

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 9, 2023

Come unto Me, Ye Weary

Lutheran Service Book 684, Lutheran Worship 345, The Lutheran Hymnal 276



1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
O cheer-ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

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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. (*Psalm 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. (*Psalm 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. (*Psalm 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 91:2, 9–10; antiphon Psalm 91:1

L He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

C I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

L Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—

C no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.

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 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

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: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Zechariah 9:9–12

- ⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
- ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

- 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!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
- C** For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.

Psalms 145:1–14

- L** ¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
- C** ²Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
- L** ³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.
- C** ⁴One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
- L** ⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- C** ⁶They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.
- L** ⁷They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- C** ⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- L** ⁹The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- C** ¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!
- L** ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,
- C** ¹²to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

L ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.

C ¹⁴The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

Romans 7:14–25a

¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse Matthew 11:28

L Alleluia. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden. Alleluia.

C Alleluia. And I will give you rest. Alleluia.

Matthew 11:25–30

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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

Just as I Am, without One Plea

Lutheran Service Book 570, Lutheran Worship 359, The Lutheran Hymnal 388



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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Devotional thoughts:

A few years ago, I mentioned rattlesnakes in one of my sermons. I stated that I had never eaten a rattlesnake and that I didn't know how one tasted. Thinking that I would be clever, I went on to say, "I suppose it tastes like chicken." You may have heard the flavors of other exotic foods described that way.

Greeting people after church that day, one gentleman approached me. He was a man who worked for a large corporation and had traveled the world. In fact, his travels were so extensive that his passport had four or five times more pages than a regular passport.

As he shook my hand, he looked at me and said, "Pastor, rattlesnakes do not taste like chicken" and walked away. I assumed that a man with his knowledge of the world surely must be speaking from personal experience. I never asked him how he knew but I believed him.

A few months ago, I told this story in Bible class. A man sitting in the front row stopped me and said, "Pastor, rattlesnakes do taste like chicken!" I asked him if he had eaten rattlesnake and he assured me that he had. Now I'm in a quandary. I don't know if rattlesnake tastes like chicken or not!

But I do know what chicken tastes like. I assume you do too. Or do you? This week we have had fried chicken and Cajun-style chicken tenders. I recently dined with someone who had a pita filled with shaved chicken shawarma and tzatziki sauce (Greek yogurt, cucumber, lemon juice, onion, garlic, sea salt, and dill).

There are so many different ways to prepare chicken with different flavors that maybe I'm not sure how chicken tastes.

Let me explain the introduction to this sermon to you.

As I read through the Gospel lesson, many thoughts raced through my mind. I was in a quandary as to how I should proceed.

There are many different ways to approach the preaching task. Some are more helpful and some are less helpful. One of the less-than-helpful ways is to decide on a topic and cram it into a text. That is known as turning a text into a pretext and it is something I try to avoid. What should I do?

I decided to follow the advice given by Julie Andrews as Maria von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. She sang these lyrics written by Oscar Hammerstein II:

"Let's start at the very beginning

A very good place to start!"

(Do-Re-Me. For the origin of Do-Re-Me see the Latin hymn "Ut queant laxis", the "Hymn to St. John the Baptist.")

I learned in the seminary that the beginning of every sermon should start with the study of the text in its original language. In addition, a wise professor once told me, "If you are at a loss for what to do with a text, do an in-depth word study." Those two pieces of advice have served me well through the years.

So today, I'd like to walk through the Gospel lesson with you and share what I learned from looking at the Greek and several translations. But first I want to say that Greek does not say anything different than our English translations. However, it does add extra flavors that are sometimes missing from our English words. Hence, my opening remarks about chicken.

Since the beginning is a very good place to start, let's start there. Matthew 11: 25 says, "At that time Jesus declared." It is helpful for us to know at what time that was. What just happened to move Jesus to say these things?

In the five verses just before our Gospel lesson (Matthew 11:20-24), we learn that the cities in Galilee, (Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum) where Jesus did most of His mighty works, had refused to listen to Him and repent.

At the beginning of chapter 11, Matthew reports that John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" Jesus' response to them was:

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me" (Matthew 11:2-6).

The Pharisees and Sadducees had long been opposing Jesus and His work. But now in chapter 11, even those, who He should be able to depend on, prove to be faithless. This is what seems to have prompted Jesus to say:

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will" (Matthew 11:25-26).

Let's analyze these verses using a little bit of seasoning and flavor from the Greek language.

The Greek word translated as "thank" can be translated as "thank" or "praise" but there is so much more flavor and zest to it. A more thoroughly complete translation might sound something like this: "I openly, freely, publicly, and from my heart agree with you Father."

It is clear from the previous verses that Jesus is frustrated because so many people reject Him but He agrees with His Father in His decision to hide the truth about Him from the wise and understanding.

