

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

Member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

Pastor: Luke Bernthal

Email: Ibernthal@live.com † Cell: (402) 389-2147

Home: (650) 282-5752

Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Julia Bernthal, Scott Mueller

Websites: ststephenlc.org (East Bay) - sslwest.org (West)

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

May 5, 2024 † Easter 6

We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 98 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.sslwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn: 686 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

LSB 686



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-90, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg
Text and tune: Public domain

THE INVOCATION

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
(TLH, page 15)*

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

C Amen.

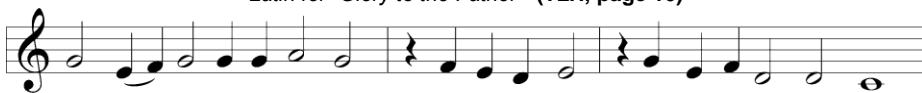
THE CONFESSION OF SINS

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
- C** **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**
- C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and by the authority and command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

THE GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory to the Father" (TLH, page 16)



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

THE SALUTATION *(Greeting)*

- P** The Lord be with you.
G **And with thy spirit.**

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are “collected” together in this prayer.

- P** O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence. We pray this in Jesus’ name, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
G **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

God speaks to us.

First Reading

Psalm 98 (RESPONSIVE) (ESV)

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
G **for he has done marvelous things!**

P His right hand and his holy arm
G **have worked salvation for him.**

P The LORD has made known his salvation;
G **He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
G **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
G **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

P Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
G **with the lyre and the sound of melody!**

P With trumpets and the sound of the horn
G **make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

P Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
C the world and those who dwell in it!

P Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together
C before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

P He will judge the world with righteousness,
C and the peoples with equity.

THE GRADUAL

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Hallelujah!"—meaning "Praise the Lord!"

P Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it. Allelujah!



P The Gospel reading is from John 15:9-17.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17 (EHV)

***9** "As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. **10** If you hold on to my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have held on to my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you these things so that my joy would continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete.*

***12** "This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. **13** No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. **14** You are my friends if you continue to do the things I instruct you. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **17** These things I am instructing you, so that you love one another.*

P Here ends our Gospel reading.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

THE NICENE CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (TLH, p. 22)

C 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 men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe 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.

Hymn of the Day: 573 *Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee*

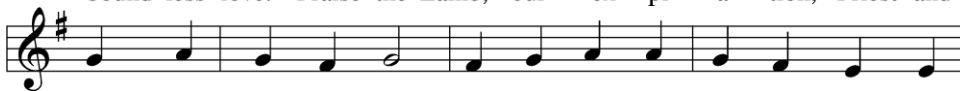
LSB 573



1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee; That, I know, could
2 It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my dark - ened
△ 3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion; Praise the Fa - ther's



nev - er be; For this heart would still re - fuse Thee Had Thy
heart and mind; Else the world had yet en - thrall'd me, To Thy
bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion, Priest and



grace not cho - sen me. Thou hast from the sin that stained me
heav'n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship none a - bove Thee;
King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it of sal - va - tion,

Washed and cleansed and set me free And un - to this
 For Thy grace a - lone I thirst, Know - ing well that,
 Him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di - vid - ed

end or - dained me, That I ev - er live to Thee.
 if I love Thee, Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.
 ad - o - ra - tion To the great Je - ho - vah give.

Text: Josiah Conder, 1789–1855, alt.
 Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel
 Text and tune: Public domain

THE SERMON

1 John 4:7-11 (EHV)

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God’s love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

Sermon Theme: “God is Love”

‡ Why is this basic truth so absolutely essential?

- v. 8 –

- v. 9-10 -

‡ How does God’s love move and inspire us to act in response?

