

Worship in the Home

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2020



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ.

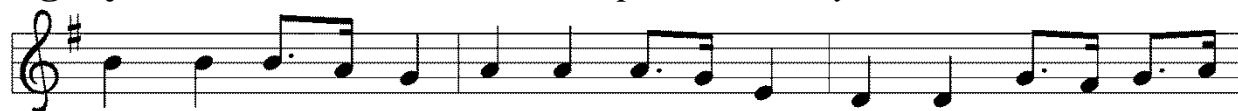
While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Prelude

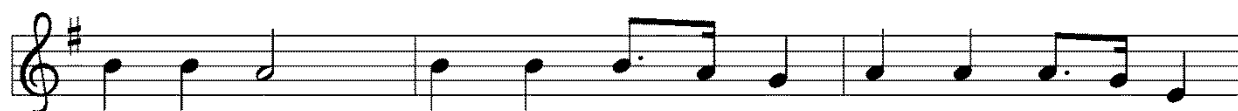
Opening Hymn

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

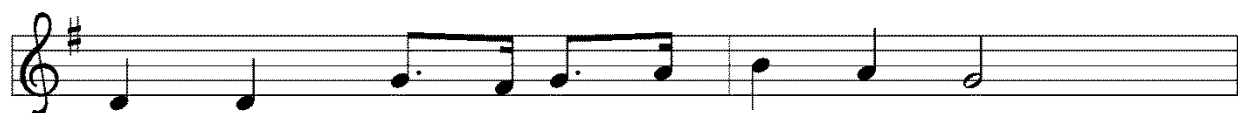
ELW #774



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

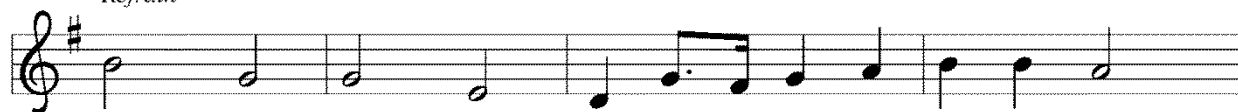


last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,

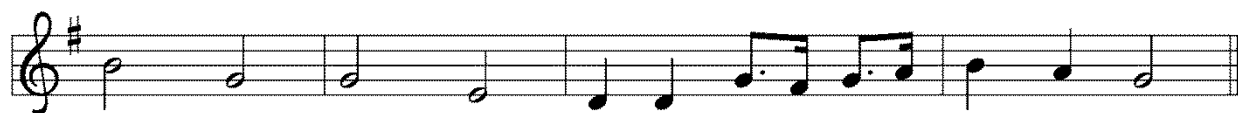


lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Semi-continuous Old Testament Reading: Genesis 21:8-21

Psalm: 69:7-10, 16-18

⁷Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face.

⁸I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.

⁹Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.

¹⁶Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.

¹⁷Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁸Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of the master's household!”

²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a son against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and in-laws against one another; ³⁶and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Homily

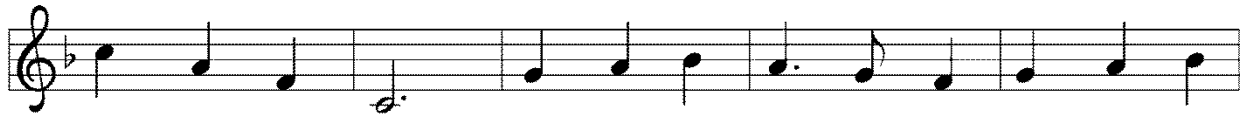
Hymn of the Day

God, Whose Almighty Word

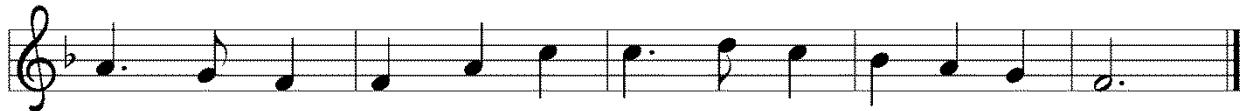
ELW #673



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Reflection

There is terror all around. Violence and destruction, too. Telling the truth about that condition of the world, however, has always been unpopular. Jeremiah experienced rejection. Even more, Jesus was killed. And Jesus calls us to follow him, to be countercultural like Jeremiah, to value the gospel of Jesus Christ even more than what the world counts as family values, to tell the truth openly about human sin and God's mercy. It will not be easy. Still, because of Jesus' death and resurrection and our baptism into him, we can live a new life, unafraid of death. We can trust we are seen and cared for, even in this time, as surely as God sees the sparrow. And we can tell others of this care, by our words and by our lives.

