


GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

(We sing a hymn of glory to God.)

Melody: TLH 244 Glory Be to God the Father

 **C** **Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(A prayer that collects and reflects the themes of the day.)

THE LESSONS

(We hear Bible readings that support the thoughts of the season.)

Hebrews 11:1-16^{NIV84} *We live in an earthly country, but we are looking forward to a heavenly one—as all believers always have.* | Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. ³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ⁴By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. ⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Abraham, even though he was past age-- and Sarah herself was barren-- was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹²And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. ¹³All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶

Instead, they were longing for a better country— a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Matthew 22:15-22^{NIV84} *According to the fourth commandment, we obey the government God has placed over us.* | Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?" ¹⁹Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, ²⁰and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" ²¹"Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

PSALM FOR THE SEASON

(see insert)

Psalm 45
My Heart Is Overflowing

CONFESSION OF FAITH

(We respond to the lessons by reciting what we believe.)

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 men 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.

HYMN

America the Beautiful/
Lord, While for All Mankind We Pray

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

2. Oh, guard our shores from ev'ry foe,
With peace our borders bless,
With prosp'rous times our cities crown,
Our fields with plenteousness!
Unite us in the sacred love
Of knowledge, truth, and Thee;
And let our hills and valleys shout
The songs of liberty.

3. Here may Thy Gospel, pure and mild,
Smile on our Sabbath hours
And piety and virtue bless
Our fathers' home and ours.
Lord of the nations, thus to Thee
Our country we commend.
Be Thou her Refuge and her Trust,
Her everlasting Friend.

THE SERMON

(We learn from God's word.)

Our Land Displays the Glory of God


Psalm 8 ^{NIV84} O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ² From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

PRAYER

(We respond to the sermon in prayers to God.)

P And the peace of God which is a greater peace than any our own minds can give to us shall guard your hearts in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

 **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

PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 568 (TLH) We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(We receive the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.)

† **To any visitors seeking communion:** Since the Lord's Supper is a public expression of agreement in beliefs, we ask that only those who are members of congregations in the Church of the Lutheran Confession come forward to receive the sacrament. We observe this practice in loving obedience to the Scriptures, and not as a judgment against anyone's personal faith, sincerity, or standing before God. For more information, see the pamphlet in the entryway entitled *Why Close Communion?* †

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.


C We lift them up to the Lord.

P It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God: Who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. And in the confession of the only true God we worship You, three persons in one God and one God in three persons. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we glorify Your name, praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS

(A hymn to the Lord based on Isaiah 6:1-4.)

Melody: TLH 2 To Thy Temple I Repair

 **C Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
Shout the glory of Your name.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION


(We declare that we are now celebrating the Lord's Supper, distinguishing this from other ordinary meals of bread and wine.)

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed took bread . . . The peace of the Lord be with you always!

THE AGNUS DEI

(Latin for "Lamb of God." A hymn to Christ who died for our sins.)

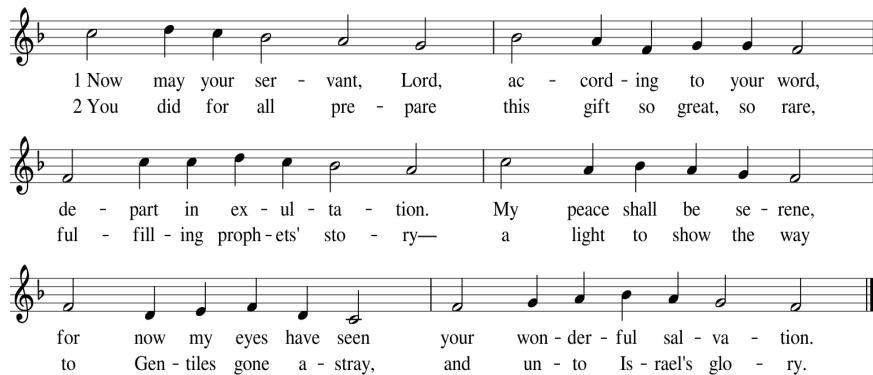
Melody: TLH 147 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God

 **C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
That takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us!
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
That takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us!
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
That takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace! Amen.**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

(Latin for "Now you are dismissing." A hymn based on Simeon's words in Lk 2:29-32.)




