

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Our Epiphany Lord—Brightest  
February 19 & 20, 2022

### AS WE GATHER

The season of Epiphany is one of the “accordion” seasons of the Church Year. The later Easter falls in March or April, the more Sundays after the Epiphany there are. This year’s “Epiphany accordion” is stretched long enough to include eight Sundays. In an extended Epiphany season, the light of Christ burns brightest, as Jesus is revealed in action and in teaching through the Gospel writers. There is power when and where Jesus is among His people, as the hymn “Jesus Comes Today with Healing” teaches (*LSB* 620). May we welcome His presence among us!



### PRAYER

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake.

### + CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

### OPENING HYMN *LSB* 814 “O BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL”

- 1 O bless the Lord, my soul!  
Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless His name  
Whose favors are divine.
- 2 O bless the Lord, my soul,  
Nor let His mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness  
And without praises die!
- 3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;  
'Tis He relieves thy pain;  
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses  
And makes thee young again.
- 4 He crowns thy life with love  
When ransomed from the grave;  
He that redeemed my soul from hell  
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.
- 5 He fills the poor with good;  
He gives the suff'ers rest.

The Lord hath judgments for the proud  
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways  
He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world His truth and grace  
By His belovèd Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Text: Public domain

*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)*

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

C **Amen.**

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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, our Lord Jesus Christ forgives you all your sins.

C **Amen.**

### + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

**INTROIT** *Psalm 37:1–5; antiphon: vv. 7a, b*

C **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.**

P Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

C **Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.**

P Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act.

**C** **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.**

**KYRIE** *LSB 186*

**C** **Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** *LSB 187*

**P** Glory be to God on high:

**C** **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Genesis 45:3–15*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

<sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 103:1–13*

**C Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

P Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,  
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

**C The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.**

P He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.

**C The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

**C As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.**

**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.**

**EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42*

<sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

<sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” <sup>34</sup>Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

<sup>42</sup>So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Luke 6:36*

P Alleluia. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Alleluia.

**ALLELUIA** *LSB 190*

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 6:27–38*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 820 “MY SOUL, NOW PRAISE YOUR MAKER”**

- 1 My soul, now praise your Maker!  
Let all within me bless His name  
Who makes you full partaker  
Of mercies more than you dare claim.  
Forget Him not whose meekness  
Still bears with all your sin,  
Who heals your ev'ry weakness,  
Renews your life within;  
Whose grace and care are endless  
And saved you through the past;  
Who leaves no suff'rer friendless  
But rights the wronged at last.
  
- 2 He offers all His treasure  
Of justice, truth, and righteousness,  
His love beyond all measure,  
His yearning pity o'er distress;  
Nor treats us as we merit  
But sets His anger by.  
The poor and contrite spirit  
Finds His compassion nigh;  
And high as heav'n above us,  
As dawn from close of day,  
So far, since He has loved us,  
He puts our sins away.
  
- 3 For as a tender father  
Has pity on his children here,  
God in His arms will gather  
All who are His in childlike fear.  
He knows how frail our powers,  
Who but from dust are made.  
We flourish like the flowers,  
And even so we fade;  
The wind but through them passes,  
And all their bloom is o'er.  
We wither like the grasses;  
Our place knows us no more.

4 His grace remains forever,  
And children's children yet shall prove  
That God forsakes them never  
Who in true fear shall seek His love.  
In heav'n is fixed His dwelling,  
His rule is over all;  
O hosts with might excelling,  
With praise before Him fall.  
Praise Him forever reigning,  
All you who hear His Word—  
Our life and all sustaining.  
My soul, O praise the Lord!

Text: Johann Gramann, 1487–1541; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **PRAYER**

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## **SERMON** “*What is Raised*” 1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

### Introduction:

Last week the message centered in on the resurrection of the body. It is a part of the Christian faith to believe that the bodies of all people will rise. We so firmly believe this at times that we don't think about how unbelievable this will be.

### I. Because Christ rose we too will be raised.

What so unbelievable is that all will be raised by the power of One who raised Himself up from the dead. Jesus, the Son of God, will come and with the sound of the trumpet the dead will rise.

Death came into the world by one man, Adam. His sin brought death to all the generations that followed. Death is so much a part of our lives, no one denies it. They even declare it a part of the process of how man came into being. When evolution was based simply on the survival of the fittest, death was the vehicle in destroyed the weak. The strongest carried on in order to evolve into a higher form of being. Death is so much a part of our lives, we accept it as normal.

Death is one of our enemies. It is used by Satan to frighten us away from Christ and is used by him to tempt us to hate God. But Christ has destroyed death by His resurrection. He has shown to us that death could not hold Him. He has shown to us that He, the God/Man can raise us up from the dead. Just as one man brought death into the world so by one man life is brought into this world.

It is so important that we think of death and Christ in this way. For if Christ had not risen from the dead, than why would Paul endure the treatment and almost die for Christ if it were not true. If Christ had not risen from the dead, than this is the only life we have. It would be foolish to risk it over a myth. It would be foolish for us to be here today, to spend money on a building and utilities, pay salaries and even secure a preacher for ones funeral if the dead didn't rise.

But the dead will rise.

## II. We are raised ready for heaven

So, the question that arises even in the minds of Christian is what form will our bodies be when they rise. It will be a glorious body. It will be perfect. Death cannot touch it. Sickness will no longer infect it. It will be holy and pure as is the flesh of Jesus Christ.

