

# *Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church*

*The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

**A BIBLICAL, CONFESSIONAL AND TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION IN THE  
CHICAGO REGION COMMITTED TO MINISTERING TO SINNERS  
WITH THE FORGIVING PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

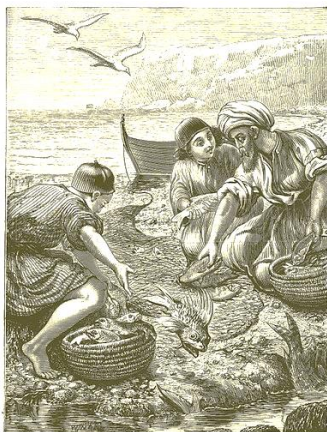
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## THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 26, 2020

✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

Setting 1



**A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME** to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called "Divine Service" - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

The Lord our God has chosen us to be *"his treasured possession,"* not because of any strength in us, but solely *"because the Lord loves"* us (Deut. 7:6–8). He is faithful, and He *"keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments"* (Deut. 7:9). He has searched for us and found us in love, and He has bestowed on us *"great value"* by the great price that He has paid on the cross (Matt. 13:45–46). In His joy, He has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His Kingdom by the Gospel. Now we are *"hidden in a field,"* covered by the cross and subject to the persecution of the world (Matt. 13:44), not for destruction, but *"to be conformed to the image of his Son"* (Rom. 8:29). Since we *"are called according to his purpose"* (Rom. 8:28), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again and lives to intercede for us *"at the right hand of God"* (Rom. 8:34), there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from *"the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Rom. 8:39).

### ***Prayer before Worship***

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called us to be Your children and heirs of Your gracious promises in Christ Jesus. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may forsake all covetous desires and the inordinate love of riches. Deliver us from the pursuit of passing things that we may seek the kingdom of Your Son and trust in His righteousness and so find blessedness and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>P</b> | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the pastor                      |
| <b>C</b> | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the congregation                |
| <b>✠</b> | designates the parts of the liturgy where the sign of the cross may be made              |
| <b>△</b> | designates a hymn that ends with a Trinitarian stanza; please stand for the final stanza |

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION

#### 651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord



1 I love Your king - dom, Lord, The place of Your a - bode,  
2 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize its heav'n - ly ways,  
3 I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev - 'ry land,  
4 For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers as - cend;  
5 Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zi - on shall be giv'n



The Church our blest Re - deem - er saved With His own pre - cious blood.  
Its sweet com - mu - nion, sol - emn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.  
Dear as the ap - ple of Your eye And grav - en on Your hand.  
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.  
The bright - est glo - ries earth can yield And bright - er bliss of heav'n.

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*Stand*

### INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19-20*

*The sign of the cross (✠) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** Amen.



### CONFESSION OF SINS

*1 John 1:8-9*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### INTROIT

*Psalms 105:2-6; antiphon: antiphon: v. 1*

*The 105<sup>th</sup> psalm is a psalm of thanks in which the people of Israel give thanks for all the miracles of old that God had done from Abraham on, until they were brought into the land of Canaan. The psalmist recounts them all one after another. He concludes as Moses did (Deuteronomy 9:4-6), noting that God had not done such wonders on account of their goodness or merit, but for the sake of His covenant and promises that He had spoken to Abraham.*

*[Reading the Psalms with Luther, p. 248]*



- A** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name,\*  
make known his deeds among the | peoples!
- C** **Sing to him, sing praise- | es to him;\***  
**tell of all his | wondrous works!**  
**Glory in his | holy name;\***  
**let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!**  
**Seek the LORD | and his strength;\***  
**seek his presence con- | tinually!**  
**Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,\***  
**his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,**  
**O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,\***  
**children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!**  
**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.**
- A** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name,\*  
make known his deeds among the | peoples!

## Kyrie

LSB 152

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** (Sung) **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** (Sung) **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** 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.
- C** (Sung) **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** (Sung) **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** (Sung) **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154

**P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**C** (Sung) **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

**We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.**

**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.**

**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.**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** (Sung) **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Deuteronomy 7:6–9*

"You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the

fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

*Romans 11:33,36*

**A** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and  
knowl- | edge of God!\*



How unsearchable are

his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are

| all things.\*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

## Epistle

*Romans 8:28–39*

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### **Alleluia and Verse (Sung)**

*John 6:68*

**C** **Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 13:44-52*

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

**C** (sung) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

**C** (Sung) **Praise to You, O Christ.**



## Hymn of the Day

## 654 Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure

1 Your king - dom, O God, is my glo - ri - ous trea - sure,  
 2 Your king - dom, O God, is a - live with the pow - er  
 3 Your king - dom, O God, is a field for the grow - ing

My pearl of in - com - p'ra - ble worth.  
 Your Word and Your Spir - it be - stow.  
 Of seeds that Your mer - cy has sown;

Its val - ue ex - ceeds ev - 'ry stan - dard of mea - sure,  
 Like yeast, they af - fect the whole mea - sure of flour,  
 But still in our midst is the en - e - my sow - ing

Sur - pass - ing the wealth of the earth.  
 En - a - bling Your king - dom to grow.  
 The weeds that im - per - il Your own.

