

# THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



**IMMANUEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## 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 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Divine Service, Setting Three with Holy Communion

*Stand*

The PROCESSIONAL HYMN      LSB 834 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth  
(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.

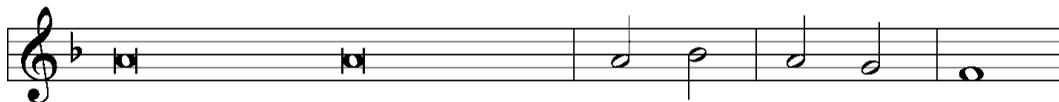




Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



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



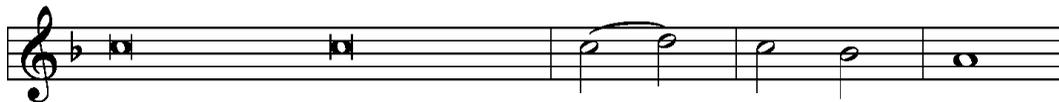
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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** Almighty and merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep from us all things that may hurt us that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever You would have us do; 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

Genesis 28:10–17

Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The GRADUAL

Ps. 141:1–2

*O LORD, I call upon you; hasten | to me!\**

*Give ear to my voice when I | call to you!*

**Let my prayer be counted as incense be- | fore you,\***

**and the lifting up of my hands as the evening | sacrifice!**

## The SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:22–28

Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

**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 9:1-8

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

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

Getting into a boat [Jesus] crossed over and came to his own city.

And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**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 708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart  
(see page 17-18)

The SERMON

*Stand*

The OFFERTORY

LSB 192



**C** 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.



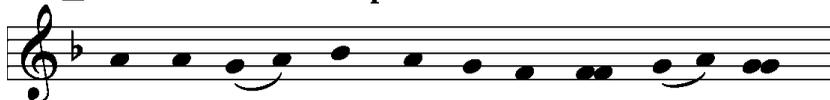
**C** And with thy spir - it.



**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:

## The SANCTUS

LSB 195



**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,



bles-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

LSB 196

**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.



**C** A - men.

© 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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the first line of music and the lyrics '© O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the'. The second staff continues with 'world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that'. The third staff continues with 'tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.'. The fourth staff continues with 'O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the'. The fifth and final staff concludes with 'world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.' and ends with a double bar line.

*Sit*

The HYMN

LSB 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
LSB 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be  
(see pages 18-19)

*Stand*

The NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



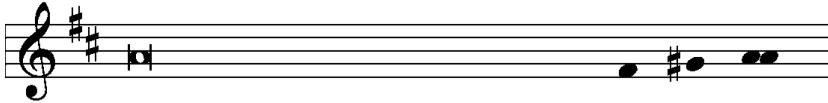
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



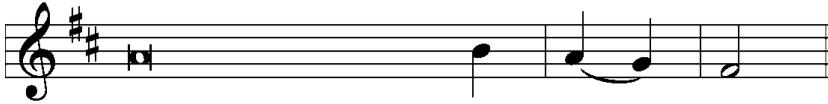
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

# 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

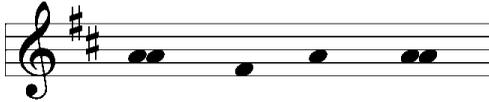
LSB 201-202



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



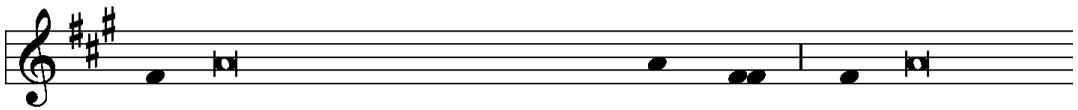
**A** Bless we the Lord.



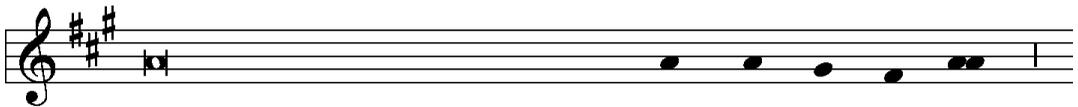
**C** Thanks be to God.

## The BENEDICTION

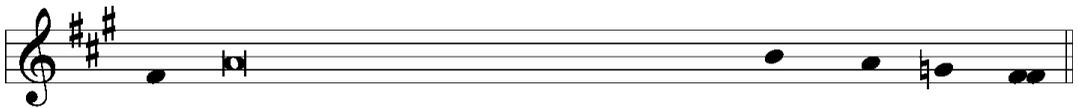
LSB 202



**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 RECESSONAL 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 834 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth



1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy liv - ing  
 2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el  
 3 Thou cam - est to our hall of death, O Christ, to  
 4 O Spir - it, who didst once re - store Thy Church that



fin - ger nev - er wrote That life should be an aim -  
 will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride -  
 breathe our poi - soned air, To drink for us the dark  
 it might be a - gain The bring - er of good news



less mote, A death - ward drift from fu - tile birth.  
 ful spite Thy won - drous gift of lib - er - ty.  
 de - spair That stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.  
 to men, Breathe on Thy clo - ven Church once more,