This is unbelievable. Paul points out that there are different types of flesh that exist today. All created by our Father in heaven. He created things to change. A seed turns into a plant. A sinful body turns to dust and from that dust Christ will raise a pure and holy body.

God created things to have different glory. The sun, the moon, the stars all shine with different intensities. Yet, all are beautiful in our sight.

The body we have today is created to live on earth. This same body will be changed and made ready to live in the presence of Christ forever. Christ who created this body and this world can most certainly change our mortal bodies so that will be like His and will never again perish.

Conclusion:

We have firmly believed this of Christ. We just sometimes have to stop and think about how miraculous this will be when the dead are raise, the believers' bodies are raise incorruptible and immortal and we will see Christ with our own physical eyes. It's unbelievable but is most certainly true.

T AMEN T

### **PRAYER**

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

### **OFFERTORY** *LSB 192*

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERING HYMN LSB 783 "TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE" *sts. 1, 4, 6*

- 1 Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79

Text: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

In holy conversation, we pray for the Church, the Bride of Christ, that through her the message of salvation be proclaimed and the gifts of God be shared, and we pray this day for all nations of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness everywhere prevail. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C **hear our prayer.**

- P We pray for our families and our neighbors. Embolden us to reach out in every direction with the joyful news of the Gospel that people may become part of the kingdom of God now and forever. We pray for the hospitalized and those who are shut-in during this season. We pray for the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our petitions are desired, [*including . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C **hear our prayer.**

- P As a community of God's well-loved people in Christ, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this life in joyful hope. Confidently, we await the time when we shall rejoice together with all the saints eternally along with the angels and all the company of heaven. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

- C **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** 196

- 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.**

**HYMN LSB 766** *“OUR FATHER, WHO FROM HEAVEN ABOVE”*

- 1 Our Father, who from heav'n above  
Bids all of us to live in love  
As members of one family  
And pray to You in unity,  
Teach us no thoughtless words to say  
But from our inmost hearts to pray.
- 2 Your name be hallowed. Help us, Lord,  
In purity to keep Your Word,  
That to the glory of Your name  
We walk before You free from blame.  
Let no false teaching us pervert;  
All poor deluded souls convert.
- 3 Your kingdom come. Guard Your domain  
And Your eternal righteous reign.  
The Holy Ghost enrich our day  
With gifts attendant on our way.  
Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage;  
Preserve Your Church from age to age.
- 4 Your gracious will on earth be done  
As it is done before Your throne,  
That patiently we may obey  
Throughout our lives all that You say.  
Curb flesh and blood and ev'ry ill  
That sets itself against Your will.
- 5 Give us this day our daily bread,  
And let us all be clothed and fed.  
Save us from hardship, war, and strife;  
In plague and famine, spare our life,  
That we in honest peace may live,  
To care and greed no entrance give.

- 6 Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,  
That they may trouble us no more;  
We, too, will gladly those forgive  
Who hurt us by the way they live.  
Help us in our community  
To serve each other willingly.
- 7 Lead not into temptation, Lord,  
Where our grim foe and all his horde  
Would vex our souls on ev'ry hand.  
Help us resist, help us to stand  
Firm in the faith, a mighty host,  
Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.
- 8 From evil, Lord, deliver us;  
The times and days are perilous.  
Redeem us from eternal death,  
And, when we yield our dying breath,  
Console us, grant us calm release,  
And take our souls to You in peace.
- 9 Amen, that is, so shall it be.  
Make strong our faith in You, that we  
May doubt not but with trust believe  
That what we ask we shall receive.  
Thus in Your name and at Your Word  
We say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1, 6, 8–9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 2–5, 7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.

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### **HYMN LSB 651 "I LOVE YOUR KINGDOM, LORD"**

- 1 I love Your kingdom, Lord,  
The place of Your abode,  
The Church our blest Redeemer saved  
With His own precious blood.
- 2 Beyond my highest joy  
I prize its heav'nly ways,  
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,  
Its hymns of love and praise.
- 3 I love Your Church, O God,  
Your saints in ev'ry land,  
Dear as the apple of Your eye  
And graven on Your hand.

4 For them my tears shall fall;  
For them my prayers ascend;  
For them my cares and toils be giv'n  
Till toils and cares shall end.

5 Sure as Your truth shall last,  
To Zion shall be giv'n  
The brightest glories earth can yield  
And brighter bliss of heav'n.

Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752–1817, alt.  
Text: Public domain

#### **NUNC DIMITTIS** *LSB 199*

**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.**

#### **THANKSGIVING** *LSB 200*

**A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
C and His mercy endureth forever.**

#### **BENEDICAMUS** *LSB 202*

**A Bless we the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.**

#### **BENEDICTION** *LSB 202*

**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 T give you peace.  
C Amen, amen, amen.**

#### **HYMN OF DEPARTURE LSB 848** "LORD, WHOSE LOVE THROUGH HUMBLE SERVICE"

1 Lord, whose love through humble service  
Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken,  
Offered mercy's perfect deed,  
We, Your servants, bring the worship  
Not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to Your purpose  
Ev'ry gift that You impart.

- 2 Still Your children wander homeless;  
Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom;  
Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion  
Healed the sick and freed the soul,  
Use the love Your Spirit kindles  
Still to save and make us whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
Till Your love's revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness,  
Dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens  
Your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to tireless striving,  
Your abundant life to share.
- 4 Called by worship to Your service,  
Forth in Your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged,  
Love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom  
May Your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt.

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## **PRAYER**

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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