

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Mankato, Minnesota

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 2023

Opening Hymn: “Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ”

LSB 769

- 1 Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,  
I know not how to ask or what to say;  
I only know my need, as deep as life,  
And only You can teach me how to pray.
- 2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;  
Help me to see Your purpose and Your will—  
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;  
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.
- 3 Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear  
Of human need; O give me eyes to see  
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured,  
My life in You, O Christ; Your love in me.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–96, alt.

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

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

LSB 167

# Service of the Word

## Kyrie

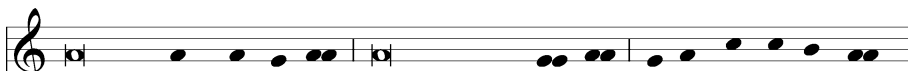
LSB 168



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



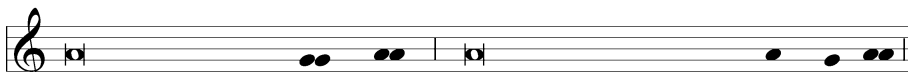
**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



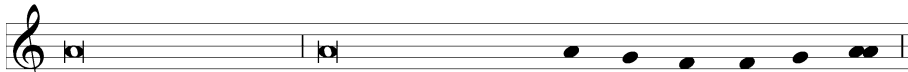
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



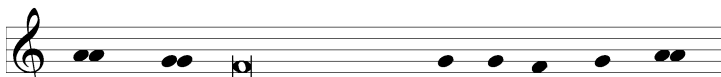
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## This Is the Feast

LSB 171



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:  
 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 55:6–9*

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 27:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.  
<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.  
<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.  
<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup>You have said, "Seek my face."  
My heart says to you,

"Your face, LORD, do I seek."

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,  
O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!

## Gloria Patri

186

**☩ 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

*Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30*

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

<sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should

not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Anthem: “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

Introductory Choir

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Hymn of the Day: “Seek Where You May to Find a Way”

LSB 557

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Seek where you may<br/>To find a way<br/>That leads to your salvation.<br/>My heart is stilled,<br/>On Christ I build,<br/>He is the one foundation.<br/>His Word is sure,<br/>His works endure;<br/>He overthrows<br/>All evil foes;<br/>Through Him I more than conquer.</p> <p>2 Seek whom you may<br/>To be your stay,<br/>None can redeem his brother.<br/>All helpers failed;<br/>This man prevailed,<br/>The God-man and none other,<br/>Our Servant-King<br/>Of whom we sing.<br/>We're justified<br/>Because He died,<br/>The guilty being guiltless.</p> | <p>3 Seek Him alone<br/>Who did atone,<br/>Who did your souls deliver.<br/>O seek Him first,<br/>All you who thirst<br/>For grace that fails you never.<br/>In ev'ry need<br/>Seek Him indeed;<br/>To ev'ry heart<br/>He will impart<br/>His blessings without measure.</p> <p>4 My heart's delight,<br/>My crown most bright,<br/>O Christ, my joy forever.<br/>Not wealth nor pride<br/>Nor fortune's tide<br/>Our bonds of love shall sever.<br/>You are my Lord;<br/>Your precious Word<br/>Shall guide my way<br/>And help me stay<br/>Forever in Your presence.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003002

## Sermon: “Fair Compensation in the Kingdom of God”

Matthew 20:1-16

### 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.**

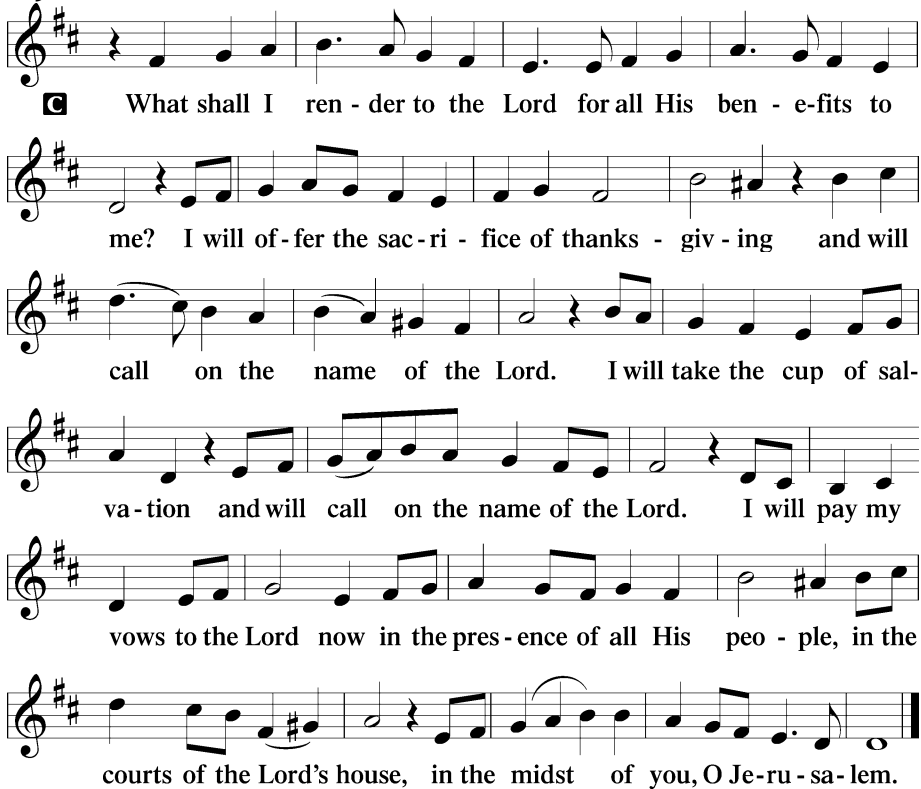


I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

### Offertory

LSB 176

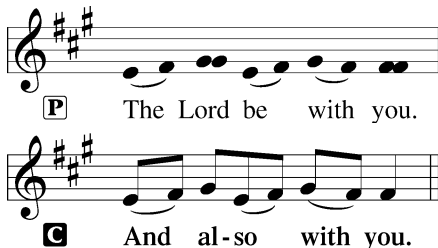


**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to  
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 177



**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And al-so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 178