Thy Word meant life tri - um - phant hurled In splen - dor through  
 We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had roy -  
 How beau - ti - ful the feet that trod The road that leads  
 That in these gray and lat - ter days There may be those



Thy bro - ken world. Since light a - woke and life be - gan,  
 al scope and room, Un - til Thy ser - vant, Prince of Peace,  
 us back to God! How beau - ti - ful the feet that ran  
 whose life is praise, Each life a high dox - ol - o - gy



Thou hast de - sired Thy life for man.  
 Breached all its walls for our re - lease.  
 To bring the great good news to man!  
 To Fa - ther, Son, and un - to Thee.

LSB 708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from  
 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun-ty gave My bod - y, soul, and  
 3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om



me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth  
 all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,  
 bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And



has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were  
 grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy  
 in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in



void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my  
 lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false  
 peace-ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from



heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.  
 doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.  
 death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious  
 Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my  
 O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
 cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
 and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -



LSB 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.

5 O my Savior, help afford  
 By Your Spirit and Your Word!  
 When my wayward heart would stray,  
 Keep me in the narrow way;  
 Grace in time of need supply  
 While I live and when I die.

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## THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Sunday (10/18)	9:00 AM	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class & Sunday School
Monday	7:30 PM	Voters' Assembly Meeting (Sanctuary)
Wednesday	12:30 PM	Catechism Class
	7:00 PM	Bible History Class
Saturday	3:30 PM	Individual Confession & Absolution
	5:30 PM	Divine Service with Holy Communion
Sunday (10/25)	9:00 AM	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class & Sunday School

## IN OUR PRAYERS

HEALTH CONCERNS: Bernita Ashwill; Connie Bruns (cousin of Mary Appleby); Lynn Corrie (friend of Arleigh Jones); Ellie Crawford (daughter of Laran Crawford); Whitney Czerwonka; Lynn Davis (cousin of Mark Whitson); Cindy Ekstrom; 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); Dennis Pickett (friend of Ann Carroll); Cary & Beth Rahn; Emma Silver; Dave Slaughter; Ocil Slone (grandfather of Josh & Jake Dyer); Joy Stenger; Carolyn Stremming (sister-in-law of Arleigh Jones); Brian Walker (uncle of Bryce Reifsteck); Lynn & Jane Whitson (parents of Mark Whitson).

SEMINARY STUDENT: Gunnar Campbell; Logan Smith.

DEACONESS STUDENT: Emily McLean.

MISSIONARIES: The Naumann Family; The McDermott Family, Julie Lutz

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

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS . . . Revelation 14:6–7; Romans 3:19–28; John 8:31–36.

ABOUT THIS WEEK'S READINGS . . . The Lord does not require us to ascend to Him; in mercy He descends to us (Gen 28:10–17). The ladder in Jacob's dream was not for

climbing; it was the means by which the Lord came to bless Jacob. This event finds its fulfillment in Christ who descended from His throne to save and bless us. By His incarnation He is the eternal bridge between heaven and earth. *“The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”* (Matt 9:1–8). The Lord was present in the flesh to absolve the paralytic. Jesus also healed and restored this man’s body. *“For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation”* (Small Catechism). The Lord still has power on earth to forgive sins. In holy absolution He raises up the new man (Eph 4:22–28) and bestows the healing medicine which will bring about our resurrection on the Last Day. Thus we say with Jacob, *“This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”* (Gen 28:17).

THOUGHTS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP . . . Ephesians 4:24 “Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” The battle between the old self in Adam and the new self in Christ is fought in the heart and mind of every Christian. Paul encourages us to put on the new man which is created in the image of God. Our sanctification, our growth in godliness, is a growth into God’s image. So we do this by keeping our eyes on Christ and imitating Him in everything: in love, in kindness, in self-giving generosity.

ALTAR FLOWERS . . . are given to the glory of God by Wayne & Janice Arthur in thanksgiving for blessings received.

# Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

Lutheran Service Book 708 | study by Randy P. Wurschmidt

## Introduction

As the young woman lies dying in her hospital bed, the pastor is urgently summoned. He brings with him his well-used *Pastoral Care Companion*; anticipating that death is imminent, he opens to the “Commendation of the Dying.” Prayers are prayed, psalms are chanted, Scriptures are read; after the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer, he sings the *Nunc Dimittis*, “Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace.” (*LSB Pastoral Care Companion* [CPH, 2007], p. 93). Then he sings stanza 3 of this hymn: “Lord, let at last Thine angels come.” (*LSB Pastoral Care Companion*, p. 93). It is a beautiful and confident way for the Christian to face

death, trusting in God’s promise of the resurrection, in the hope of eternal life in heaven. This stanza is famously used as the final chorale in J. S. Bach’s *St. John Passion*, giving the Good Friday narrative an appropriate ending: not with our Lord dead on the cross, but with the open tomb, and death defeated.

