



Sunday, July 13, 2025

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme

**UNDIVIDED ATTENTION
ON OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST**

Our identity as Christians is tied up in Christ: who He is and what He has done for us. The more we focus on Him and His work, the clearer our purpose in life becomes – even to the point of willingly enduring hardship to the glory of His name.

678 Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters

CW 678



1 Once in the blest bap - tis - mal wa - ters I put on
2 His bod - y and his blood I've tak - en in his blest
3 Though death may come to - day, to - mor - row, I know in
4 And thus I live in God con - tent - ed and die with -



Christ and made him mine; now, num - bered with God's sons and
sup - per, feast di - vine; now I shall nev - er be for -
Christ I per - ish not; he grants the peace that stills all
out a thought of fear; to God's good plans I have con -



daugh - ters, I share his peace and love di - vine. My God, for
sak - en for I am his and he is mine. My God, for
sor - row, gives me a robe with - out a spot. My God, for
sent - ed, my faith is fo - cused, firm, and clear. By grace, in



Je - sus' sake I pray your peace may bless my dy - ing day.
Je - sus' sake I pray your peace may bless my dy - ing day.
Je - sus' sake I pray your peace may bless my dy - ing day.
Je - sus' name I say, "Lord, you will bless my dy - ing day!"

Text: Emilie Juliane von Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, 1637–1706, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Christian Möck, 1737–1818

Text and tune: Public domain

The Service
Setting Two (page 172)

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 173

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

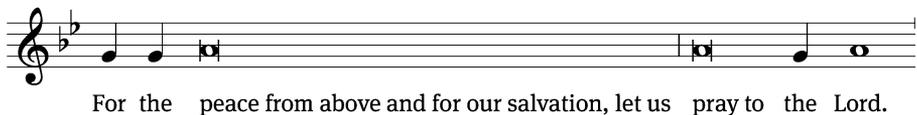
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174



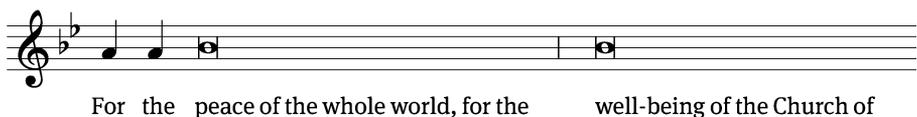
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



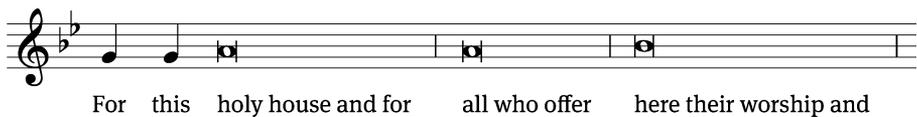
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of



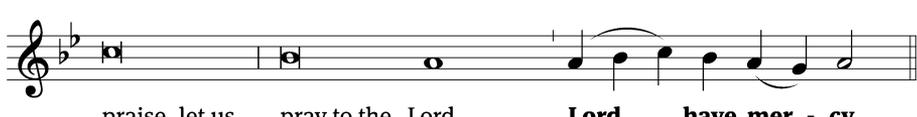
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

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 - mighty 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

Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Ruth 1:1–19a

Even though Ruth was a Moabitess, she found her identity in the LORD. Enduring hardships, she left her homeland out of love for Naomi, her mother-in-law.

¹During the days of the judges, a famine occurred in the land. So a man left Bethlehem in Judah to stay awhile in the territory of Moab—he, his wife, and his two sons. ²The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were from the clan of Ephrath from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the territory of Moab and remained there.

³But Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, so she was left with her two sons. ⁴They then married Moabite wives. The name of the first was Orpah, and the name of the second was Ruth. They lived there for about ten years. ⁵But Naomi's sons, Mahlon and Kilion, also died. So the woman was left without her two children and without her husband.

⁶Then Naomi set out with her daughters-in-law to return from the territory of Moab, because while she was in the

territory of Moab, she had heard that the LORD had graciously visited his people by providing them with food. ⁷So she left the place where she had been, and her two daughters-in-law left with her. They set out on the road to return to the land of Judah.

⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back. Both of you return to your mother’s house. May the LORD show you kindness as you have shown kindness to the dead and to me. ⁹May the LORD grant that each of you finds security in the house of a husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept loudly.

¹⁰But they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.”

¹¹Then Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Am I going to give birth to any more sons who could become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters. Go! For I am too old to be married to another husband. Suppose I say, ‘I have hope, and I will be married to another husband tonight, and I will even give birth to sons.’ ¹³Would you wait for them until they grow up? On the basis of that hope would you give up the chance to marry another husband? No, my daughters. It is much more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has reached out against me.”

¹⁴They once again wept loudly. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth would not let her go.

¹⁵Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law has returned to her people and to her gods. Go back! Follow your sister-in-law.”

¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to abandon you or to turn back from following you. Because wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you make your home, I will make my home. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

¹⁷Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely and double it if anything but death separates me from you.”

