

1 Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed  
with healing gifts for souls distressed,  
to find in you my life, my rest,  
Christ crucified, I come.

2 How well you know my griefs and fears,  
your grace abused, my misspent years;  
so now to you with contrite tears,  
Christ crucified, I come.

3 Wash me and take away each stain;  
let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing through your cross and pain,  
Christ crucified, I come.

4 To pledge my labor willingly,  
which shall so sweet a service be  
that angels well might envy me,  
Christ crucified, I come.

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928, alt.

Text: Public domain

**(Stand)**

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ 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 mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Glory to God in the Highest**

CW 176

*Refrain:* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Amen. Refrain*

# THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

## **First Reading**

*Isaiah 43:1–7*

But now this is what the LORD says,  
the LORD who created you, O Jacob,  
the LORD who formed you, O Israel.

Do not be afraid, because I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you cross through the waters, I will be with you.

When you cross the rivers, they will not sweep you away.

When you walk through fire, you will not be burned, and the flame will not set you on fire.

<sup>3</sup>Because I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior,  
I gave Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious and honored in my eyes,  
and I myself love you,  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
and peoples in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Do not be afraid, because I am with you.  
From the east I will bring your offspring,  
and from the west I will gather you.

<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, “Give them back!”  
and to the south, “Do not hold them.”

Bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
everyone I created for my glory,  
everyone I formed,  
yes, everyone I have made.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Keep Me as the Apple of Your Eye

*Psalms 121*

## *Refrain*

Keep me, keep me as the apple of your eye.  
Hide me, hide me in the shadow of your wings.

I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—  
where does my help / come from?  
My help comes / from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- / en 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 slum- / ber nor sleep. *Refrain*

The LORD watches / over you—  
the LORD is your shade at / your right hand;  
the sun will not harm / you by day,  
nor the / moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you / from all harm—  
he will watch o- / ver 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**

## **Second Reading**

*Hebrews 5:7–9*

In the days of his flesh, he offered prayers and pleas with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup>Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. <sup>9</sup>After he was brought to his goal, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Mark 10:45*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.  
For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but  
to serve,

and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.



Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it continues to be one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain. <sup>25</sup>Anyone who loves his life destroys it. And the one who hates his life in this world will hold on to it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, let him follow me. And where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, this is the reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name!”

A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again.”

<sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice was not for my sake but for yours.

<sup>31</sup>“Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He

said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Be seated)*

**571 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth**

CW 571

- 1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth,  
your living finger never wrote  
that life should be an aimless mote,  
a deathward drift from futile birth.  
Your Word meant life triumphant hurled  
in splendor through your broken world;  
ere light awoke and life began,  
you made for us a holy plan.
- 2 In blind revolt we would not see  
that rebel wills wrought death and night.  
We seized and used in fear and spite  
your wondrous gift of liberty.  
We walled us in this house of doom,  
where death had royal scope and room,

until your servant, Prince of Peace,  
broke down its walls for our release.

3     You came into our hall of death,  
      O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,  
      to drink for us the deep despair  
that strangled our reluctant breath.  
      How beautiful the feet that trod  
      the road to bring good news from God!  
How beautiful the feet that bring  
good tidings of our saving King!

4     O Spirit, who did once restore  
      the church that it might yet recall  
      the one who brings good news to all:  
breathe on your cloven church once more  
      that in these gray and latter days  
      there may be those whose life is praise,  
each life a high doxology  
unto the holy Trinity.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt.

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## **Sermon**

*Isaiah 43:1-7*

**The LORD Works for Our Good**

**I. He created us (1-2)**

**II. He saved us (3-4)**

**III. He gathers us (5-7)**

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son  
of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from  
true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from  
heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin  
Mary,**

**and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with  
the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who in unity with the Father and the Son**

**is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

**Prayer of the Church**

**Offering**

## **THE SACRAMENT**

*(Stand)*

**Preface**

CW 183

**The Lord be with you.**

**And also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts.**

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and

resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**



## **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **Jesus, Lamb of God**

CW 186

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace.

*(Be seated)*

## **Distribution**

### **676 Take and Eat**

CW 676

Ref Take and eat, take and eat,  
this is my body given up for you.  
Take and drink, take and drink,  
this is my blood given up for you.

