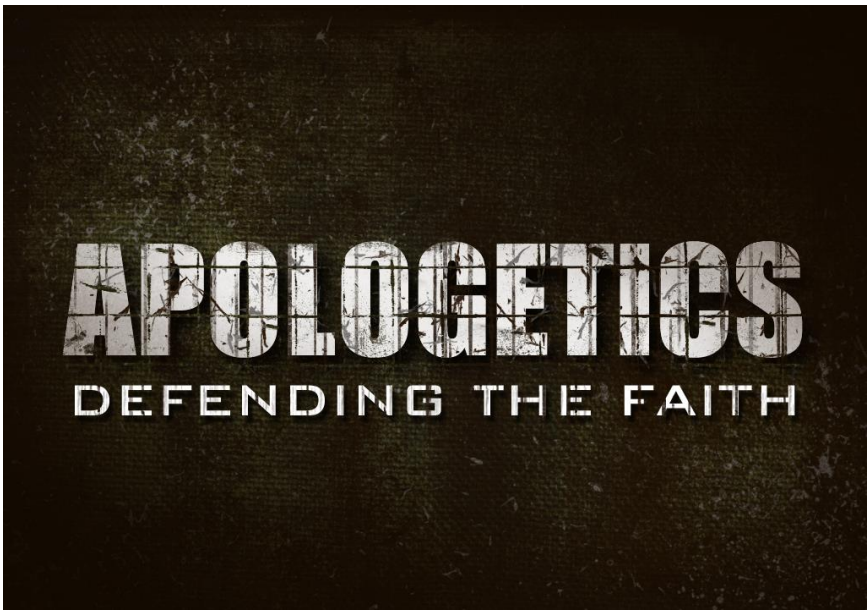


**Wednesday Summer Service  
Service of Prayer and Preaching  
July 31, 2024**



**Defending the Faith  
What About the Problem of Evil?**



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us  
 2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain  
 3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their  
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our  
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to  
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
 heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will  
 last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take  
 this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
 rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
 move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
 wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
 vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

*Stand*

## Opening Versicles

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
  
- L** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- C** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**
- L** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- C** **Teach me Your paths.**
- L** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- C** **Your Word is truth.**
  
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
  
- 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.**

# Old Testament Canticle

LSB 261



**☐** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



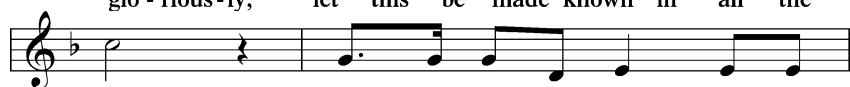
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the



earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -

hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the  
 Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*  
 The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son  
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will  
 be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*  
 The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sit

## First Reading

Psalm 133:1-6

- P** I will sing to the LORD,
- C** because he has dealt bountifully with me.
- P** How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
- C** How long will you hide your face from me?

- P** How long must I take counsel in my soul  
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
- C** **How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**
- P** Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
- C** **light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,**
- P** lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
- C** **lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.**
- P** But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
- C** **my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Sun and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** I will sing to the LORD,
- C** **because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

## Second Reading

*Luke 18:1–8*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

## Responsory

- L** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where  
Your glory dwells.**
- L** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where  
Your glory dwells.**
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where  
Your glory dwells.**

## Holy Baptism

**P** *What is Baptism?*

**C** **Baptism is not just plain water,**

**P** but it is the water included in God's command

**C** **and combined with God's word.**

**P** *Which is that word of God?*

**C** **Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:**

**P** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,

**C** **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)**

## 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.**

## 597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying

LSB 597



1 Wa - ter, blood, and Spir - it cry - ing, By their wit - ness  
2 In a wa - t'ry grave are bur - ied All our sins that  
3 Dark the way, yet Christ pre - cedes us, Past the scowl of  
4 Though a - round us death is seeth - ing, God, His two - edged  
5 Spir - it, wa - ter, blood en - treat - ing, Work - ing faith and



tes - ti - fy - ing To the One whose death - de - fy - ing  
Je - sus car - ried; Christ, the Ark of Life, has fer - ried  
death He leads us; Spreads a ta - ble where He feeds us  
sword un - sheath - ing, By His Spir - it life is breath - ing  
its com - plet - ing In the One whose death - de - feat - ing

Life has come, with life for all.  
 Us a - cross death's rag - ing flood.  
 With His bod - y and His blood.  
 Through the liv - ing, ac - tive Word.  
 Life has come, with life for all.

## Sermon: What About the Problem of Evil?

### 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and  
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard  
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,  
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,  
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing  
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence

For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -  
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the  
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to  
 As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.  
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
 van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.  
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

*Stand*

### Prayer

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

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

### Collect of the Day

**P** Merciful Father, You gave Your Son Jesus as the heavenly bread of life. Grant us faith to feast on Him in Your Word and Sacraments that we may be nourished unto life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### Collect for the Word

**P** 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 take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**



## Evening Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.

## New Testament Canticle

LSB 266

*Refrain*



**C** Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.



Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.

*Refrain*



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



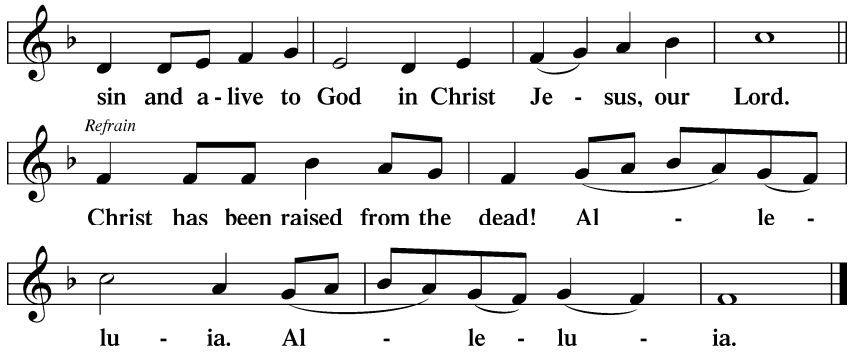
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He



lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to



sin and a-live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

*Refrain*  
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Blessing

### Benedicamus

LSB 267

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

LSB 267

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** Amen.

*Sit*

## 941 We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

LSB 941



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,  
2 The band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your praise;  
3 You, Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing Son,  
4 You sit in splen-did glo - ry, en-throned at God's right hand,

The Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by all the earth a - dored.  
The fel - low - ship of proph - ets their death-less voic - es raise.  
Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res - cue ev - 'ry - one:  
Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by forc - es You com - mand.

To You all an - gel pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav - ens sing,  
The mar - tyrs of Your king - dom, a great and no - ble throng,  
You laid a - side Your glo - ry, were born of vir - gin's womb,  
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi - nal day,

The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring:  
Sing with the ho - ly Church through-out all the world this song:  
Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb;  
So help Your ser - vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;

“O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
“O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son,  
Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re - prieve—  
May we with saints be num - bered where prais - es nev - er end,

Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!”  
And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!”  
You o - pened heav - en's king - dom to all who would be - lieve.  
In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

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