¹⁸When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

¹⁹Then the two of them traveled until they arrived at Bethlehem.

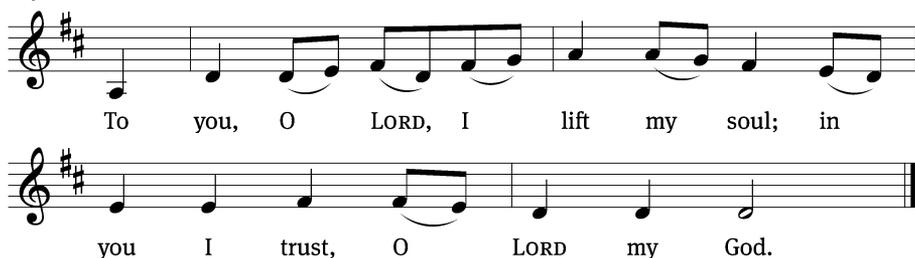
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

25A To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul

Psalm 25A

Refrain



To you, O LORD, I lift my soul; in
you I trust, O LORD my God.

Tone



In you, LORD my God, I / put my trust.

I trust in you; do not let me be / put to shame.

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me / your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are
God my / Savior.

Remember, LORD, your great mer- / cy and love,
for they are / from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my re- /
bellious ways;

according to your love remember me, for you, LORD,
/ are good. *Refrain*

LORD, forgive my iniquity, though / it is great.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and af-
/ flicted.

Look on my affliction and / my distress
and take away / all my sins.

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

Tune: Mark Haas Setting: Mark Haas

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Second Reading

Hebrews 11:24–26

*Understanding that His identity was found in the LORD, Moses willingly
gave up the glories of Egypt to suffer with God's people.*

²⁴By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter when he grew up. ²⁵He chose to be mistreated with God's people rather than enjoy sin for a little while.

²⁶He considered disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:11

Alleluia, alleluia. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 9:18–24

Jesus acknowledges His identity as the Christ of God, explaining what that meant for Him and us.

¹⁸One time when Jesus was praying alone and the disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”

¹⁹They answered, “‘John the Baptist,’ but others say, ‘Elijah,’ and others say ‘one of the ancient prophets come back to life.’”

²⁰He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

²¹He gave them a strict command not to tell this to anyone. ²²He said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law. He must be killed and be raised on the third day.”

²³Jesus said to all of them, “If anyone wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 694



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, you on
Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
wining by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is
God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and
you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and
swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!
friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.
clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.
heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt.

Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Luke 9:18–24

Jesus is the Christ of God.

- 1) What that confession meant for Jesus.
- 2) What that confession means for us

Apostles' Creed

CW 181

**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

CW 182

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. [Pour out your special blessing on . . .] 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

842 Jesus, Still Lead On

CW 842



1 Je - sus, still lead on till our rest is won; and al - though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let not faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on till our rest is won. Heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less.
fears o'er - take us; let not faith and hope for - sake us,
come al - lur - ing, make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing.
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us



Guide us by your hand to our fa - ther - land.
for through man - y a woe to our home we go.
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in our fa - ther - land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760, adapt.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.

Tune: Adam Drese, 1620–1701

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

CW 171

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

CW 171

**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.**

Blessing

CW 171

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.

704 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

CW 704



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, to his im - age
3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus; his death from the
4 Let us glad - ly live with Je - sus; since he's ris - en



am - ple pure, flee the world which would de - ceive us and to
e'er con - form; heav - en's glo - ry soon will please us, sun - shine
sec - ond death, from our soul's de - struc - tion, frees us, quick - ens
from the dead, death and grave must soon re - lease us. Je - sus,



sin our souls al - lure. Ev - er in his foot - steps tread - ing,
fol - low on the storm. Though we sow in tears of sor - row,
us with life's glad breath. Let us mor - ti - fy, while liv - ing,
thou art now our head. We are tru - ly thine own mem - bers,



bod - y here, yet soul a - bove, full of faith and
we shall reap in heav'n - ly joy, and the fears that
flesh and blood and die to sin, and the grave that
where thou liv - est, there live we; take and own us



hope and love, let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
now an - noy shall be laugh - ter on the mor - row. Christ, I
shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, faith - ful Friend, as thy dear breth - ren. Je - sus,



Lord, a - bide with me; Sav - ior, lead; I fol - low thee.
suf - fer here with thee; there, O share thy joy with me.
here I die to thee, there to live e - ter - nal - ly.
here I live to thee, al - so there e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. J. Adam Rimbach, 1871–1941, alt.

Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Church Cleaners

July 20 – Timothy // July 27 – Mark

Church Picnic and Friendship Sunday

August 10, 2025.

Invite your friends!

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (13) 9:30 am Worship

Tu (15) 7:00 pm Elders Meeting

We (16) 9:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)

Th (17) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (18) 4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

Sa (19) 11:00 am Communicating Christ (Youth)

Su (20) 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
3:00 pm Communion Service in Poltimore

Pastor will be at Synod Convention from July 21-25

Su (27) 9:30 am Worship



Divine Word

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