Lord, give me Your grace and the pow'r of the Spir - it  
 Em - pow - er me, Lord, as I live Your com - mis - sion,  
 Sus - tain me, O Lord, till Your day of re - turn - ing

To val - ue this trea - sure a - right  
 Though hum - ble my ser - vice be,  
 And har - vest me home - ward at last,

That, nev - er al - lured by the world, I in - her - it  
 And bring ev - 'ry plant - ing to per - fect fru - i - tion,  
 To shine in the home - land that qui - ets all yearn - ing,

Your king - dom of glo - ry and light.  
 A mus - tard seed grown to a tree.  
 Where sor - row and dan - ger are past.

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## Sermon

*Stand*

### Apostles Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and  
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

*After each petition:*

*After the final petition:*

**P** Let us pray to the Lord:

... one God, now and forever.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**Amen.**

**Offering (YOU MAY PLACE YOUR OFFERING IN THE PLATES IN THE  
BACK OF THE NAVE AS YOU ARE LEAVING.)**

## Offertory

*Psalm 51:10-12*

**C** (Sung) **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

## Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** (Sung) **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** (Sung) **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C** (Sung) **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**C** (Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He ✠ who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\cdot\ddagger$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\cdot\ddagger$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** (Sung) **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei (Sung)

*John 1:19*

**☞ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

**Dear Visitors and Friends:** As the first Christians devoted themselves to the Lord's Supper, they also devoted themselves to the Apostles' Doctrine (Acts 2:42). The two went hand in hand. As we devote ourselves to the Lord's Supper today, we also want to be faithful to the Apostles' Doctrine.

For this reason the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **Thank you for your understanding.**

## Distribution

*Hymn are sung as needed*

## 619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which Thou for  
 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in Thee and  
 3 Who can con-demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is nigh, who  
 4 Though death may threat-en with dis - as - ter, It can - not rob me  
 5 My heart has now be-come Thy dwell-ing, O bless - ed, ho - ly



me didst shed, These are my life and strength for -  
 Thou in me. No sor - row fills my soul, de -  
 jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and thus se -  
 of my cheer; For He who is of death the  
 Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy prais - es



ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.  
 light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.  
 cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.  
 mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.  
 tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

*Refrain*



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be



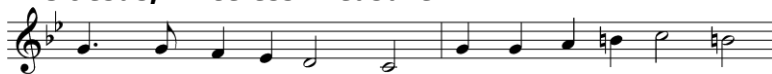
for my soul the high - est good!

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## 743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,  
 2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me  
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;  
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish  
 Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,  
 Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me  
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?  
 Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.  
 Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.  
 Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer  
 Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and  
 God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its  
 Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.  
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
 depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.  
 Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me,  
 Thine appeal is vain. Sin that once did blind me,  
 Get thee far behind me, Come not forth again.

Past thy hour, O pride and pow'r;  
 Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
 Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness,  
 Jesus, enters in. Those who love the Father,  
 Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within.  
 Yea, whate'er  
 I here must bear,

Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
 Jesus, priceless treasure!

## 644 The Church's One Foundation

sts. 1-5



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.  
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more  
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;  
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,  
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,  
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.  
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.  
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

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*Stand*

DISMISSAL

**P** The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith unto life everlasting.

**C** Amen.

**Thank the Lord (Sung)**

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.

He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.



## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

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 in 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** Amen.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

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

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C** (Sung) Amen.



## Closing Hymn

### 646 Church of God, Elect and Glorious

1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly  
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to  
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers the  
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the

na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own  
 His most mar - v'lous light; Brought His truth to  
 to God's heart of love; But He brought you and  
 peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and

spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of  
 life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to  
 home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -  
 swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter

grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,  
 sight: Let your light so shine a - round you  
 above: Let His love flow out to oth - ers,  
 sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing

Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that  
 That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh  
 Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may  
 Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in

knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.  
 hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.  
 know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.  
 joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

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## ✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠

The Lutheran Church retains ceremonies that underscore and support the Gospel—the good news that we are saved by *grace alone* through *faith alone* in *Christ alone*. Such laudable ceremonies include making the sign of the cross in remembrance of Holy Baptism. Those places in the service where Lutherans have traditionally made the sign of the cross are marked with a cross (✠).

Here, then, [In the parables of the Hidden Treasure and Pearl of Great Value], are the outlines of redemption. Which will be elucidated in Jesus explanation that He gives His life as a ransom for many in Matthew 20:28. Redemption involves purchasing. To redeem the world, God is pictured first as an unscrupulous trespasser who will go to any lengths to obtain what he wants – and he knows where it is – then as a merchant who sacrifices his personal fortune to get the pearl. In these parables, catechumens learn of the great lengths to which God will go to redeem them.

The twin parables of the treasure and the pearl deliver the message that the one responsible for the conversion of catechumens in the parable of the sower paid for them with everything that He was and had: "He goes and sells all the has". In Pauline terms, He "emptied Himself" (Phil. 2:7). Not only is Jesus' life the ransom price (Matt. 20:28), but more specifically it is His life offered in death!

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