

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 9, 2023 - 10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688
(937) 298-0136

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Introduction

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lowly and outcast. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

A Gift of Rest

When very young children are tired, they sometimes get cranky. Because they are still learning to interpret how they feel, they don't yet know that in order to feel better, they need to get some rest. They just know that something is not right.

Adults are not always a whole lot better about getting the rest we need. Even if we try, we have organized our society in ways that make rest seem like a luxury. We don't make sure that workers have enough time off, or even enough hours to sleep. We don't feel like we deserve a break if we haven't gotten enough work done. Even when we have the time, chronic uncertainty and anxiety can rob us of rest.

In the Bible, rest is more than just necessary—it's good. And it's more than just good—it's holy. It's right there in the Ten Commandments: everyone gets a day of rest. Jesus continues in that tradition by promising rest. Jesus doesn't say he will teach his followers how to rest, or give them a way to earn rest, or tell them where to find rest. He says, "I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He also promises to carry the burdens that make rest seem all but impossible. For Jesus, rest is not a luxury—it's a gift!

When we take time to rest, or make it possible for others to rest, we are not being lazy, self-indulgent, or wasteful. Instead, when we value rest, we are joining in Jesus' own work. We are being the body of Christ for ourselves and our neighbors. And when even that is too much for us to manage on our own, still Jesus promises to give us the rest we need.

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

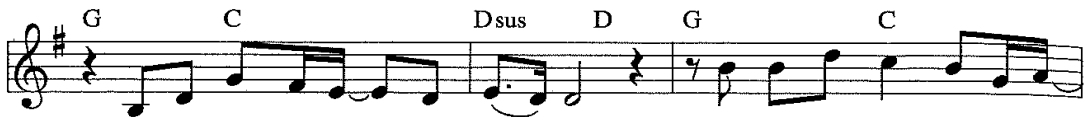
Lord, I Lift Your Name on High (W&P 90)



Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your



prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,



I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth



to show the way, from the earth to the cross,



my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave,



from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

OPENING LITANY *(inspired by Psalm 145)*

The Lord our God overflows with loving kindness,
and is close to all who call on the Holy One's name!

We praise and bless God's holy name forever.

The Lord our Great God is glorious beyond
our imagination, yet God hears our cries for help!

We praise and bless God's holy name forever.

The Lord our God is worthy to be honored
by every generation, and by all people from lands east to west!

We come with hearts ready for worship to praise and bless God's holy name. Amen.

GATHERING SONGS

Blessed Be Your Name

(Verse 1 - All)

**Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where your streams of abundance flow,
Blessed be your name.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness,
Blessed be your name.**

(Refrain - All)

**Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be your glorious name.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be,
Blessed be your name.**

(Verse 4 - All)

**Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be your name.**

(Refrain - All)

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.

When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord;

Blessed be your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord;

Blessed be your glorious name.

(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)

You give and take away,

You give and take away.

My heart will choose to say,

"Lord, blessed be your name."

You give and take away,

You give and take away.

My heart will choose to say,

"Lord, blessed be your name."

(Refrain - All)

Blessed be the name of the Lord;

Blessed be your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord;

Blessed be your glorious name.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

(Refrain)

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

(Verse 1)

I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

(Refrain)

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

(Verse 2)

Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

(Refrain)

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

(Verse 3)

When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

(Refrain)

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Just To Be with You

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Lord, my life is an empty cup;
Here's my heart - would you fill me up?
I'm face to the ground, forsaking my pride,
Leaving my will, my burdens behind.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

All I want, all I need
Is just to be with you,
Just to be with you.
Here I am at your feet
Just to be with you,
Just to be with you.

(Verse 2 - All)

**I have come to the end of me,
And there's nothing I have to bring;
But you said I belong, you say I am yours;
Nothing compares to knowing you more.**

(Refrain - All)

**All I want, all I need
Is just to be with you,
Just to be with you.
Here I am at your feet
Just to be with you,
Just to be with you.**

(Music Ministers)

You made a way for me, O Savior.
I'm yours forevermore.
You made a way for me, O Savior.
I'm yours forevermore.
I'm yours forevermore.

(Final Refrain - Music Ministers / **All**)

All I want, all I need
Is just to be with you,
Just to be with you.
Here I am at your feet
Just to be with you,
Just to be with you.

**All I want, all I need
Is just to be with you,
Just to be with you.
Here I am at your feet
Just to be with you,
Just to be with you.**

CONFESSION

Our God is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is close to all who call on him in truth, listening to their cries for help, and offering them salvation. So, let's bring our confession to God, knowing that he will hear our prayers and forgive.

(A period of silence for reflection.)

God of love, You have given us a world of beauty, and we have spoiled it, A world to feed us, and so many go hungry, A world of riches, and we are unwilling to share, A world in need, and we think only of ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, for those times your heart is saddened by our selfishness; for those times we think only of our own desires. Enable us to see this world anew as a gift from you, to be shared and nurtured; and give us hearts to care for all who live upon it. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

A reading from the book of Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 145:8-14

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

**LORD, you are | good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

** GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 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. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Don Bennett

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

**** LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

HOLY COMMUNION - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: **Amen.**

Communion Statement ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work **in** us and **through** us in the coming days.*

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Higher than the mountains that I face.
Stronger than the power of the grave,
Constant in the trial and the change,
One thing remains, one thing remains.
Your love, your love, your love will never change.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever have to be afraid.
One thing remains, one thing remains.

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:
Your love.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever have to be afraid.
One thing remains, one thing remains.**

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:
Your love.**

(Music Ministers/**All**)

In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
By the power of your great love.
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart
From your great love.

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
By the power of your great love.
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart
From your great love.**

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:
Your love.**

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
By the power of your great love.
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart
From your great love, your love.**

(Final Verse - Music Ministers)
Higher than the mountains that I face,
Stronger than the power of the grave,
Constant in the trial and the change,
One thing remains, one thing remains:
Your love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

**"W + 2" = Worship Plus Two
Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540 Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931 Wednesday, July 12, 2023

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

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