

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

June 30, 2024

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Lutheran Service Book 803, Lutheran Worship n/a, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais - ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di - vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalms 124:8*)

L Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

C Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalms 19:12, 13*)

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalms 130:3-4*)

L Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

C God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(Luke 18:13)

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Introit Psalm 121:5–8; antiphon Psalm 121:1–2

L I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

C **The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.**

L The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

C **The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.**

L The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

L I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**

L Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:

C **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

L Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.

C **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.**

Collect of the Day

L Let us pray: Heavenly Father, during His earthly ministry Your Son Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. By the healing medicine of the Word and Sacraments pour into our hearts such love toward You that we may live eternally; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lamentations 3:22–33

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth.

²⁸Let him sit alone in silence
when it is laid on him;

²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;

³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.

³¹For the Lord will not
cast off forever,

³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve the children of men.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Romans 11:33, 36

L Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

L For from him and through him and to him are all things.

C To him be glory forever. Amen.

Psalms 30

L ¹I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

C ²O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

- L** ³O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
- C** ⁴**Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.**
- L** ⁵For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
- C** ⁶**As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”**
- L** ⁷By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.
- C** ⁸**To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:**
- L** ⁹“What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?
- C** ¹⁰**Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”**
- L** ¹¹You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
- C** ¹²**that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.**
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

2 Corinthians 8:1–9, 13–15

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich...¹³I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day: Lamentations 3:25

L Alleluia, Alleluia. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, Alleluia.

C **Alleluia, Alleluia. to the soul who seeks him, Alleluia.**

Mark 5:21–43

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 5th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea.

²² Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” ²⁴ And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a

discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." ²⁹And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" ³¹And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³²And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

³⁵While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." ³⁷And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. ⁴³And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The 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

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

Lutheran Service Book 548, Lutheran Worship n/a, The Lutheran Hymnal 207



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
2 Thou hast died for my trans - gres - sion, All my sins on
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me sal - va - tion,
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
rise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death it - self is
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.
tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

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Devotional thoughts:

The Gospel lesson for this week is jam-packed. It recounts not only one but two miracles of Jesus. It is populated with a large crowd, a faithful woman, an important official, a young girl, a doubting throng, together with Jesus and His disciples. There is anxiety, confusion, mocking laughter, unbounded rejoicing, and peace. Exploring the enormous number of details contained in these few verses would be a monumental task. After much contemplation, I've settled on one facet of these intertwined miracles, the transformation that comes from contact with Jesus.

A certain amount of comfort comes from organization, schedules, customs, and routines. We are creatures of habit. I generally drink the same brands of coffee and soda. I like my eggs over easy with hash browns and links. It's not that I don't enjoy a little adventure. I like out-of-the-way mom-and-pop restaurants. I like taking the scenic route.

However, I don't subscribe to the notion that "change is good." That seems silly to me. I don't like it when my car won't start. That change doesn't seem good. I don't like phone calls at 2 A.M. That change doesn't seem good. I don't like food poisoning, fevers, or pandemics.

I only like change for the better not change for the worse. But that change can indeed be difficult. Adopting a healthy lifestyle or breaking bad habits are good changes. But they are complicated and easier said than done.

Not everyone changes when they come into contact with Jesus. Some people have hard hearts. The chief priests and elders sent Jesus to the cross. The rich young man went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. One thief on the cross was lost. The other joined Jesus in paradise. When people are changed by Jesus, it is always good.

Today, we meet Jairus at the beginning of our lesson. Change has entered his life. It is a change brought about by our sinful human condition. His little girl is at the point of death. Desperate for help, he comes to Jesus for healing.

Jairus is identified as a man of some importance, a ruler of the synagogue. He is accustomed to making decisions, giving instructions, and setting guidelines. He is used to people respecting his authority and seeking his pronouncements. Now, all this has changed. Jairus set aside his authority and falls at Jesus' feet for the sake of his little girl. He implores Jesus, "Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live."