- 1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;  
I am the seed that died to be reborn;  
I am the bread that comes from heav'n above;  
I am the vine that fills your cup with joy. (Refrain)
- 2 I am the way that leads the exile home;  
I am the truth that sets the captive free;  
I am the life that raises up the dead;  
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you. (Refrain)
- 3 I am the Lamb that takes away your sin;  
I am the gate that guards you night and day;

you are my flock: you know the shepherd's voice;  
you are my own: your ransom is my blood. (Refrain)

4 I am the cornerstone that God has laid;  
a chosen stone and precious in his eyes;  
you are God's dwelling-place, on me you rest;  
like living stones, a temple for God's praise. (Refrain)

5 I am the light that came into the world;  
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;  
I am the Morning Star that never sets;  
lift up your face, in you my light will shine. (Refrain)

6 I am the first and last, the Living One;  
I am the Lord who died that you might live;  
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;  
you are my bride, come to the marriage feast. (Refrain)

Text (sts. 1–6): James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010; (Ref): Michael Joncas, b. 1951

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**(Stand)**

## **Thanksgiving**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**His mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

**Amen.**

## **849 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me**

CW 849

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me  
upon life's way;  
direct, protect, and feed me  
from day to day.

Without your grace and favor

I go astray;

so take my hand, O Savior,

and lead the way.

2 Lord, when the tempest rages,

I need not fear;

for you, the Rock of Ages,

are always near.

Close by your side abiding,

I fear no foe,

for when your hand is guiding,

in peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen

and night has come,

I know that you will strengthen

my steps toward home.

Then nothing can impede me,

O blessèd Friend;

so take my hand and lead me

unto the end.

## Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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## **MESSAGE BOARD**

### **Job Postings at the School**

- **School Janitor** – 5 days a week after school hours - 1-1.5 hours/day
  - **School Secretary** – mornings 3-5 days a week – beginning at 8:00 AM
  - **Education assistant** – 5 days a week from 1-3 PM
- Full job description and applications are available at the school office. For more information, please speak to Mr. Lange, Aaron Korthals, John Korthals, or Josh Denniston.

**New Church Secretary:** St. Luke's has hired a new secretary. Pat Mecham is now working in the office. Office hours will remain the same, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Office phone number is (989) 823-7923 and the email address is: [st.lukesvassar@gmail.com](mailto:st.lukesvassar@gmail.com).

**Beverage Deposit Returns :** Don't want the hassle of returning your empties? Don't want the mess and the fuss of waiting in line just to turn in your pop and beer container returns? Let us help you! The five girls of the Upper Grade are taking our class trip to the

historic Straits of Mackinac in May. We'd be pleased to take those cans and bottles off your hands. Just bring them to church or school in plastic bags, and we'll take them from there. Have too many to bring in? Call Mr. Lange at school and he'll come and pick them up at your house! 989-823-8400 (school); 989-823-7304 (leave a message on home phone)

**Easter Flowers:** Please drop your spring plants (daffodils, tulips, lilies, hyacinths...) off to the fellowship hall or altar guild room no later than

**Saturday, March 30 by noon**, and we would be happy to place them on the altar for you. Please speak with Kerri Hubbard if you have any questions! Thank you!

**MLS Summer Camps:** Registration for our 2024 MLS Summer Camps is now open! **Family Discount:** If you will be registering for more than one camp within the same household, we now offer a 15% family discount. Enter the code FAMILY when ordering to receive the discount. You **MUST** be signed up for multiple camps to use the code. To register visit [www.mlsem.org](http://www.mlsem.org).

**Registration ends on June 1, 2024, at midnight.**

**Women's Bible Study:** This series will center around the lives of strong women of the Bible.

**MLS:** Join us for the MLS Spring Band Concert on March 24 at 6:30 pm!

**School Mission Project** - Our WELS missionary kids return stateside to schools, sometimes without their families, or return with their families to new American ministries, schools, and culture. World Missions realized a program was necessary to help our teenagers and young adults transition to their new stateside lives. At these retreats, our high school and college-aged attendees will receive tools to cope with these transitions and will have opportunities to forge friendships with others who have had similar experiences. These non-budgeted retreats are only possible when funding is available. **Our current total is \$151.77.**

### **Results of MLS Science and Fine Arts Fair**

Congratulations, girls! Well done! We are proud of your accomplishments.

### **Science Competition 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Divisions**

*Blue Ribbon Awards:* Bentleigh Goss (Demonstration - 7); Lilly Guzman (Experiment - 7)

*Purple Ribbon Awards:* Piper Schultz (Demonstration - 8); Kaylee Hicks (Experiment - 8)

### **Forensics Competition 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade**

*Blue Ribbon Awards:* Piper Schultz, Kaylee Hicks, and Lilly Guzman

(Purple Ribbons are the highest honors)



**YouTube Update:** Our livestream has been updated to include the bulletin for each service. This should make for a fuller and more edifying service while you watch from...wherever.