



Christ Lutheran Church

401 S Main Street

Cochrane, WI 54622

Pastor Mark Wilde

Church Phone: 608-248-2387

Pastor's Cell: 715-495-3419

Email:

christlutherancochrane@gmail.com

YouTube Channel:

christlutherancochrane

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 18, 2025

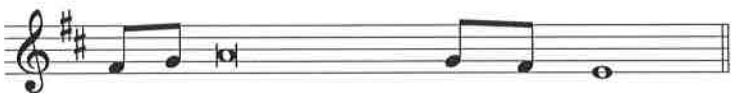
778 Father, We Praise You

CW 778

Opening Sentences



O Lord, o - pen my lips.



And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Hasten to save me, O God.



O Lord, come quickly to help me.



Give glory to God, our light and our life.



Come, O come, let us wor - ship.

Tune: Marty Haugen
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Come, O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

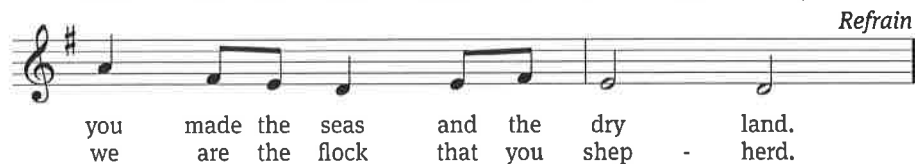
Refrain Cantor/choir first time; assembly repeats, then sings after each verse



Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a won - drous God,
2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,



Refrain
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

Text: Marty Haugen

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Psalm 5A

Psalm 5A



1 Hear my words, O gra - cious LORD; know the whis - pered
 2 Lis - ten, LORD, at break of day, as I lift my
 3 For I know that you, O God, find in e - vil
 4 All who sin, O God, you hate; you de - stroy the
 5 Yet, in - vit - ed by your love, to your house will



things I say. At - tend to all my cries for
 voice on high. I bring to you my ear - nest
 no de - light; with you the wick - ed can - not
 one who lies. The LORD ab - hors with all his
 I draw near, and, blest to meet you in this



help— God, my King, to you I pray.
 plea; then I wait with watch - ful eye.
 dwell; proud ones flee be - fore your sight.
 might those who schemes of blood de - vise.
 place, wor - ship you in rev - 'rent fear.

Tune: English

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Tune: Public domain

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

¹The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

⁴Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

⁸"I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

⁹"The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' ¹⁰This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹"Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹²The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

¹⁵"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"

¹⁸When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in

evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 13:31–35

³¹When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

697 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

CW 697

Sermon: 1 Corinthians 13 Love - The Most Excellent Way

We Praise You, O God

CW 210



- 1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'n - ly hosts,
3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise ____ you.



- 1 all creation worships you, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full ____ of your glo - ry.
3 Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



- 1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
2 The glorious company of apostles praise ____ you.
3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



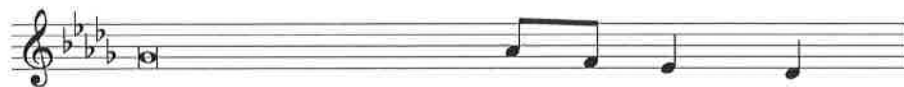
- 1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise ____ you.
3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



- 4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When you became man to set us free,
6 You sit at the right hand of God

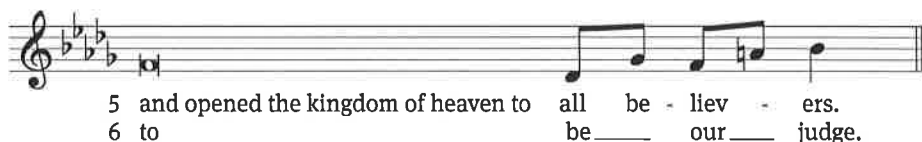


- 5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



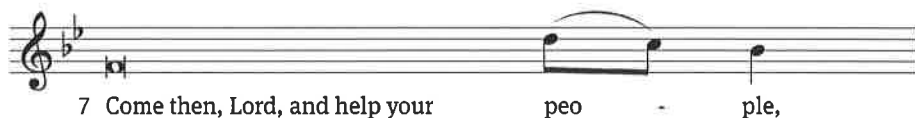
5 You overcame the
6 We believe that

sting of death
you will come



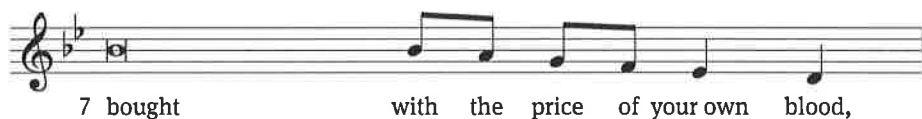
5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to
6 to

all be - liev - ers.
be our judge.



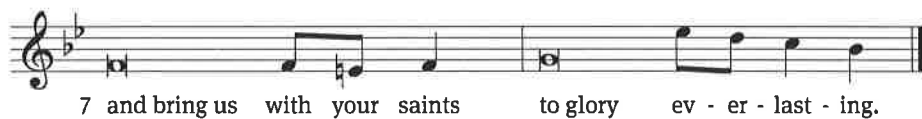
7 Come then, Lord, and help your

peo - ple,



7 bought

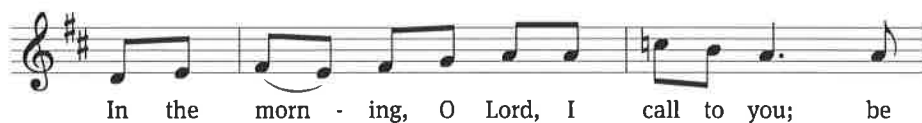
with the price of your own blood,



7 and bring us with your saints

to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Lord, Have Mercy



In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you; be



mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have



mer - cy.

