



**March 5, 2023**  
**Experiencing Christ's Love**  
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## Welcome and Greeting

*Please stand*

## Call to Worship

P We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

## 802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—  
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;  
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree  
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.  
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Tune: Welsh Text and tune: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

P The Lord God is loving, merciful, and provides fresh beginnings every day. Our God has claimed us as His Children and yet we often fail to live like we belong to Him. We try and fail, try again and fail again. We are stuck in a pattern of brokenness and can't break free on our own, but in Jesus Christ, we have hope! God has provided the Way for us to be made new again by admitting and confessing our need for His forgiveness in Christ. In these next few moments, we pause to seek his mercy and forgiveness once more.

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

- P Let us pray,
- C **Heavenly Father, you love us perfectly and offer a fresh start once again today. We thank you that by faith in your Son, Jesus, we have been given a new identity as your children. We know that our lives are inconsistent with that identity. We say one thing and do something else, but you continue to love us and call us back to yourself. We pray that by your Holy Spirit's work, we would believe your Word and trust in your promise to forgive us. We humbly ask that you help us to grow more fully into who you created us to be. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**
- P Our Heavenly Father loves us! He gave His only son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place and for his sake, forgives us all our sins! It is by His authority that I have the privilege to declare His forgiveness to you in Christ Jesus. You are forgiven, and the new life is yours, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Video Hymn of Praise "In Christ Alone" by Mercy Me**

**Prayer**

**Genesis 12:1–9**

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

- P This is the word of the Lord,

- C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**John 3:1-17**

P The Holy Gospel according to St John, the third chapter.

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

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord**

sts. 1–2, 5–6



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might-y Word;  
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,  
5 En - ter, might - y Word, the field; Ripe the prom - ise of its yield.  
6 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, Rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;



Ev - 'ry - where His crea-tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.  
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.  
But the reap - ers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!  
Let the gath - 'ring na - tions all See Your light and heed Your call.

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahmaier, 1774–1841; tr. Composite Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

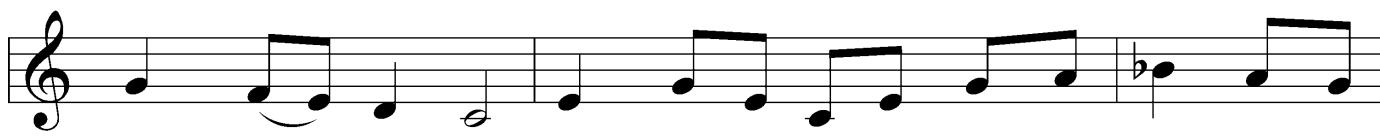
## SERMON : "SENT TO BLESS" GENESIS 12:1-9

*Please stand*

**955 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were



sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the

hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we  
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and  
 give us A fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80 Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010 Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000979

### Prayer Response

- P Lord, in Your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

### Words of the Institution

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

### Holy Communion

#### Communion Video: "Redeemed" by Big Daddy Weave

#### Continuous Distribution by Pastor

*(Family units will come forward to receive the elements and take them to their seats.  
Please wait to eat and drink until instructed.)*

#### All receive the Sacrament together

*(Pastor will indicate when to take the wafer and then the cup.)*



## Thank the Lord

LSB 181

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia.

## Benediction

### 825 Rise, Shine, You People

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.  
  
Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.  
He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.  
Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing.  
Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -  
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are  
To all the world go out and tell the  
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.  
driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.  
sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939, alt. Tune: Dale Wood, 1934–2003 Text and tune: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000979

## Dismissal

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

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