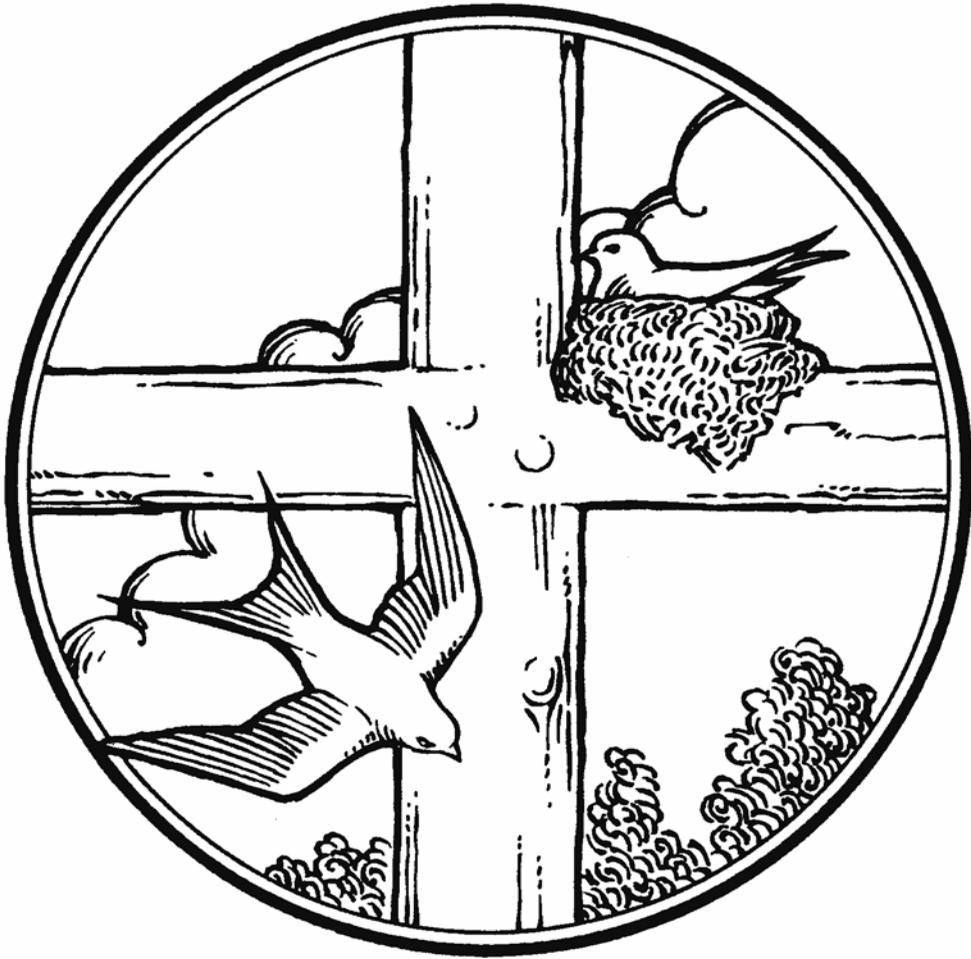


THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

600 E. NORTHLINE RD., TUSCOLA, IL 61953
(217) 253-4341 IMMANUELTUSCOLA.ORG





WELCOME VISITORS

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ's true body and blood. Since receiving the Lord's Supper expresses fellowship with the Lord and agreement with the teaching of the pastor and congregation, we follow the Biblical practice of closed communion. All guests are kindly asked to speak with Pastor Braaten before communing at our altar. Normally, members from congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are welcome to partake, as are people from churches in fellowship with the LCMS.

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Divine Service, Setting Three with Holy Communion

Stand

The **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** LSB 750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee
(See page 16)

The **INVOCATION, CONFESSION, and ABSOLUTION** LSB 184–185

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



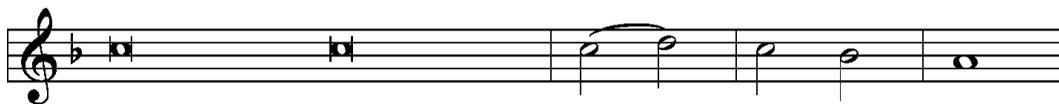
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