Our word sophisticated comes from the Greek word for "wise." Even today, people, who pridefully think of themselves as sophisticated and wise, have deceived themselves into believing that they do not need Jesus.

The Greek word translated as "understanding" includes the sense and flavor of "having it all together." You know people like that. They are so sophisticated and have it so all together that they don't need religion. They don't need church. They don't need Jesus. They don't need God. God has hidden the truth about Jesus and the way of salvation from such arrogant and self-important people.

But God has revealed the truth to little children. Here the King James Version has a better and stronger translation. It states that God "hast revealed them unto babes." The Greek word translated as "little children," in

its most literal sense, means “infants.” I’m not surprised that the idea that God has revealed Himself to babies is a little hard for some Christians to believe. However, this is exactly what He does through Holy Baptism.

So here is my translation of this verse (25) with a little Greek flavoring added:

“I openly, freely, publicly, and from my heart agree with you Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, that you have hidden these things from the sophisticated and those who ‘have it all together’ and have revealed them to babies.”

I continued my study in such a way through all the verses in our text. Unfortunately, time and space do not permit me to share the rest with you today. Let me just pick out a few highlights.

In verse 27 we read, “All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

The Greek word for “know” in this verse has the flavor of “to know exactly” through a direct personal relationship. Jesus’ knowledge of the Father does not come from speculation or even a detailed study of God. He knows the Father and the Father knows Him because of their intimate personal Father-Son relationship. This knowledge is beyond human understanding and investigation. It is only available to those to whom Jesus chooses to reveal it! He does not reveal this to the arrogant or self-important. He only reveals it to the child-like, to the humble and lowly. He only reveals this knowledge to those who come with repentant hearts and abandon their sinful human pride.

To these people, He says, “Come!” He says, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

The Greek word for “labor” can also be translated as “who are weary.” It really means more than those who work. It means those who are “exhausted and worn out.”

Jesus isn’t talking here about physical exhaustion. Sometimes we can be physically exhausted but not spiritually weary and worn out. He is talking about those who have exhausted every avenue to overcome sin and have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). If you have come to the point where you know that you cannot save yourself, if you recognize that you are like the tax collectors and sinners, if count yourself with Paul who calls himself “the chief of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15), then come to Jesus and find rest for your souls!

You have a gentle and humble Savior. He doesn’t demand perfection. He offers forgiveness.

If you are weighed down and heavy laden with sin, let Jesus take it upon Himself on the cross. Let Him carry your load of regret and sorrow. If your burden is great, live under His gentle and lowly heart and find rest for your soul.

“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). May these comforting words ring in your ears whenever the weight of sin crushes you to spiritual exhaustion, find your rest in Jesus.

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

L O Lord Jesus, You invite us to come to You. Grant us the grace to cast all of our burdens and cares upon You knowing that You have promised us rest for our souls.

C Amen.

L Heavenly Father, fill our homes with Your Word and grace. Be the companion of those who are alone. Strengthen husbands and wives. Bless parents as they teach their children Your ways. Let us all find refuge in You and so preserve us from every evil.

C Amen.

L Lord, with the Apostle Paul we confess that we do not do the good we want, but the evil we do not want is what we keep on doing. Thank You, that You have freed us from the bondage of sin and delivered us from all evil. Grant that we would daily rest in Your grace.

C Amen.

L Heavenly Father, Your Son came to heal the sick and forgive sinners. Hear our prayers for those who suffer in any way. Restore them according to Your gracious will, and strengthen their trust in Your faithfulness and love. Let Your blessings rest upon all medical personnel and first responders who come to our aid in time of need.

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.

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Lutheran Service Book 524, Lutheran Worship 279, The Lutheran Hymnal 364



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing
Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.
treasure filled With bound - less stores of grace.
way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,
 How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
 I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
 With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
 Refresh my soul in death!

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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 10 – 15, 2023

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 meditate on what God has done for you.

Monday

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

Verse Matthew 11:28

- L** Alleluia. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden. Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia. And I will give you rest. Alleluia.

Introit Psalm 91:2, 9–10; antiphon Psalm 91:1

- L** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- C** I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
- L** Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
- C** no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.
- 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** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

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. |

Whether in the U.S. or Canada, I have always felt safe. I have been confident that our leaders choose measures that protect me from enemies abroad and provide proper police protection to keep me safe from criminals within our borders. (This is not to say that there haven't been times that I have found myself in dangerous situations but I always knew safety was at hand.)

I know that this is not true for everyone. Some people in our country do not live with this confidence. It is certainly not true in many parts of the world. Living in safety is a great blessing.

However, sometimes this confidence can be false security. There may have been times when this confidence was misplaced. There is only one place where we may dwell secure! It is in the shelter of the Most High!

God alone can grant us safety from evil and plague! "On Christ the Solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand."

