

728 This Is My Will

CW 728

1 This is my will, my one command,
that love should dwell among you all.
This is my will, that you should love
as I have shown that I love you.

2 No greater love can be than this:
To choose to die to save one's friends.
You are my friends if you obey
what I command that you should do.

3 I call you now no longer slaves;
no slave knows all his master does.
I call you friends, for all I hear
my Father say you hear from me.

4 You chose not me, but I chose you,
that you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in me
should bear much fruit that will abide.

5 All that you ask my Father dear
for my name's sake you shall receive.

This is my will, my one command,
that love should dwell in each, in all.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010, alt.

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Please stand for the final stanza

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.

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; 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

Acts 9:36–42

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was always doing good deeds and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became sick and died. After they had washed her, they laid her in an upstairs room. ³⁸Since Lydda is near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, who urged him, “Come to us without delay!”

³⁹Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing him the robes and clothing that Dorcas made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰After Peter sent them all outside, he got down on his knees and prayed. Then he turned toward the body and said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her stand up. After he called the saints and the widows, he presented her to them alive.

⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

89 Forever I Will Sing

Psalm 89

Refrain

Forever I will sing the goodness of the LORD, the
goodness of the LORD.

I will sing of the LORD's great love for- / ever;

with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all gener- / ations.

I will declare that your love stands firm for- / ever,

that you have established your faithfulness in / heav'n
itself.

The heavens praise your / wonders, LORD,

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the / holy
ones. *Refrain*

Who is like you, LORD God Al- / mighty?

You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness sur- /
rounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to ac- / claim you,

who walk in the light of your / presence, LORD.
 They rejoice in your name / all day long;
 they celebrate your / righteousness.
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

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Second Reading

1 John 4:7–11,19–21

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar. For how

can anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, love God, whom he has not seen? ²¹This then is the command we have from him: The one who loves God should also love his brother.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 13:13

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 15:9–17

“As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If you hold on to my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have held on to my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you these things so that my joy would

continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete.

¹²“This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you continue to do the things I instruct you. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷These things I am instructing you, so that you love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

730 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

CW 730

1 Blest be the tie that binds
 our hearts in Christian love;

the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4 When here our pathways part,
we suffer bitter pain;
yet, one in Christ and one in heart,
we hope to meet again.

5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

Sermon

John 15:9-17

Love One Another

I. Because of God's love for us (9-11)

II. By laying down our lives (12-14)

III. Because we are God's friends (15-17)

(Stand)

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.

It is truly good and right . . . and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

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

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

557 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

CW 55

1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
 with exultation springing,
 and, with united heart and voice
 and holy rapture singing,
 proclaim the wonders God has done,
 how his right arm the vict'ry won.

 How dearly it has cost him!

2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
 death brooded darkly o'er me.

Sin was my torment night and day;
 in sin my mother bore me.

Yet deep and deeper still I fell;
 life had become a living hell,
 so firmly sin possessed me.

3 My own good works availed me naught,
 no merit they attaining;

my will against God's judgment fought,
no hope for me remaining.

My fears increased till sheer despair
left only death to be my share
and hell to be my sentence.

4 But God beheld my wretched state
before the world's foundation,
and, mindful of his mercies great,
he planned for my salvation.

A father's heart he turned to me,
sought my redemption fervently;
he gave his dearest treasure.

5 He spoke to his beloved Son:
"It's time to have compassion.

Then go, bright jewel of my crown,
and bring to all salvation.

From sin and sorrow set them free;
slay bitter death for them that they
may live with you forever."

6 The Son obeyed his Father's will,
was born of virgin mother,

and, God's good pleasure to fulfill,
he came to be my brother.

No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore;
a servant's form like mine he bore
to lead the devil captive.

7 To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me,
I am your rock and castle.

Your ransom I myself will be;
for you I strive and wrestle.

For I am yours, your friend divine,
and evermore you shall be mine;
the foe shall not divide us.

8 "The foe will shed my precious blood,
me of my life bereaving;

all this I suffer for your good;
be steadfast and believing.

Life will from death the vict'ry win;
my innocence shall bear your sin,
and you are blest forever.

9 "Now to my Father I depart,
the Holy Spirit sending

and, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
my help to you extending.
He will a source of comfort be,
teach you to know and follow me,
and in all truth will guide you.

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546

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(Stand)

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.

557 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice CW 557 vs-10

10 “What I on earth have lived and taught
 be all your life and teaching;
 so shall my kingdom’s work be wrought
 and honored in your preaching.
 Take care that no one’s man-made laws
 should e’er destroy the gospel’s cause;
 this final word I leave you.”

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–1782

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MESSAGE BOARD

Names and Addresses: The celebration committee is looking for past LES grads. It will be great if we are able to contact as many graduates as possible. If you know of names and addresses for these former students, please send them to Cori Einhardt. You may use her church mailbox.

Class Trip Bottle Collection: \$462.50 and counting! This is our final push to get our upper graders to the Straits of Mackinac, with enough ‘can cash’ left over for a meal or two! The trip is May 15th – 17th. You can drop your cans and bottles at the school’s back door, bring them to the church, or contact Mr. Lange to pick them up, the class will then redeem them at the store. **Monetary donations will gladly be accepted!** If you’d like them picked up at your home, you can contact Mr. Lange at

his home 989-823-8400 or at the school 989-823-7304.
TIA

Sign-up Sheets: Watch for sign-up sheets for the Lange's Celebration Send-Off. Hot sides, fruit, salads, rolls, and desserts are needed. Meat, drinks, and paper products will be supplied. **June 9th** is the celebration date.

Celebration! Please join others planning the retirement party for John and Cyn Lange. Meeting will **follow Bible class on May 19th**.

Job Postings at the School

School Secretary – mornings 3-5 days a week –
beginning at 8:00 AM

Full job description and applications are available at the school office. For more information, please speak to Mr. Lange, John Korthals, or Josh Denniston.

School Yard Signs Available –OUTREACH

OPPORTUNITY!!! There are several school yard signs available for you to display on your front lawn this spring, several are already placed on their standards. If you are interested in a low-key way to proudly boast of your school and its programs, grab a sign today!

Online Resources: For those who take advantage of our livestreamed services, you can follow along with the addition of the bulletin. The bulletin can be found at vassarlutherans.org, once there select the bulletin tab.

Check your mailbox.