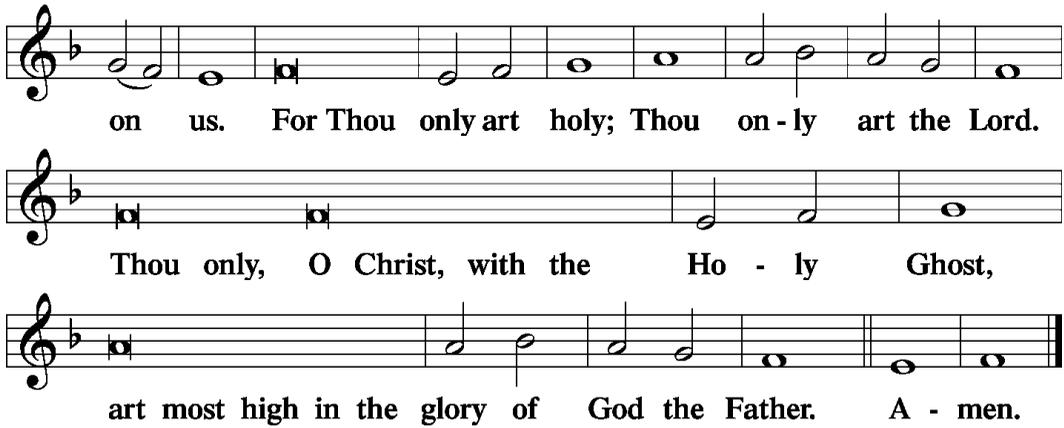
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



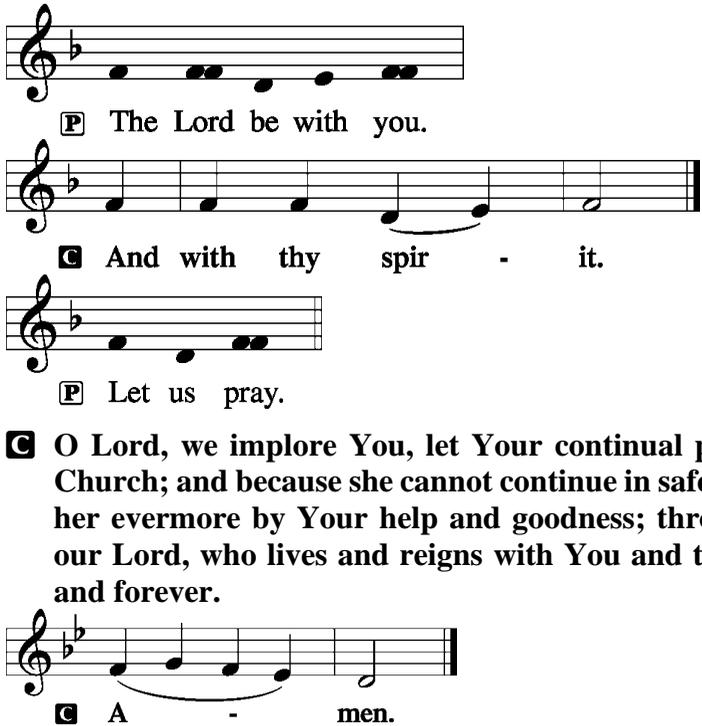
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 189



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Let us pray.
C O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C A - men.

Sit

The FIRST READING

1 Kings 17:8–16

Then the word of the LORD came to him, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The GRADUAL

Ps. 118:8–9

It is better to take refuge | in the LORD
than to | trust in man.*

**It is better to take refuge | in the LORD*
than to trust in | princes.**

The SECOND READING

Galatians 5:25–6:10

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you, too, be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.

One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

The ALLELUIA

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

The HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 6:24–34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.** (*Sung*)

[Jesus said:] “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need

them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ. (*Sung*)

The NICENE CREED

LSB 191

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

The HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB 760 What God Ordains Is Always Good
(See page 17)

The SERMON

Stand

The OFFERTORY

LSB 192

Sit

The 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.

Stand

The PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

The PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



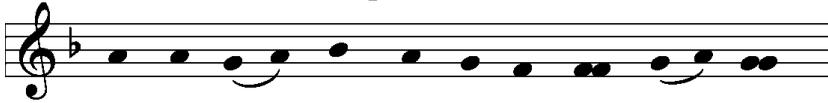
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The 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.

The WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LSB 197

The PAX DOMINI

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

The AGNUS DEI

LSB 198



G O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

The THANKSGIVING

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

The SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201–202

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



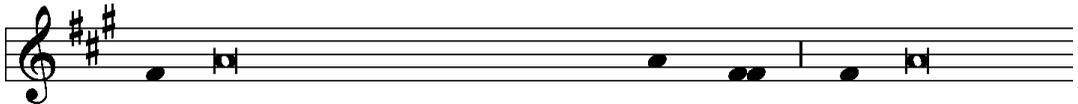
A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

The BENEDICTION

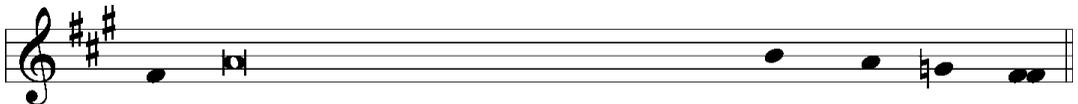
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The RECESSIONAL HYMN LSB 805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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SERVING TODAY

CELEBRANT *Rev. Jason Braaten*
ORGANIST *Mr. Glenn Linstead*
Mrs. Leigh Ann Whitson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

LSB 750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in
 2 What can these anx - ious cares a - vail thee, These nev - er -
 3 Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful
 4 God knows full well when times of glad - ness Shall be the



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be -
 ceas - ing moans and sighs? What can it help if thou be -
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's
 need - ful thing for thee. When He has tried thy soul with



tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
 wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and
 plea - sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath sent, Nor doubt our
 sad - ness And from all guile has found thee free, He comes to



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.
 tri - als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.
 in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.
 thee all un - a - ware And makes thee own His lov - ing care.

- 5 Nor think amid the fiery trial
 That God hath cast thee off unheard,
 That he whose hopes meet no denial
 Must surely be of God preferred.
 Time passes and much change doth bring
 And sets a bound to ev'rything.
- 6 All are alike before the Highest;
 'Tis easy for our God, we know,
 To raise thee up, though low thou liest,
 To make the rich man poor and low.
 True wonders still by Him are wrought
 Who setteth up and brings to naught.
- 7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
 Perform thy duties faithfully,
 And trust His Word; though undeserving,
 Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
 God never yet forsook in need
 The soul that trusted Him indeed.

LSB 760 What God Ordains Is Always Good



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is
 2 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He nev - er
 3 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing
 4 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He is my



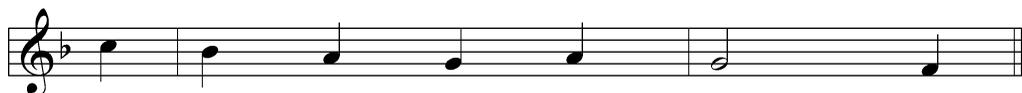
just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,
 will de - ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way,
 thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup
 friend and Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm



I fol - low meek and low - ly. My God in - deed
 And nev - er will He leave me. I take con - tent
 That my phy - si - cian sends me. My God is true;
 Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now I may know



In ev - 'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
 What He has sent; His hand that sends me sad - ness
 Each morn - ing new I trust His grace un - end - ing,
 Both joy and woe; Some - day I shall see clear - ly



To Him, then, I will yield me.
 Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
 My life to Him com - mend - ing.
 That He has loved me dear - ly.

5 What God ordains is always good:
 Though I the cup am drinking
 Which savors now of bitterness,
 I take it without shrinking.
 For after grief
 God gives relief,
 My heart with comfort filling
 And all my sorrow stilling.

6 What God ordains is always good:
 This truth remains unshaken.
 Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
 I shall not be forsaken.
 I fear no harm,
 For with His arm
 He shall embrace and shield me;
 So to my God I yield me.



