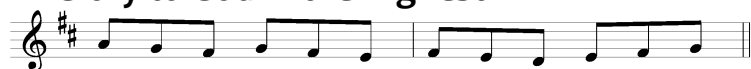
Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190



Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191



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



God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,



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

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us forsake all trust in earthly gain and find in you our heavenly treasure; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

2 Kings 5:14-27

The prophet Elisha's servant, Gehazi, prioritized riches over his walk with God

¹⁴So he went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times, just as the man of God had said. Then his flesh was restored like the flesh of a small child, and he was clean. ¹⁵Then he and his whole escort went back to the man of God. He stood in front of Elisha and said, "To be sure, now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now accept a gift from your servant."

¹⁶But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives, in whose presence I stand, I will not take anything." Even though Na'aman urged him to accept something, he refused.

¹⁷Then Na'aman said, "If you do not want anything, please give me, your servant, as much dirt as two donkeys can carry, for your servant will never again burn incense or sacrifice to other gods, but only to the LORD. ¹⁸But may the LORD forgive your servant this one thing: When my master goes into the house of Rimmon to bow down there and he supports himself on my arm, then I too have to bow down in the house of

Rimmon. When I bow down in the house of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant this one thing.”

¹⁹Then Elisha said to him, “Go in peace.”

When Na'aman had gone some distance from him, ²⁰Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, “My master was too easy on this Aramean, Na'aman, when he did not accept anything that he brought. As surely as the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him.”

²¹So Gehazi chased after Na'aman. When Na'aman saw him running after him, he got down from his chariot to meet him. He said, “Is everything all right?”

²²Then Gehazi said, “Yes, everything is all right. My master sent me to say, ‘Look, just now two young men from the hill country of Ephraim, from the sons of the prophets, have come to me. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.’”

²³Na'aman said, “Certainly! Take two talents!” He urged Gehazi and tied up the two talents of silver in two bags with the two sets of clothing. Then Na'aman gave them to his two servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi. ²⁴When he came to the hill, he took the gifts from them. Then he hid them in the house and sent the men back, so they left. ²⁵Then he went in and attended his master.

Elisha said to him, “Where were you, Gehazi?”

Gehazi said, “Your servant didn't go anywhere.”

²⁶Then Elisha said to him, “Didn't my heart go along when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take silver, or to accept clothes or olive groves or vineyards or sheep or cattle or male and female servants?

²⁷Na'aman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever.” Then Gehazi went out from his presence, leprous like snow.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 90A

Refrain



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone



Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all gener- / ations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the /
whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,
saying, “Return to dust, you / mortals.”

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just
gone by,
or like a watch / in the night. *Refrain*

Teach us to number / our days,
that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the
work / of our hands.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Mark Haas, alt.

Tune: Mark Haas, alt.

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Second Reading

Hebrews 4:9–16

The Holy Spirit urges us to prioritize the Sabbath rest we find in Jesus through God's Word over everything else.

⁹So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

¹⁰For the one who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God rested from his work. ¹¹Therefore, let us make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, even being able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from him, but everything is uncovered and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we will give an account.

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God, let us continue to hold on to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. ¹⁶So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia. For the word of God is alive and active. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 10:17–27

Jesus helps a young man see a problem deeper than his failure to keep God’s law perfectly—that he prioritized his wealth above the call to follow Christ.

¹⁷As Jesus was setting out on a journey, one man ran up to him and knelt in front of him. He asked, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except one—God. ¹⁹You know the commandments. ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’”

²⁰The man replied, “Teacher, I have kept all these since I was a child.”

²¹Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack. Go, sell whatever you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²²When he heard this, he looked sad and went away grieving, because he had great wealth. ²³Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

²⁴The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus told them again, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in their riches to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶They were even more astonished and said to one another, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For people, it is impossible, but not for God, because all things are possible for God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

717 What Is the World to Me

CW 717



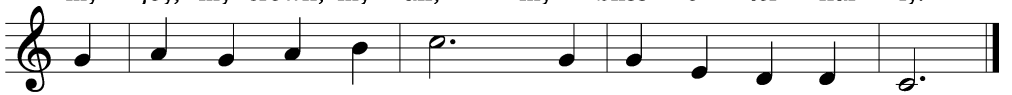
1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,
3 The world is like a cloud and like a va - por fleet - ing,
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.
a shad - ow that de - clines, swift to its end re - treat - ing.
my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, my soul's de - light shall be;
I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll be;
My Je - sus shall re - main, though all things fade and flee,
my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
my Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
my ev - er - last - ing rock. What is the world to me!
Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon - Hebrews 4:9–16

Real Rest

- 1) Is only given through God's Word
- 2) Is only found in Jesus

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

From there 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering

The Sacrament

Preface

CW 199



The Lord be with you.



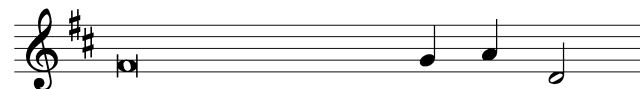
And al - so with you.



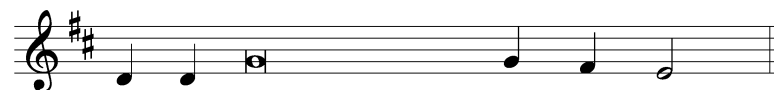
Lift up your hearts.



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: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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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 200

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 hosts, heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

Lamb of God

CW 202

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, grant us peace.

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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.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

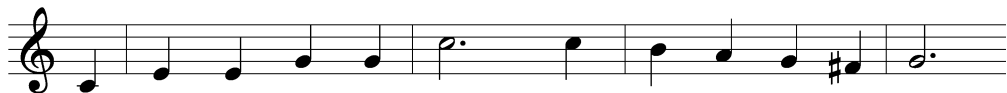
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

560 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ

CW 560 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3



1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, speak glad-ness to this heart;
2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, can heal my sin-ful soul;
3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, has borne the dread-ful load



they tell me all is done, they bid my fear de-part.
your wounds, not mine, con-tain the balm that makes me whole.
of sins that none could bear but the in-car-nate God.

Refrain



To whom but you, who can a-lone for sin a-tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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Announcements

Church Cleaners

October 13 – Timothy // October 20 – Mark

Thanksgiving Flowers

For anyone wishing to help beautify the Altar for Thanksgiving, please drop off the plant(s) of your choice (traditionally mums) at the church by 11:00 am on Saturday, October 12th. You are welcomed to take your plants home after the Thanksgiving Worship service or, if you wish, you may leave them at church to continue to beautify the altar for upcoming worship services.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (6)** 9:00 am **Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am **Worship (with Communion)**
11:30 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**
- We (9) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
5:30 pm "Test the Spirits" (BIC)
- Th (10) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (11) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study: Romans
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
6:00 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (13)** 9:00 am **Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am **Thanksgiving Worship**
11:30 am Coffee Hour
- Tu (15) 6:00 pm Elders Meeting (*tentative*)
7:00 pm Council Meeting (*tentative*)
- We (16) 6:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
5:30 pm "Test the Spirits" (BIC)
- Th (17) 10:30 am Devotion at Longfield Nursing Home
6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (18) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study: Romans
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (20)** 9:00 am **Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am **Worship (with Communion)**
11:30 am Coffee Hour
12:00 pm Evangelism Meeting
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**