



*And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*

*Luke 18:1*

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**Sunday, September 28, 2025**

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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Service Theme

**CAUSE / EFFECT  
PROMISES / PRAYER**

Disciples of Jesus need to learn how to pray. And learning to pray consists of a lifetime of persistence. So, what is the cause of persistent prayer? The precious promises of God. “God is not human, that he should lie. . . . Does he promise and not fulfill?” (Numbers 23:19). God cannot lie. So, we know every promise he makes us—to forgive, to provide, to help, to be with us—he must keep. When we persistently go to God in prayer and press him to keep his promises, God does not view that as nagging. He loves it! Because it demonstrates that our faith grasps not only that he can do what we ask, but that he will . . . because he promised.

# 776 With the Lord Begin Your Task

CW 776



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.  
2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, praise and ad - o - ra - tion.  
3 With your Sav - ior at your side foes need not a - larm you;  
4 If your task is thus be - gun with the Sav - ior's bless - ing,



For his aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.  
On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; he is your sal - va - tion.  
in his prom - is - es con - fide and no ill can harm you.  
safe - ly then your course will run, naught your soul dis - tress - ing.



Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, and, when day is end - ed,  
Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,  
All your trust and hope re - pose in the might - y Mas - ter,  
Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where while you here must wan - der;



in his name then close your eyes; be to him com - mend - ed.  
save you from the tempt - er's might, with his pres - ence cheer you.  
who in wis - dom tru - ly knows how to stem dis - as - ter.  
you at last the joy will share in the man - sions yon - der.

Text: Morgen- und Abend-segen, Waldenburg, 1734, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt. Tune: Peter Frank, 1616–1675  
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## The Service

### *Setting Three (page 188)*

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

**Amen.**

## **Confession**

CW 189

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 190



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



For the peace from above and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



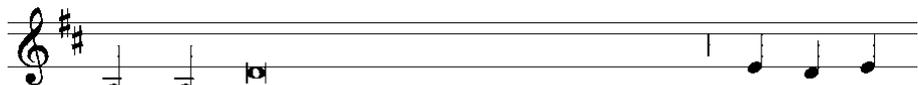
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



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



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



**A - men. A - men.**

# Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Glory to God in the Highest'. It consists of ten staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: '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'.

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: William Gokelman; David Kauffman. Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. 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, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your church as we come in prayer before you. Answer us not in judgment on our sins but in peace and forgiveness; 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

Genesis 32:22–30

*In praying that the Lord would keep his promise of blessing, Jacob literally wrestles with God.*

<sup>22</sup>He got up that night and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and he also sent his possessions across. <sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone, and he wrestled with a man there until daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he could not defeat him, he touched the socket of his thigh, and the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated as he wrestled. <sup>26</sup>The man said, "Let me go. It's daybreak."

Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

<sup>28</sup>Then he said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have fought with God and with men, and you have won."

<sup>29</sup>Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name."

He said, "Why do you ask what my name is?" Then he blessed him there.

<sup>30</sup>Jacob named the place Peniel, because he said, "I have seen God face-to-face, and my life has been spared."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

121A I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains

Psalm 121A

Refrain

I lift up my eyes to the moun-tains, from where shall come my  
help? My help shall come from the One who has made the  
heav - ens and the earth, the mak - er of heav-en and earth.

Tone

I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—  
where does my help / come from?  
My help comes / from the LORD,  
the maker of / heaven and earth.  
He will not let your / foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not / slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over / Israel  
will neither / slumber nor sleep. *Refrain*

The LORD watches / over you—  
the LORD is your shade / at your right hand.  
The LORD will keep you / from all harm—  
he will watch / over your life;  
the LORD will watch over your coming and / going  
both now and for- / evermore.

**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: Marty Haugen Tune: © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723  
Setting: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

**Second Reading**

1 John 5:13–15

When we ask God for something that is according to his will—something that he has promised—we can be absolutely confident we will receive it.