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur-den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o-



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

LSB 547 The Lamb



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Sunday (9/20)	9:00 AM	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class & Sunday School
Wednesday	12:30 PM	Catechism Class
	7:00 PM	Bible History Class
Friday	1:00 PM	Camp CILCA Golf Outing
Saturday	3:30 PM	Individual Confession & Absolution
	5:30 PM	Divine Service with Holy Communion
Sunday (9/27)	9:00 AM	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class & Sunday School

IN OUR PRAYERS

HEALTH CONCERNS: Bernita Ashwill; Connie Hilgendorf Bruns (cousin of Mary Appleby); Lynn Corrie (friend of the Joneses); Ellie Crawford (daughter of Laran Crawford); Whitney Czerwonka; Lynn Davis (cousin of Mark Whitson); Theresa Fields; Lisa Hall (sister of Holly Wikoff); Rick Hardesty (family of the Hoels); Kim Hausman (friend of Ann Carroll); Deanna Henningsen (sister-in-law of Jerry & Joyce Alexander); Mary Miller (friend of David Holzrichter); Kimberly Mulvany (daughter of Pastor Doug Meyer); Mary Negangard (grandmother of Bryce Reifsteck); Sandra Oehmke (sister of Joan Vukelich); Dennis Pickett (friend of Ann Carroll); Cary & Beth Rahn; Emma Silver; Dave Slaughter; Joe Slaughter; Ocil Slone (grandfather of Josh & Jake Dyer); Joy Stenger; Brian Walker (uncle of Bryce Reifsteck); Lynn & Jane Whitson (parents of Mark Whitson).

SEMINARY STUDENT: Gunnar Campbell; Logan Smith.

DEACONESS STUDENT: Emily McLean.

MISSIONARIES: Rev. Dr. Edward and Monica Naumann; Rev. Ryan and Emily McDermott; Julie Lutz.

HOMEBOUND: Bernita Ashwill; Leonard Boerngen; Jim Harbaugh; Janet Pollock; Ruth Rentschler; Ruth Sims; Irene Wattjes.

MILITARY: Carl Crawford; Josh Dyer; Jeremy Gordon; Jack Leonard; Jake Lindgren; Raymond Longtin; Joey Pollock; Blake Stokes; Ruben Wilson.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS . . . 1 Kings 17:17–24; Ephesians 3:13–21; Luke 7:11–17.

ABOUT THIS WEEK'S READINGS . . . *“You cannot serve God and money”* (Matt. 6:24-34), for they require two contrary forms of service. Worry is the worship given to the false god of mammon, an unbelieving anxiousness and focus on the things of this world. Faith is the worship of the true God, a confident trust that He is a loving Father who will care for all of our needs in both body and soul. The widow of Zarephath served God—that is, she believed the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah that the bin of flour would not be used up nor would the jar of oil run dry (1 Kings 17:8–16). He who feeds the birds and clothes the flowers will certainly provide for our daily needs. For He has already provided for our eternal needs, clothing us with Christ's righteousness in Baptism and feeding us His body and blood for our forgiveness. With such confidence we are liberated from worry and freed to do good with our material resources, especially to those who are of the household of faith (Gal. 5:25–6:10).

THOUGHTS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP . . . Matthew 6:25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on.” Our anxieties and fears all come down to one thing: worrying that we will not get our way. But God is our loving heavenly Father: He will always care for us and His will is always best. That confidence should set us free from worry and free us for service according to the callings God has given us.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS . . . were given by Arleigh Jones to the glory of God for blessings received.

What God Ordains Is Always Good

Lutheran Service Book 760 | study by Randall P. Wurschmidt

Introduction

We do not like to suffer — indeed we tend to avoid it at all costs. Why is this? It is certainly not very much fun; it causes heartache and pain. You may suffer from such things as depression or arthritis; you may suffer because your spouse is not a Christian, or your children have rejected their faith or belittled yours. You may also suffer because your car breaks down frequently, or your bank account is dwindling quickly, or because you've lost a job or a house. It is tempting at these times to think that God is punishing you for something, or that He has become distant or uncaring. However, Scripture teaches that suffering is to be expected

in the life of a Christian, and that sometimes God uses it for our own benefit, to strengthen us in our faith. At such times we have nowhere to turn but to the Cross, to rely on the promises God has made to us, namely, that nothing will ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:39).

- How does the world understand suffering — is it a good thing or a bad thing?
- When things seem to go badly in your life, whom do you blame?

Exploring the Scriptures

The Old Testament Lesson for today is a fine way to introduce this hymn. Read 1 Kings 17:8–16.

- Does the widow seem angry about her situation, or is she content?
- When Elijah brings her the word of the LORD, how does she react?