In compassion, Jesus set out with Jairus. On their way, Jairus' crisis is interrupted by a woman with a chronic medical condition. Nothing has changed for her in 12 years except that she has exhausted her funds under human medical care only to grow worse.

She is not as bold as Jairus to come face to face with Jesus. Perhaps the press of the crowd was too great. In what appears to be a stealthy way, she came up behind Jesus and touched His garment. Immediately, without delay, at that very instant, God chose to answer her unspoken prayer and brought the change of healing into her life.

As Jesus sought her out, she did something she hadn't dared to do before. She came in fear and trembling before Him. As Jesus gazed upon her, she disclosed the details of her motivation for touching Jesus' garment. This face-to-face encounter with Jesus led to more change. Her fear and trembling were changed to peace.

I don't think that Jesus' delay made a difference but possibly it did. Nevertheless, Jairus received heart-crushing news. His quest for help was in vain. His dear, beloved daughter had succumbed to her illness and died. She was beyond all help and hope. There was no longer any need for Jesus.

But by God's grace, Jesus overheard this dreadful conversation. Jesus turned to Jairus in comfort and said, "Do not fear, only believe." Peter, James, and John accompanied Jesus and Jairus to his home. It is easy to imagine that many times Jairus had been joyfully greeted at the door by his daughter, but not this time. Instead, he was met by people weeping and wailing loudly. It must have been a crushing display of grief.

Although His word of encouragement was met with disdain and ridicule, Jesus was not deterred. The mourners mockingly laughed at Jesus and his supposedly foolish comments.

Jesus was only interested in two mourners, two mourners whose grief was tempered with faith and hope. A teary-eyed father and mother went to their daughter's side with Jesus in hopeful anticipation that their despair could yet be changed to gladness amid all sadness.

They were not disappointed. The most amazing thing that they would ever witness happened when Jesus tenderly took their daughter's hand. Their ears were blessed by Jesus' words, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

The little girl, who had so recently been pronounced dead, immediately got up and walked around. Where did she go first? To Jesus? To her mother or father? Soon she was eating. Death was changed to life!

Amazing changes happened in our lesson today. A woman's twelve-year battle with illness was changed to healing when she encountered Jesus. Her fear and anxiety were changed to peace at Jesus' word. Mocking mourners were dumbfounded by Jesus' words but astounded when they finally were able to see the little girl. The anxious and fearful hearts of a father and mother were changed to unbounded joy. Their dear cherished daughter was raised from the dead!

When Jesus enters our grim and somber struggles with sin, we are changed. Our offenses against God's law are forgiven. Our deadly destiny is changed to an eternity of joy in heaven.

The Apostle Paul explains that ultimate change resulting from our encounter with Jesus:

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

We Give Thee But Thine Own

Lutheran Service Book 781, Lutheran Worship 405, The Lutheran Hymnal 441



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive
 3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
 4 To com - fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
 And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!
 And lambs for whom the Shep-herd bled Are stray - ing from the fold.
 To tend the lone and fa - ther - less Is an - gels' work be - low.

5 The captive to release,
 To God the lost to bring,
 To teach the way of life and peace,
 It is a Christ-like thing.

6 And we believe Thy Word,
 Though dim our faith may be:
 Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
 We do it unto Thee.

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Prayers

L O Lord, all help comes from You. Thank You for bringing us into Your family of faith. Shield us from every enemy that would separate us from You and grant us every blessing of body and soul according to Your holy will and never-ending steadfast love.

C Amen.

L Holy Father, You have shown to us the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who for our sakes became poor that by His poverty we might become rich. Give us generous hearts, that our abundance may supply our fellow saints in their need.

C Amen.

L Gracious Lord, Your mercies are new every morning. Bestow Your steadfast love upon every Christian home. Give to parents hearts of kindness for their children and move children to love their parents and each other.

C Amen.