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

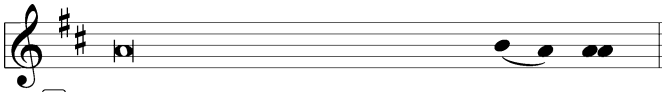
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.

## Pax Domini

LSB 180



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 180



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Distribution Hymns:

### “Salvation unto Us Has Come”

LSB 555

- 1 Salvation unto us has come  
By God's free grace and favor;  
Good works cannot avert our doom,  
They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,  
Who did for all the world atone;  
He is our one Redeemer.
- 2 What God did in His Law demand  
And none to Him could render  
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand  
For man, the vile offender.  
Our flesh has not those pure desires  
The spirit of the Law requires,  
And lost is our condition.

3 It was a false, misleading dream  
That God His Law had given  
That sinners could themselves redeem  
And by their works gain heaven.  
The Law is but a mirror bright  
To bring the inbred sin to light  
That lurks within our nature.

4 From sin our flesh could not abstain,  
Sin held its sway unceasing;  
The task was useless and in vain,  
Our guilt was e'er increasing.  
None can remove sin's poisoned dart  
Or purify our guileful heart—  
So deep is our corruption.

5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled  
Or we must die despairing,  
Christ came and has God's anger  
stilled,  
Our human nature sharing.  
He has for us the Law obeyed  
And thus the Father's vengeance  
stayed  
Which over us impended.

6 Since Christ has full atonement made  
And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad  
And build on this foundation.  
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,  
Your death is now my life indeed,  
For You have paid my ransom.

-1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Text: Public domain

7 Let me not doubt, but truly see  
Your Word cannot be broken;  
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"  
No falsehood have You spoken.  
Baptized into Your precious name,  
My faith cannot be put to shame,  
And I shall never perish.

8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin  
And makes us conscience-stricken;  
But then the Gospel enters in  
The sinful soul to quicken.  
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and  
live;  
The Law no peace can ever give,  
No comfort and no blessing.

9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone  
And rests in Him unceasing;  
And by its fruits true faith is known,  
With love and hope increasing.  
For faith alone can justify;  
Works serve our neighbor and supply  
The proof that faith is living.

△ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise  
To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by His grace;  
All glory to His merit.  
O triune God in heav'n above,  
You have revealed Your saving love;  
Your blessèd name we hallow.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484

# “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”

LSB 826

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,<br/>         “Who will go and work today?<br/>         Fields are white and harvests<br/>         waiting—<br/>         Who will bear the sheaves away?”<br/>         Loud and long the Master calleth;<br/>         Rich reward He offers thee.<br/>         Who will answer, gladly saying,<br/>         “Here am I, send me, send me”?</p> <p>2 If you cannot speak like angels,<br/>         If you cannot preach like Paul,<br/>         You can tell the love of Jesus,<br/>         You can say He died for all.<br/>         If you cannot rouse the wicked<br/>         With the judgment’s dread alarms,<br/>         You can lead the little children<br/>         To the Savior’s waiting arms.</p> | <p>3 If you cannot be a watchman,<br/>         Standing high on Zion’s wall,<br/>         Pointing out the path to heaven,<br/>         Off ring life and peace to all,<br/>         With your prayers and with your<br/>         bounties<br/>         You can do what God commands;<br/>         You can be like faithful Aaron,<br/>         Holding up the prophet’s hands.</p> <p>4 Let none hear you idly saying,<br/>         “There is nothing I can do,”<br/>         While the multitudes are dying<br/>         And the Master calls for you.<br/>         Take the task He gives you gladly,<br/>         Let His work your pleasure be;<br/>         Answer quickly when He calleth,<br/>         “Here am I, send me, send me!”</p> |
|---|---|

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (st. 3): unknown, alt.  
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# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 182

Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-  
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-  
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -  
 veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.  
 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.

### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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

*LSB 183*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - - - - - men.

### Closing Hymn: “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”

**LSB 782**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Gracious God, You send great blessings<br/>New each morning all our days.<br/>For Your mercies never ending,<br/>For Your love we offer praise.<br/>Refrain</p> <p>ref Lord, we pray that we, Your people<br/>Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,<br/>Through the sharing of Your blessings<br/>May bring glory to Your name.</p> <p>2 By Your Word You formed creation<br/>Filled with creatures large and small;</p> | <p>As we tend that endless treasure<br/>May our care encircle all. Refrain</p> <p>3 In His earthly life, our Savior<br/>Knew the care of faithful friends;<br/>May our deeds of dedication<br/>Offer love that never ends. Refrain</p> <p>△ 4 Heav’nly Father, may our caring<br/>Bear the imprint of Your grace;<br/>With the Son and Holy Spirit,<br/>Praise be Yours in ev’ry place!<br/>Refrain</p> |
|--|---|

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### Acknowledgments

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