- v. 7, 11 -

THE OFFERTORY

(TLH, p. 22-23)



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

THE GENERAL PRAYER

(Pastor)

Sermon Hymn: 700 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

LSB 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87
Text and tune: Public domain

THE PREFACE/ PROPER PREFACE

Now we approach the Sacrament, the Lord's Supper, in which the Lord comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration. (TLH, p. 24-25)

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

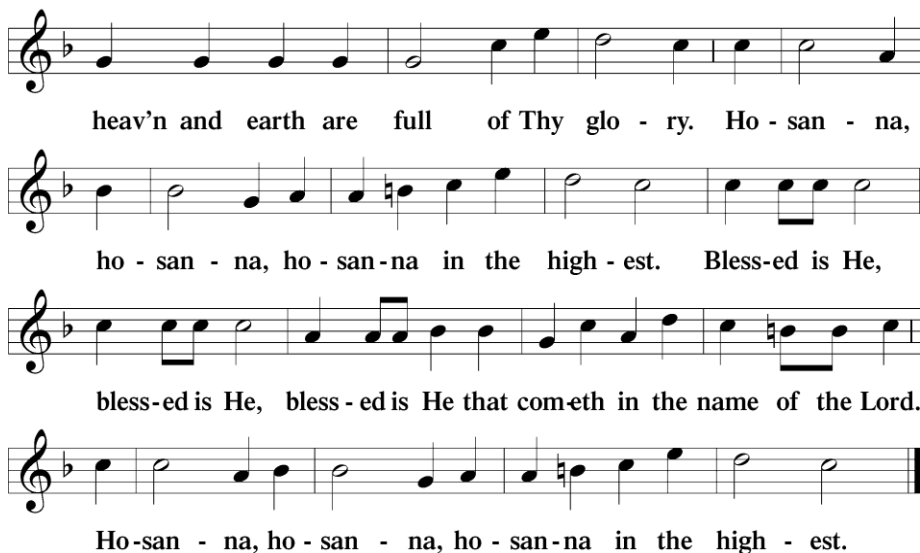
P It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We praise You especially for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by His sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by His resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

THE SANCTUS

Latin: "Holy." We join our voices to the angels who sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" round about His throne and we welcome Him with the Palm Sunday multitude who sang, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!" (TLH, p. 26)



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Pastor)

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His sacramental body and blood for all time.

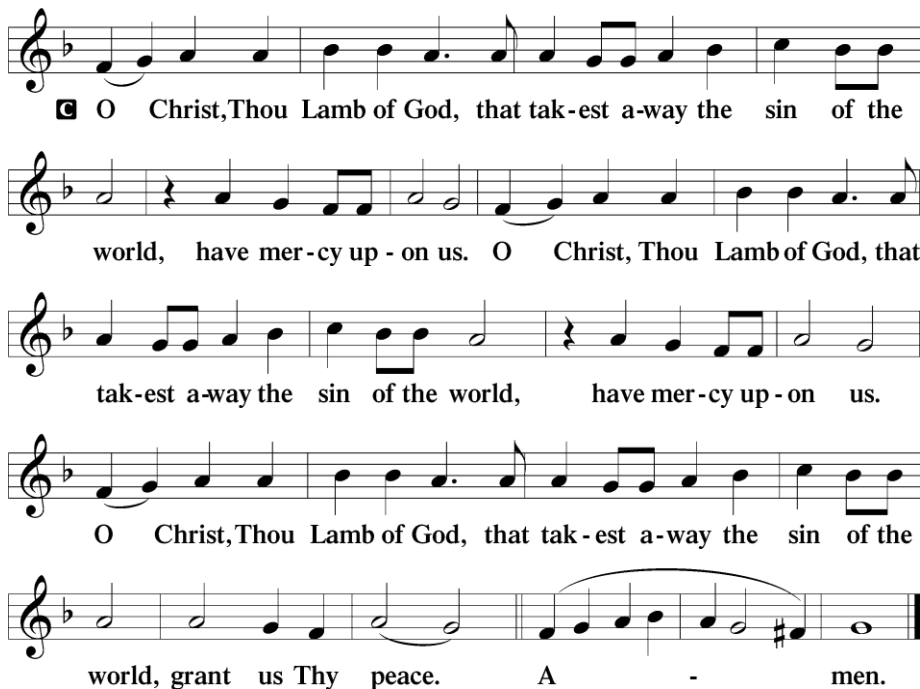
- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!



C A - men.

THE AGNUS DEI

Latin: "Lamb of God." As we approach the Table of Forgiveness, we want to think only of that Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on Calvary's cross. (TLH, page 28)



Q O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us today!