L Almighty God, You rule this world by Your power. Give to our civil servants wisdom to use the authority given to them from above.

C Amen.

L O God of peace, during this time of war in the ancient land of Jesus' birth and in Ukraine, we pray that You would grant a swift end to the conflict and lasting peace, that right and justice would prevail, and that You would grant Your mighty hand of protection to the innocent and helpless.

C Amen.

L Visit us in Your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow, and the dying from their fear. May all who cry to You receive grace according to Your will. Help each of us to bear our crosses with patience and grace.

C Amen.

L O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Strengthen us in faith amid the many changes that we endure throughout our lives. Help us to trust that Your will is always best. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

In Thee Is Gladness

Lutheran Service Book 818, Lutheran Worship 442, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

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Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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Enhancing Your Worship

Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27
My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Week of The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 1-6, 2024

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you mediate on what God has done for you.

Monday – Canada Day

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Verse of the Day: Lamentations 3:25

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. to the soul who seeks him, Alleluia.

Introit Psalm 121:5–8; antiphon Psalm 121:1–2

- L** I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
- C** **The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.**
- L** The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- C** **The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.**
- L** The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L** I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Kyrie

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Christ, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |

The Smothers Brothers were folk singers and comedians. I delight in hearing their song “Chocolate.” (Spoiler alert: I’m going to give away the ending of the song.) In it, Tommy Smothers sings, “I yelled ‘fire’ when I fell into the chocolate.” Eventually, Dick asks Tommy, “Why’d you yell ‘fire’ when you fell into the chocolate?” To this, Tommy responds, “Well, I yelled ‘fire’ because no one would save me if I yelled, ‘CHOCOLATE!’”

Quick thinking in a desperate situation!
Of course, you or I would have yelled “HELP!”

On this Canada Day, my thoughts turn to our neighbors to the north as they the anniversary of Canadian Confederation which occurred on July 1, 1867.

Once many years ago, my brother-in-law and I were capsized in the frigid waters of September in Northwestern Ontario. The lake was virtually deserted. We were a long way from our car and I doubt we would have survived the trek back. In the distance was the only other boat we had seen that day. It was then that I learned just how loud my brother-in-law can yell, “HELP!” It may have registered on the Richter scale. Thankfully, he was heard and we were rescued.

No one can go through life without help. At birth, we are completely helpless and except for very few moments in life, we never become completely independent. We rely on others for the necessities and niceties of life.

But sometimes, we find ourselves beyond help. Even when others hear our cries of “help,” “fire,” or “CHOCOLATE!” they are unable to help. Psalm 121 reminds us that all of our help ultimately comes from the Lord! He helps us when no one else can.

The Lord helps us in life through farmers, factory workers, grocers, doctors, nurses, police, firefighters, mothers, and fathers. But we must never forget that it is God who is the real source of all help.

Psalm 121 is often chanted or read at funerals. In the face of death, we know that eventually, all earthly help fails. It is then when even the most independent of us is forced to turn to God for help in facing eternity.

The purpose of the Bible is to bring us God’s message of help and salvation in Jesus Christ. Because of His life, death, and resurrection, we can boldly confess with the psalmist, “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth... The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.”

- L** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, into whose keeping we entrust our loved ones, let us look to You for help in times of sorrow or need, remembering that our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. Grant that we may one day share in the joys of eternity in Your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen

Prayer for Canada Day

- L** O merciful Father in heaven, we thank You for the freedom that You have granted to the ten provinces and three territories of Canada. Graciously give wisdom and faithfulness of purpose to the King, the Governor General, the Prime Minister; the Parliament, and all in authority. Bless Canada with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Support us in defending our liberties so that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Tuesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Lamentations 3:25

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia. to the soul who seeks him, Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

- L** Let us pray: Heavenly Father, during His earthly ministry Your Son Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. By the healing medicine of the Word and Sacraments pour into our hearts such love toward You that we may live eternally; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Jesus is the Great Physician of soul and body. We are never without the need for His healing presence.