L Let us pray. O Lord, show Your mercy to us and grant us salvation. Fill Your ministers with righteousness and make Your chosen people joyful. Give peace, O Lord, to the whole world for only in You can we live in safety. Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Guide us in the way of justice and truth. Let Your way be known in all the earth and Your saving grace among all nations. Let not the needy be forgotten nor the hope of the poor be taken away. Create in us clean hearts, O God and sustain us with Your Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Tuesday

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

Verse Matthew 11:28

L Alleluia. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden. Alleluia.
C Alleluia. And I will give you rest. 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. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

As we pray in the collect this week, we live amid "wearisome changes" in this world. Some may respond with the old saw, "Change is good." Indeed, sometimes change can be good, such as, when we change from our old sinful ways to a new life in Christ. Change is good when we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus for our salvation.

But not all change is good. Most change is quite "wearisome." In fact, this is the natural state of things.

The second law of thermal dynamics makes it inevitable that ultimately everything gradually declines into disorder. Everything eventually wears out. Cars rust. Houses crumble. Clothes tear. Wrinkles appear.

This is why Jesus says, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

This is why we sincerely pray to God: “At life’s end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation.”

Prayer: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life’s end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 Matthew 11:28

- L** Alleluia. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden. Alleluia.
C Alleluia. And I will give you rest. 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. |

Psalms 145:1–14

- L** ¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
C ²Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
L ³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.
C ⁴One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
L ⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
C ⁶They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.
L ⁷They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
C ⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
L ⁹The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.
C ¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!
L ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,
C ¹²to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
L ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.
C ¹⁴The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

There is much to learn in the first fourteen verses of Psalm 145. Let’s take a moment and ponder verse 8, “The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

How different God is from the world that I am experiencing. He is gracious and merciful.

I spend too much time reading the news and exploring social media. Even if I didn't, it's almost impossible to avoid. If you are anything like me, you have discovered that very few people today find value in graciousness and mercy. Cries abound demanding retribution and revenge. People are not only seeking reprisals against those who are living but also against emblems of those who have died long ago.

We live in a time when society praises anger. Countless individuals have learned to stoke the flames of rage. How different God is! He is slow to anger. More than that, He is abounding in steadfast love.

The Bible constantly teaches us about God's steadfast love. His love is not like our love. We love the loveable. He loves the unlovable. He loves those who don't deserve to be loved. He loves His enemies.

"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).

Prayer: O God, show us, Your servants, the signs of Your gracious and merciful presence. Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that Your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday

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

Verse Matthew 11:28

L Alleluia. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden. Alleluia.
C Alleluia. And I will give you rest. 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. |

Zechariah 9:9–12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

You may recognize these words of Zechariah. They are read every year on Palm Sunday as we celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Entry in Jerusalem.

Jesus is a humble king! He never uses force to compel people to submit to His authority. He is a king who comes to save! He comes to save by sacrificing Himself on the cross.

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

Prayer: O God, You are the author of peace and lover of harmony. To know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom. Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday

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

Verse Matthew 11:28

L Alleluia. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden. Alleluia.
C Alleluia. And I will give you rest. 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. |

Romans 7:14–25a

¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

These words from the Apostle Paul show us his complete honesty with himself! In verses 18 and 19 he writes, “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”

We all know boosters and braggarts. Sometimes we may have been counted among them. They never make mistakes. Everything they do is always better than you. They always “one-up” anything you say.

When it comes to ordinary things such as cars, boats, clothes, etc., I suppose there is no real harm in this except for the annoyance. But when it comes to spiritual things, arrogance is deadly.

The Pharisees of Jesus’ day were such people. They were so good and righteous that they bristled at the thought of needing a savior. Paul had been one of them. But by the grace of God, Paul’s eyes were opened. He

recognized his sin and his need for a savior.

We all are like Paul. We may want to do good, but we can never fully accomplish it! Who will deliver us from this sin and death? Jesus Christ our Lord, who gives us the victory. Thanks be to God!

Prayer: Grant us, O Lord, we pray, the grace to trust in You with all our heart. You always resist the proud who trust in their own strength therefore do not forsake those who make their boast in Your mercy; through 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 Matthew 11:28

L Alleluia. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden. Alleluia.

C Alleluia. And I will give you rest. Alleluia.

Gradual Romans 11:33, 36

L Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

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

I hope you have had a restful week. It is always good for us to hear Jesus' invitation, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). But it seems to be something that I always forget.

Our lives are filled with the weight of stress. Deadlines loom. We work hard to meet the expectations and demands placed upon us at home and at work. Pretty soon Jesus' words are just a distant memory.

Our lives would be so much better if we would begin every day listening to Jesus' invitation to find rest for our souls in Him!

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Lutheran Service Book 770, Lutheran Worship 516, The Lutheran Hymnal 457



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

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Prayer: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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