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our needy world...

O God, Father in heaven, hold your church in your loving arms. Protect believers who face persecution for your sake. Bless the work of evangelists and teachers as they translate their faith into other languages. Strengthen our pastors, deacons, and church councils for their ministry during these troubling times. Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our provider, here in the north the summer solstice reminds us of your care for the whole creation. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Feed all your creatures, both the animals and the humans, with the sustenance they need for life. Guide us to sources of energy that do not destroy the earth you have created. Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our ruler, inspire our president, our governors and our legislators to work towards justice for all. Lead us to ways of life that are free from racial and ethnic prejudice. Strengthen the world's democracies, and sustain those who are working to secure free and safe elections. Give a home to refugees. Form our military and our police to maintain peace and to inhibit violence. Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our physician, bring healing to all who are sick and suffering. Preserve the world from more waves of the coronavirus, and guide researchers who are seeking a vaccine. Protect those whose jobs expose them to contagion. Support our health care workers. We remember before you those we name here now: Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our peacemaker, inhabit each household in the land with your powerful peace. Train us to live together in harmony, especially when quarantined together. Nourish marriages, and sustain extended families. Protect children from harm of every kind. Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our source of life, bless all fathers and father figures as they face both long-standing and emerging family needs. Comfort those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult. Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our beloved, receive now the petitions of our own hearts. Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our beginning and our end, we bless you for all our forebears in family and faith who have lived and died in you. Remind us of their sacrifices, and at the end bring us with them in your household of joy. Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

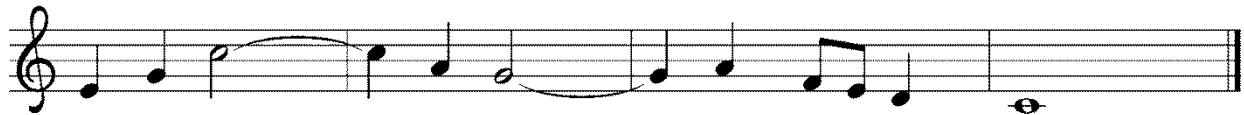
Sending Hymn

Lift High the Cross

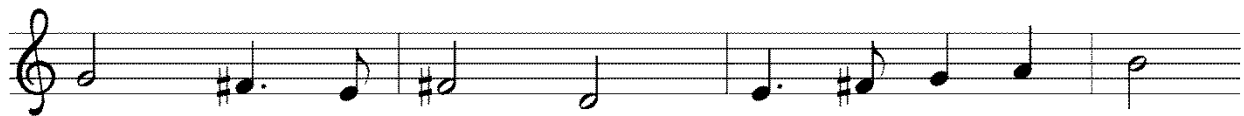
ELW #660



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

**Join us on Zoom for the Closing Hymn and Fellowship:
ID 596-621-1441 Password: 8675309**

DVD's and DVD Players are Available Upon Request

We are now filming from the sanctuary. DVD's will be available to those without internet access and DVD players will be made available on loan to those who need them at no cost to the individual. Please contact Lori at 814-793-2413 or 814-696-3802 to receive a DVD by mail and or if you need a DVD Player.

Worship Schedule (Facebook)

Monday: Hymn Devotions at 9AM & 9PM

Tuesday—Friday: Morning Prayer at 9AM

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Night Prayer at 9PM

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer at 7PM

Tuesday—Friday: Kids' Devotions, Midday

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday—Song Time with Otto, Midday (this week, W, F only)

Tuesday: Holden Evening Prayer at Camp Sequanota 8PM (Zoom)

Thursday: Song Time at Camp Sequanota 4PM (Facebook)

Committee Chairs: Remember to get meeting dates and times to Lori via email (stmatthewluth@aol.com) so they can be on the weekly schedule.

Weekly Bulletins and Messengers are available on the **NEW** website (stmatthewlc.com) for viewing or printing.

Study Schedule (Zoom)

Wednesday: Bible Study 10 AM

Thursday: Book Study "Awaken Your Senses" 3PM or 7PM

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 6. **Tuesday** Revelation 2:8-11. **Wednesday** (John the Baptist) Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]. **Thursday**(commemoration of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530; Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560) Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18. **Friday** Galatians 5:7-12. **Saturday** (commemoration of Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444) Jeremiah 28:1-4. **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202) Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw
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Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Jim Calvert, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, John Klepser, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: John Aljets, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Jim Calvert, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Sarah Frederick, Shari Gilbert, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Pastor Jerry, Connie Kensinger, Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Bill Lively, Donna Lovell, Kristen Malloy, Matt McCready, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Aunt Mica, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Dan Sinal, Barbara Smith, Luther Steele, Jim Stoudnour, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Robert Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Those Serving Overseas: Kyle Guyer & Colin Guyer – Middle East

Allegheny Synod Stewardship Table

Each week for the next 5 weeks, the Allegheny Synod Stewardship Table members will be sharing a personal Stewardship story!