- Is a Christian’s death different from the death of an unbeliever? Why or why not?
- What is the benefit of the pastor being at the bedside of one who is dying?

## Exploring the Scriptures

Anyone who is paying attention knows that this life is far from perfect. There are disappointments and heartache, illness and pain. “Change and decay in all around I see,” we sing in another favorite hymn of trust and hope (*LSB* 878:4). And of course, there is death. Most people think of death as an unfortunate but normal part of life. There may be some vague thought of heaven (never hell!) for the nice people; for some, death means simply disintegration back into the earth, and no more. But there is more; there is much more, for Jesus has promised to return on the Last Day and raise the dead.

It won’t be just the righteous that He raises, but all people, as we confess in the Nicene Creed, “I look for the

resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come” (*LSB*, p. 191). The Athanasian Creed goes even further, stating, “And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire” (*LSB*, p. 320), meaning that those who have rejected Jesus will experience weeping and gnashing of teeth in eternal damnation.

- Read 1 Cor. 15:12–28. When (or who) is the beginning of death and the end of death, according to verse 21? Why should this give us hope?
- Read Psalm 90. How should we consider this life, in light of this psalm? Should we put our hope and trust in the things of our life now?

## Exploring the Hymn

### Background

The text was written by Martin Schalling (1532–1608), a Lutheran pastor and theologian who was a disciple of the reformer Philipp Melancthon, author of the Augsburg Confession. Martin Schalling lived during a time of intense religious strife, which reached even outside Germany and throughout Europe. As the Reformation moved forward, the Roman Catholics often fought back, countering with their own documents and creeds. At that time, Germany was composed of many small principalities and kingdoms. It was up to each individual ruler to decide on the religious confession of his territory, leading to many changes as rulers came and went. Unfortunately, these battles of words often spilled out into battles of swords, and many were killed in wars and power struggles during this time.

Even if we were without religious strife, death is still a universal problem in this life, and all Christians should be

able to confess the truths sung in this hymn, finding comfort in these words.

- What would be some of the challenges for a pastor in a time of ever-changing allegiances? Could you continue to confess the truth even if your job or your life depended on it?

### Text

In the first stanza, we are reminded that earth’s pleasures are no match for eternal life in heaven, and that the most important thing for us is to be in the presence of God.

- Where does Jesus promise to be when we gather for the Divine Service each Sunday?

In the second stanza, we are reminded of the Creed, as you may have learned it from the Small Catechism. So in

the meaning of the First Article, Luther writes, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them” (*LSB*, p. 322). We pray that the devil, the world and our own flesh would not betray us, or lead us into temptation or doubt.

- According to this stanza, how do we glorify God’s “lavish grace”? To whom is our own love directed?

Sing the third stanza now, if you have not already. Here we have the heart and soul of this hymn. Jesus said, “For what

will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” (Matt. 16:26). All roads point to the end. The whole life of a Christian is one preparing for death. And in these words, we confess to what end we have held steadfast: “That these mine eyes with joy may see, / O Son of God, Thy glorious face, / My Savior and my fount of grace.”

- Each stanza closes with the refrain, “Lord Jesus Christ.” Compare each of these, and describe how, just from the last phrase, each stanza summarizes our life of faith.

## Making the Connection

When the Pharisees tested Jesus, asking, “Which is the great commandment in the Law?” Jesus answered by saying, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 22:36–40). This hymn sums up these commandments very well: we love God because He loved us first, and gave His only begotten Son for the forgiveness of our sins; we love our neighbor because God has given us everything we need for this life and the next.

## In Closing

“We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things,” we confess in the meaning of the First Commandment (*LSB*, p. 321). As you know, this is easier said than done, because by nature we look to other gods. This is why we need to regularly hear the Word of God, why we need to regularly hear the words of absolution from our pastors, why we need to regularly receive Jesus’ body and blood: to ease our burdened consciences, and to strengthen our faith in God and our fervent love for our neighbor. For God has promised salvation to you, and baptized you into His life and death. He has assured you that as His sons and daughters, you will inherit eternal life with Him on account of Christ, who covers all your sins in His own righteousness. Therefore, sing

This we do when we share Jesus’ body and blood at the rail with fellow saints. We do this when we receive the forgiveness of sins promised from the cross, and forgive those who trespass against us. We love our neighbors when we help them in time of need, pray for and with them and comfort them with the beautiful hymns of our faith.

- In times of distress, have you ever just sat down with your hymnal open and sung? Why or why not?
- How does our own selfishness and sin keep us from facing death without fear?

this hymn with all boldness and confidence. Sing it now if you haven’t already. And sing it as you journey from this life into death and into life everlasting.

### Prayer

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen (Hope of eternal life in Christ, *LSB*, p. 313).