Even though it seems impossible, God continues to provide what she needs. In the midst of her suffering, she relies on God's promise to her. How can something good come out of such misery?

The whole premise of today's hymn is that God's work is always good, and that His will is "just and holy" (st. 1). This comes not by observation, but by His Word (2 Cor. 5:7).

- Read Rom. 8:18–28. Romans 8 describes the life of one in whom the Spirit dwells, that is, the baptized Christian. How does Paul understand sufferings in this life?

The Gospel Reading today, Matt. 6:24–34, also fits into this theme. Jesus says, "do not be anxious about your life" (v. 25).

Exploring the Hymn

Background

In 1675, when Severus Gastorius (1646–82), Kantor (church musician) at one of the churches in the German town of Jena, lay seriously ill in his bed, his friend Samuel Rodigast (1649–1708) came by to visit. Rodigast brought with him this poem, "What God Ordains Is Always Good," and read it to Gastorius, who found it very comforting and strengthening. Upon his recovery, Gastorius set his friend's poem to music; the hymn was first published together with this music in 1681. It was instantly popular, and important composers such as Johann Pachelbel (of "Canon in D" fame) and Johann Sebastian Bach used it as the basis for some of their own music. It was also a common funeral hymn for many years.

- Imagine you are in the hospital and very ill. What hymns or poems would you find comforting and why?
- List some qualities that you think would make a hymn a good choice at a funeral.

Text

Each stanza of this hymn begins with the words, "What God ordains is always good." To this confession, at the ends of the first and last stanzas, we respond, "To Him, then, I will yield me" and "So to my God I yield me." That is to say, "Everything God does is good," and, "Thy will be done." To a non-Christian, this might seem untrue or even arrogant or offensive.

- In what ways might someone try to argue that God is not always good?

But if God works all things together for the good of the Christian, then there must be something good in what God sends us, even if it seems bad to us at the time.

- Recall the account of Joseph in Genesis. His brothers had sold him into slavery and told their father that he was dead. Yet how does Joseph interpret this many years later? See Gen. 50:20.

- What afflictions have you experienced that seemed at the time bad, but later turned out to be a blessing?

In stanza 5, the author Rodigast refers to the cup that he is drinking. This imagery reminds us of Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Read Luke 22:39–42. For Jesus, this cup is the suffering He must bear. It is filled with God’s wrath for the sins of all people, even yours. Jesus bore this wrath as

Making the Connection

Sometimes people have the erroneous idea that if you have enough faith, bad things will not happen to you; instead you will be healthy, have an abundance of material wealth, a happy family and so forth. Such an outlook is sometimes called a “theology of glory.” Scripture, on the other hand, clearly teaches a “theology of the cross.” Here we learn that the Christian will suffer in this life. To carry the cross and follow Jesus means that sometimes He will give you a cup filled with bitter medicine that is for your spiritual health and well-being. It is a matter of trust. Is God good or not?

In Closing

None of us is going to have everything go the way we want it to 365 days a year. And no one, not even Christians, will escape death and decay in this sin-wracked life. We must rely on God’s goodness toward us while receiving His gifts through His Word and Sacraments, and finally trust in His promise that nothing can separate us from His love for us in Christ. It’s a truth that remains unshaken: though sorrow, need or death be yours, you shall not be forsaken. And in the end, we look forward to the time when He will wipe away every tear, when we will be with Him in heaven.

- Sing or read aloud together *LSB* 760.

He suffered in agony on the cross on Good Friday. It may seem to you at times that you are drinking from a bitter cup. But though it tastes nasty now, God promises relief and comfort in the future. Christians especially look to their future home in heaven as an end to all earthly suffering (see Rev. 21:4).

- In light of this, why is Good Friday called “Good”?

We must be prepared in this life to commend ourselves, our bodies and souls and all things, into the Lord’s hands.

Martin Luther’s most famous hymn says it this way:

And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict’ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth. (*LSB* 656:4)

Prayer

Almighty and most merciful God, in this earthly life we endure sufferings and death before we enter into eternal glory. Grant us grace at all times to subject ourselves to Your holy will and to continue steadfast in the true faith to the end of our lives that we may know the peace and joy of the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (In times of affliction and distress, *LSB*, p. 317).