Hello! I am Steve Katcher, a member of St. John in Sinking Valley and an authorized Lay Worship Leader in the Allegheny Synod. This stewardship story is a reflection on time and talents.

I grew up in the house we now live in, just about 4 miles outside of Altoona and built by my father and mother in 1952. Almost 30 years later in 1998, with a new family in tow and more to come, the Katchers moved back to Sinking Valley and rebuilt the family homestead. Kathy and I raised our two sons, Noah and Ethan, and through excellent instruction and my wife's loving and engaged style with the boys, both became excellent musicians on piano, flute, and horn—and they can also sing up a storm.

As the boys grew, many times Kathy and Noah and Ethan would share their musical gifts at church. Especially at the holidays, like when Noah led the congregation on Christmas Eve in singing Silent Night—in German. Or when Ethan and Kathy played a duet of a hymn. But me, I held the iPhone in the second row pew and videoed it for later watching.

Growing up, when I thought of stewardship, sometimes I thought only of the collection plate. Since God gives us love, when we give back to God, it makes sense to me to give back something we love. Our family loves music and God has given us the gift of it.

One Sunday morning after my family played their instruments, a member came up to me and thanked me for their special music. He told me they were a talented bunch. Of course, I said, “You’re welcome!” And then he said to me, “What do you do?” I knew he was pulling my chain, but it made me think, what can I give back? I can’t play the piano anymore, or carry a tune in a bucket. But I know how to talk, as you can see.

Just a short time later, Spence Garvin, a lay worship leader, came to lead worship at St John. After the service, Spence and I talked for a bit, and he asked me: “Would I consider becoming a lay worship leader?”

At the time, I didn’t think I was ready, but 4 years later, I enrolled in the Synod’s Ignite! Program. Over time I became an authorized lay worship leader. Now a few years into it, I can tell you it feels great to share the word of the Lord to congregations all over the Allegheny Synod.

I can never, ever thank our great and gracious God enough for all the blessings given to my family. But in thanksgiving for all that God has given me, and using the gifts God has given me, I am able to speak the Word to a grateful congregation on a Sunday morning and bring hope, faith and closeness to the Word of God.

Everyone has unique gifts and talents from God. God is inviting you to recognize and use the gifts God gives us to give back to God and expand the Kingdom and lift up God’s people.

Steve's video can be found at the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33BC_f22qYU&feature=youtu.be

God bless,

The Allegheny Synod Stewardship Table

“KELC Flood/Hunger Relief.”

These are difficult times for many people, and in the midst of Coronavirus and racial injustice and inequality, some of us feel helpless, not quite knowing what to do.

But there is a situation in which your help could mean saving hundreds of lives. In our companion synod (the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church), where they have also been facing many challenges due to Covid-19, unprecedented rainfall has caused two rivers to significantly flood, destroying communities. One of the pastors we have been in communication with has said:

“Community-wise, floods, earthslides, and economy is killing all here. The [two rivers] over-flowed, and carried away houses, foodstuffs, and lives of people. We are living in fear always. Life is miserable. There is no food. Our parish congregants ... all their crops have been swept away. Some parents are boiling stones to confuse children that food is being cooked to make them sleep. ... Even

getting for one day a meal, people will appreciate. It's really a delicate situation. We hear cries all over."

We invite you to help us care for our neighbor by providing funds for food and basic life necessities. We are challenging the people of our synod to help us meet a goal of providing food for 1 month for the more than 300 people in the parishes affected by this flooding. Those who receive food supplies also will share with neighbors; which means that our gift could reach even more.

If each congregation in our Synod were to share \$100 (this would be \$20 from 5 members, or \$10 from 10 members), we could easily meet this goal. Will you be one of those people? For those who are able to provide more, I invite you to prayerfully do so. An anonymous donor has already pledged to match the first \$1,000 that comes in. Please send in your monetary gifts no later than **June 26th** to **the synod office** (701 Quail Ave., Altoona, PA 16602), and mark the memo line **"KELC Flood/Hunger Relief."**