When we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," God answers our prayer through rain and sunshine, farmer workers and truck drivers, food packers and grocers, etc. When we pray for healing, most often God answers our prayers through doctors and nurses, hospitals and clinics, medicines and surgeries. But there are also times when He answers our prayers through miracles as He did in our Gospel lesson for this week.

One of the great blessings of pastoral ministry is visiting those who are hospitalized. I bring God's word of comfort and peace. Sometimes I bring Holy Communion. And on a few occasions through these visits, God allowed me to witness miracles of healing.

I once entered the critical care room of an older man who had suffered a severe heart attack. As I walked to his bedside, I heard the voice of his wife coming to me from behind the door. Her first words were, "The doctors tell me that there is no hope."

I was startled by her voice. I had thought that no one besides her husband was in the room. I also was unprepared to answer such a statement. However, this is what I said. "That may be true, but God can still heal."

I remember that encounter because this woman's husband eventually went home and lived a long time after his hospitalization. The Great Physician can always heal.

But complete healing for our bodies on earth is not promised in Scripture. All eventually die because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). However, we have been saved by God's "grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).

Perfect healing of body and soul awaits us in eternity! It is God's plan for us to be with Him forever where "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, during His earthly ministry Your Son Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. By the healing medicine of the Word and Sacraments pour into our hearts such love toward You that we may live eternally; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Wednesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Lamentations 3:25

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia. to the soul who seeks him, Alleluia.

Psalm 30

- L** ¹I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
C ²**O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**
L ³O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
C ⁴**Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.**
L ⁵For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
C ⁶**As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”**
L ⁷By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.
C ⁸**To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:**
L ⁹“What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?
C ¹⁰**Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”**
L ¹¹You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
C ¹²**that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.**
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

In our Gospel lesson for this week, both Jairus and a woman come to Jesus for help. They are only two of a multitude of people who come to God in times of need. Psalm 130 is a song of praise by David who came to God for aid and relief. It was written in response to God’s help and healing!

David says, “O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.” David recognized that his help and healing came from God. It is vital that we too recognize that God is the source of all help and healing that comes our way. When we acknowledge this, we will join David in singing praises to the Lord.

Yes, in this world we sometimes weep. That is why Christians have often called earthly life a “vale of tears.” In this valley of the shadow of death, we suffer trials and tribulations of body and soul that often result in tears. But in Jesus, God has “turned for me my mourning into dancing.” He has “loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.”

We look forward with great anticipation to the day when all mourning and sadness are behind us and we depart this vale of tears for the eternal joys of heaven. God sent Jesus so that all who believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life! In Him is gladness!

In Thee Is Gladness

Lutheran Service Book 818, Lutheran Worship 442, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

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Prayer: Heavenly Father, dispel the dark night of despair in our lives. Turn sorrow into joy, pain into gladness, and worry and anxiety into a confident hope in You and in Your gracious promises; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thursday – Independence Day

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Lamentations 3:25

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia. to the soul who seeks him, Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Lamentations 3:22–33

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.
²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
²⁷It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth.

²⁸Let him sit alone in silence
when it is laid on him;
²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;
³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.

³¹For the Lord will not
cast off forever,
³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve the children of men.

On this Independence Day there will be fireworks, cookouts, and family gatherings of every description. For most of us it will be a happy and joyful time as we celebrate the founding of our nation. Gladness and rejoicing are powerful themes for this week. The woman with an illness lasting twelve years rejoiced in the healing that she received from Jesus’ touch. Jairus experienced unbounded joy when Jesus raised his daughter. Yet our Old Testament lesson this week comes from the book of Lamentations! Although the Bible doesn’t explicitly identify Jeremiah as the author of Lamentations, he is generally believed to be the author. Everything fits.

In our nation, we live in prosperous and peaceful times. But Jeremiah witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. Lamentations is a poem of grief over his beloved city. His graphic description of the anguish and suffering of the people is almost unbearable to read. It is little wonder that Jeremiah has been called the Weeping Prophet.