The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)
(TLH, p. 29)



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 392 *God Loves Me Dearly* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 392



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. Composite Tune: German
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

ESV scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)

© 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:
5/5/24

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am

Worship w/ Communion – 10am

Choir – 11am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward):

Worship w/ Communion – 1pm

Bible Class – 2pm

This Week: Wed. & Friday – **Confirmation Class** (Lang) (Mt. View) – **4pm**

Next Sunday: *Mother's Day / Ascension Sunday*

5/12/24

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am (Choir-9:30am)**
Worship – 10am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship – 1pm**
Bible Class – 2pm

Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

In Your Mailboxes and in the Church Entry – St. Stephen Church Calendar – *May*

VBS – Registration is Open! July 22nd-26th – Ages 4-13 – Registration can be done online

through our school's website (**ssls.org**). Flyers are also available in the entryway if you know of anyone who would be interested in sending their children to our **VBS**. It will be held **Mon.–Fri., July 22nd–26th from 9am-11:30am**.

The CLC's TVBS program is planning on sending us up to 2 teachers to assist us as well. If you would like to volunteer to help with our VBS please speak with Pastor Luke or one of our SSLS staff.

CLC News – Mrs. Laura Wales *has accepted the call* to be Part-Time Kindergarten Teacher at Grace Lutheran in Fridley, MN, her current congregation.

From the CLC President's May Pastor's Letter:

"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"
– 1 Corinthians 15:57

Dear Brothers,

I grew up at a time when Westerns ruled the silver screen. My brothers and I couldn't get enough of the likes of John Wayne, Jimmy Stewart, Gary Cooper, and many others. With their quick draw and a steady aim the bad guys didn't stand a chance. Every night we could also find a good western on our old black and white. TV series like Gunsmoke, Bonanza, and the Big Valley were

some of our favorites; and, if we weren't throwing the football around, we were roaming the neighborhood, decked out in our Stetsons and cowboy boots, with our six shooters close by our side. And, no matter what, whether it was on the screen or in our play, the good guys always won.

In real life it sure doesn't seem to be that way, does it? In fact, most days it looks like evil is winning. Forty years ago, a writer described the culture back then as one which was slouching toward Gomorrah. Today, it would seem that we are living right smack dab in the middle of Gomorrah. While it's doubtful that our nation has ever been a truly Christian nation, yet, not so long ago, there was a much greater understanding among the general population about the difference between right and wrong. Not so day. We live in a time where evil is said to be good, and where good is labeled as evil. Nothing is sacred nowadays, and few know what it means to feel shame. It's not that people were any less sinful fifty years ago than they are today. It's that Satan, through media and other means, has managed to dull the collective conscience of our nation. The idea that humanity needs to be rescued from hell rings hollow in a culture where sin has become a foreign concept. Thus, the Gospel is regarded as an outdated message, not one that any intelligent person would ever take seriously.

No question about it, the days are growing increasingly evil. But does that mean Satan is winning? Does it mean we should throw up our hands in defeat? Not at all! The truth of the matter is that Satan has already lost. On the cross the punishment that sin deserves was laid upon Christ. He paid it all for all. His death on the cross erases whatever guilty accusations that Satan may try to hurl our way. By our Savior's resurrection, Satan has been routed and death and hell have been forever vanquished. With His descent into hell, Christ has made a public demonstration to all there, showing his triumph over all evil. As the Ascended King of kings, Christ continues to win every moment of every day, working all things together for the good of His Church. Satan may think himself clever, but he's actually the biggest loser ever.

While we dare never take that roaring lion lightly, let us remember that in Christ we are more than conquerors. Rather than sit back and shake our heads at the present state of affairs, let us take up the Sword of the Spirit and go on the offensive. Satan can only cower in fear as we take aim at him with God's mighty Word. It's high noon in this present evil age. The foes are fierce, and we seem greatly outnumbered. But they cannot win. Jesus has already gunned down all our enemies. While it is still day let us go forward proclaiming the victory of our God over sin, death and hell.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us.

We tremble not, we fear no ill, They shall not overpower us.

This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,

He can harm us none, He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him. (TLH #262:3)

In His Service, Pastor Michael Wilke, CLC President