<sup>13</sup>I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

<sup>14</sup>This is the confidence that we have before him: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we also know that we receive the things we have asked from him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

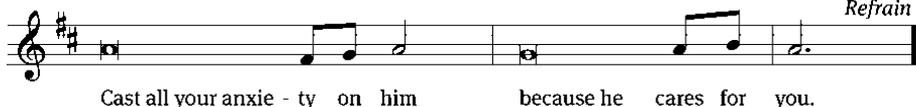
1 Peter 5:7



*Refrain*



*Tone*



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*Jesus teaches us to be bold and persistent in our prayers.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus told them a parable about the need to always pray and not lose heart: <sup>2</sup>“There was a judge in a certain town who did not fear God and did not care about people. <sup>3</sup>There was a widow in that town, and she kept going to him, saying, ‘Give me justice from my adversary!’ <sup>4</sup>For some time he refused, but after a while he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God or care about people, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice so that she will not wear me out with her endless pleading.”

<sup>6</sup>The Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>Will not God give justice to his chosen ones, who are crying out to him day and night? Will he put off helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you that he will give them justice quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## 723 When in the Hour of Utmost Need

CW 723



1 When in the hour of ut - most need we know not  
 2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone that we may  
 3 For you have prom - ised, Lord, to heed your chil - dren's  
 4 And so we come, O God, to - day and all our  
 5 So that with all our hearts we may to you our



where to look for aid, when days and nights of  
 meet be - fore your throne; to you, O faith - ful  
 cries in time of need through him whose name a -  
 woes be - fore you lay; be with us in our  
 glad thanks - giv - ing pay, then walk o - be - dient



anx - ious thought      no help or coun - sel yet      have brought,  
God, we cry      for res - cue in our mis - er - y.  
lone is great,      our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.  
an - guish still,      free us at last from ev - 'ry ill,  
to your Word      and now and ev - er praise you, Lord.

Text: Paul Eber, 1511–1569, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Luke 18:1–8

### Pray

- 1) Persistently 2) Confidently

## 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**

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. 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

### 600 All Praise to Him, the God of Light

CW 600



1 All praise to him, the God of light who formed the  
2 All praise to him whose love is seen in Christ the  
3 All praise to him whose pow'r im - parts the love of



moun - tains by his might. All praise to him who names the  
Son, the ser - vant King, who left be - hind his glo - rious  
God with - in our hearts, the Spir - it of all truth and



stars that sing his fame in skies a - far.  
throne to pay the ran - som for his own.  
peace, the fount of joy and ho - li - ness.



All praise to him who reigns in love, who guides the  
All praise to him who hum - bly came to bear our  
To Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it now our souls we



gal - ax - ies a - bove, yet bends to hear our ev - 'ry  
sor - row, sin, and shame, who lived to die, who died to  
lift, our wills we bow; to you, the tri - une God, we



prayer with sov - 'reign pow'r and ten - der care.  
rise, the all - suf - fi - cient sac - ri - fice.  
raise with lov - ing hearts our song of praise.

Text: adapted by Matt Merker, b. 1984; Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt.; adapted by Bob Kaufflin, b. 1955  
Tune: Matt Merker, b. 1984; Bob Kaufflin, b. 1955  
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Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.**

# 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.

## 803 Day by Day

CW 803



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort  
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and  
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you  
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to  
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will



send me draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.  
guide me o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.  
hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the  
I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row, I will trust in  
Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me, you will hold me



bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior, lead me to the home I  
your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and  
ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to



trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.  
sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.  
guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

# **Announcements**

## ***Church Cleaners***

October 5 – Mark

## **Thanksgiving Flowers**

For anyone wishing to help beautify the Altar for Thanksgiving, please drop off the plant(s) of your choice (traditionally mums) to the church by 11:00 am on Saturday, October 11th. 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.

### **Acknowledgments**

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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## DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (28) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**  
**10:30 am *Worship***  
11:45 am *Coffee Hour*  
11:45 am Voter's Meeting
- We (1) 9:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)  
5:15 pm Youth Confirmation (W)  
7:00 pm New Communicating Christ (Adult)
- Th (2) 10:30 am Longfield Manor Devotion
- Fr (3) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study
- Su (5) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**  
**10:30 am *Worship with Communion***  
11:45 am *First Fellowship Potluck*  
**3:00 pm *Worship in Poltimore***  
4:00 pm Bible Study in Poltimore
- We (8) 9:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)  
5:15 pm Youth Confirmation (W)  
7:00 pm New Communicating Christ (Adult)
- Fr (10) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study  
6:00 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (12) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**  
**10:30 am *Thanksgiving Worship***  
11:45 am *Coffee Hour*



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