1 Now may your ser - vant, Lord, ac - cord - ing to your word,
2 You did for all pre - pare this gift so great, so rare,
de - part in ex - ul - ta - tion. My peace shall be se - rene,
ful - fill - ing proph - ets' sto - ry— a light to show the way
for now my eyes have seen your won - der - ful sal - va - tion.
to Gen - tiles gone a - stray, and un - to Is - rael's glo - ry.

CLOSING PRAYER

The Collect for Peace


P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 **C Amen.**

BENEDICTION

(The Lord sends us home with His blessing.)

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

 **C Amen, Amen, Amen.**

HYMN 577 (TLH)

God Bless Our Native Land



Mon Lamentations 3:22-37 does not read like a lament but more like self-encouragement, and that's why this passage resonates with us, for we are learning to bear trials *patiently* (28-30). Knowing our human nature, God prompted Jeremiah to feed our souls with spiritual nutrition. God assures us that He will *show compassion* as dependably as sunrise; so we can relax, awaiting God's intervention according to His best judgment.

Tues Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43 Jairus staked a claim on Jesus' compassion even before some bad news (35), and Jesus was ready. [Now, watch this:] Jesus claimed that the girl was NOT DEAD but asleep—for that's how God sees it—and sure enough, when He coaxed her to awaken, she got out of bed, waltzed around the room, and headed for the kitchen (39-43). A great day.

Wed 2 Corinthians 8:1-9,13-15 The mother-church in Jerusalem needed a boo\$t f\$rom overseas brethren, which Paul was organizing. Now then, if our overseas brethren took up a collection to help us state-side, *giving themselves to the Lord first and then giving themselves to us*—all to serve God (5)—that would shame us.

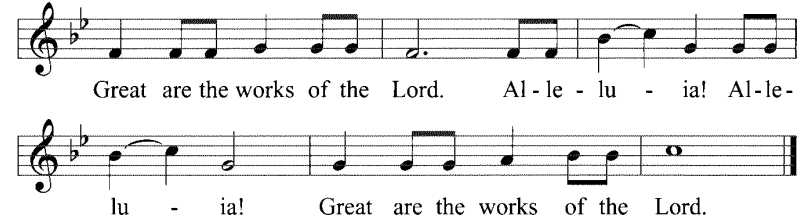
Thurs Psalm 30 When you read this psalm, place emphasis on yourself—stressing that God has lifted ME up, that God has healed ME, that He has brought MY soul up; that He has kept ME alive. Now we're in touch with God's Spirit, who gets into our heart this way and turns our *mourning into dancing*. Our brain may still be groggy (8-10), but our heart/soul will be singing praises to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Fri Mark 5:25-34 Shoehorned into Tuesday's Scriptures is this episode of an unidentified woman who was too shy to step forward and spell out her problem, yet she had the courage of faith to get in touch with Jesus. What happened next shocked and scared her, but she took courage to tell Jesus her long, sad story. He then blessed her and sent her home with a new lease on life. [We make a suitable deduction to fit our own situation.]

Sat Acts 28:11-16 doesn't seem to contain much spiritual meat, but it proves this: though God's mill grinds slowly, it grinds exceedingly fine. Our travels, layovers, and pit stops all click into their appointed slots (as they should) while God's machinery inches forward hour by hour and day by day. Just imagine how God blessed those soldiers who bivouaced a whole week with Christians (14), then walked side-by-side with other Christians who were thrilled to welcome Paul into their neighborhood and homes. Those soldiers had a lot to think and talk about when they went off duty (16). God was generous with them—as He was with Paul too, of course. Praise the Lord!

MY HEART IS OVERFLOWING

Antiphon



Psalm Tone



My heart is overflowing with a good theme;*
I recite my composition concerning the King;
My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.*
You are fairer than the sons of men;
Grace is poured upon Your lips;*
Therefore God has blessed You forever.
Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One,*
With Your glory and Your majesty.

Antiphon

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;*
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
You love righteousness*
and hate wickedness;
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You*
With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.
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.

Antiphon