This background helps us to decipher the portion of Lamentations selected for this week. It is particularly appropriate for those of us who are experiencing infirmity or hardships and are still waiting for deliverance.

Jeremiah experienced and witnessed extreme suffering and adversity but he did not give up hope in the Lord. In the middle of enduring unbearable sorrow, he still can exclaim:

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

Most of us are caught up in the moment. It is hard for us to understand the perspective of time and eternity. Sometimes we need to learn the grace of waiting. Our distress will not last. Jesus has delivered us.

Jeremiah reminds us:

²⁵The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, give me a patient spirit. Grant that I would always be willing and ready to wait and pray. Help me to cast every care upon You with cheerfulness and confidence that I may find my hope in You, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God Bless Our Native Land

Lutheran Service Book 965, Lutheran Worship 497, The Lutheran Hymnal 577



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch - ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Prayer for Independence Day

Lord of all nations, we thank and praise you that You created us for freedom and that you recreated us for freedom in Your holy Gospel. We pray for strength to live up to our obligations in a nation where you have given us great civil and religious freedoms. Help us as people free in Christ to encourage those freedoms throughout the world to open the way for the hearing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**There will be A more complete Independence Day service on Sunday.*

Friday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Lamentations 3:25

L Alleluia, Alleluia. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia. to the soul who seeks him, Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

2 Corinthians 8:1–9, 13–15

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich...¹³I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

Considering our reading from Lamentations yesterday, this portion of 2 Corinthians 8 is a particularly suitable follow-up. The Christians in Judea are suffering greatly because of a famine. They are in urgent need of help. The Apostle Paul has organized a relief effort on their behalf. He is gathering an offering from churches in Macedonia and Greece to buy food for these hungry brothers and sisters in Christ.

He set before the Corinthians the example of generosity shown by the churches in Macedonia. The Macedonians were the least able to give but they were overflowing with gifts for his noble cause.

I have observed this in the church. Those who are least able to give are often those who sacrifice the most.

Generosity ought to be the hallmark of Christian life. It is the essence of how we have received salvation Paul reminds us, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

Many years ago, I witnessed a less than proud moment in the life of the church where tightfistedness reigned. One lone voice in the meeting spoke up and exclaimed, “The Church ought to be known for generosity.” Of course, it was to no avail but I’ve never forgotten those words. May the Holy Spirit touch our hearts with an attitude of generosity.

Prayer: Almighty God, You bestowed upon the Macedonian Christians an attitude of charity. Grant Your Church the grace to deal in generosity and love with children and with all who are poor and distressed and to plead the cause of those who have no helper, especially those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief. We ask this for the sake of Him who gave His life for us, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Saturday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Lamentations 3:25

L Alleluia, Alleluia. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia. to the soul who seeks him, Alleluia.

Gradual Romans 11:33, 36

L Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

L For from him and through him and to him are all things.

C To him be glory forever. Amen.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

This week our Gradual has changed. From now through August 4, Romans 11:33, 36 will fill this role.

I stand in awe of intellectual giants. Their ability to grasp complex concepts and analyze difficult problems is amazing. When I hear them speak, I often think, “I never would have thought of that in a million years.”

However, there is a danger in brilliance. It sometimes comes with a treacherous lack of humility.

Romans 11:33-36 reminds us that even the most gifted among us cannot begin to understand God completely. His work of grace, forgiveness, and salvation is beyond human comprehension. Our natural way of thinking is based on cause and effect. Human ethics are based on the punishment fitting the crime. However, in God’s economy, kindness, mercy, and charity abound.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15 KJV).

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, You desire all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. By Your almighty power and unsearchable wisdom grant the wisest among us true humility. Enlighten them with true knowledge that they may know the riches of Your heavenly grace and, in peace and righteousness, serve You, the only true God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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