Lord,

have

mer - cy.

Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Prayer for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.

Benedicamus



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

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Blessing



The Lord bless and keep you.



A - men.



The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



A - men.

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CW 731

Morning Prayer (alternate) from Christian Worship

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Together

NEWS. RESOURCES. ENCOURAGEMENT.



Assignment and graduation days at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

It's that time of year when we will again see prayers answered. Students at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., will be graduating from our WELS college of ministry. Some of those graduates will continue their preparation to be pastors at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis. Others will graduate on Sat., May 17, having completed their training to be teachers and staff ministers. Later on that same day, candidates will be assigned to their places of service in God's kingdom. As we see those prayers for workers in God's harvest field answered, we respond with thanks to God for providing those workers and to the many young people who have answered God's call with the words, "Here am I. Send me!"

The following week, something similar will happen at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Seminary students in their second year will be assigned as vicars. For an entire year, they will see firsthand what the pastoral ministry is all about and gain hands-on experience in serving God's people with Word and sacrament. Seniors will also be assigned to their first place of service. Some will be assigned as pastors while others will be assigned for a year as tutors in our synodical ministerial education schools.

As of the April meeting of the Conference of Presidents, there were 156 pastoral vacancies in the synod, with 149 of those being parish pastor positions. With 25 candidates available, their assignment will reduce the number of pastor vacancies, but the pastoral shortage will continue.

A similar high vacancy rate is taking place in teacher positions. WELS school enrollments have increased significantly in the last two years—a real blessing—but that has caused a need for more teachers than are currently available. It's estimated that even after teacher candidates are assigned at Martin Luther College this month, there will still be approximately 100 to 120 vacancies in teaching positions. The Commission on Lutheran Schools has been working with congregations to find ways to fill the vacancies. At the same time, Martin Luther College has been redoubling its efforts to recruit both traditional and non-traditional teacher candidates. It will also be exploring other ideas to provide more teacher candidates.

We thank God for our ministerial training system and for the workers it trains so well. We send them into their new calls with the prayer that God will bless them and the people they serve.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

Equipping leaders

The WELS leadership conference offered a fantastic opportunity for our members to learn from experts across the synod and encourage them as leaders at our church," says Rev. Kurtis Wetzel, pastor at Cross of Christ, Nampa, Idaho.

Wetzel and members from Cross of Christ attended the first two WELS National Conferences on Lutheran Leadership in 2020 and 2023. He and his congregation are planning to send another group to the leadership conference in January 2026.

Cross of Christ in Nampa is a mission congregation established as a second site to Cross of Christ in Boise. Wetzel shares, "Some of the guidance I received early on in our mission was to train up lay leaders quickly and involve members in lots of ministry."

The keynotes and workshops at the leadership conference equipped his members for just that.

"We are striving to equip and empower the universal priesthood at our congregation and encourage leaders to work alongside the called staff to do more ministry and increase our local impact on souls for eternity," says Wetzel. "Cross of Christ has always encouraged personal witnessing. Because of some of the workshops on outreach and evangelism, our members came back with renewed outreach energy and shared with the congregation even more about the need for personal

(as well as corporate) evangelism. This has energized other members at our church for witnessing."

Member Cindy Harris says she was honored to be invited to attend the conference. "I was humbled to be in the company of so many gifted spiritual leaders who passionately shared their knowledge about how to best proclaim the gospel in our communities," she says. "Our pastors at Cross of Christ in Idaho do a wonderful job of training and encouraging our members for works of service, but this was an opportunity to learn from pastors and teachers in other congregations throughout our entire church body and take it home and share it!"

Cindy and her husband are founding members of Cross of Christ. She serves through leading a women's Bible study and as the coordinator for the spiritual needs committee. She says of her time at the conference, "The whole time I was there I was thinking how wonderful it would be for every member back home to experience this conference. We 'Western WELS' members don't often have the opportunity to personally experience the depth of our synod's leadership and their passion for proclaiming the gospel throughout the world. It is a taste of heaven!"

The next WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership will be held Jan. 19–21, 2026, at the Hilton, Chicago.

Learn more about the conference at lutheranleadership.com. 

Stay connected to WELS mission and ministry:  [WELSlutherans](https://www.facebook.com/WELSlutherans)  [WELS@lutherans](mailto:WELS@lutherans.org)
WELS offers a variety of devotions and newsletters that can be directly delivered to your inbox. Visit wels.net/subscribe.



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit wels.net/together.

RECOVERY IN CHRIST offers hope in Jesus.

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays at 4:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin (school library) and Wednesdays, 1:15 pm at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center, 933 Ferry Street. To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays, 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.

Recovery in Christ is not meant to replace other groups or therapists. It is an additional group that offers Christian fellowship and direction to those in recovery from alcohol and/or drugs.

NEED A CARD? Why go to a big box store and spend more than you have to? Please browse our wide selection of cards in the former library room at Christ. Cards are exceptionally priced at \$0.50 each.

Diane Schultz is our sunshine lady. If anyone knows of someone who would like a card of encouragement, please let her know. Her cellphone is 608-738-9934 and her home phone is 608-685-3861.

Church Offerings

Wednesday, May 7: 10

General: \$665 Missions: \$ Cap Imp.: \$20

(Cap Imp includes a gift for Luther High School)

Sunday, May 11: 28

General: \$605 Missions: \$30 Cap Imp: \$40

(Cap Imp includes a gift for Luther High School)

Total: \$1360

General: \$1270 Missions: \$30 Cap Imp.: \$60

Our Weekly Walk with Jesus

Sunday, May 18

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour

Monday, May 19

Tuesday, May 20

10:00 am Bible Class

6:30 pm Bible Class

Wednesday, May 21

6:30 pm Midweek Worship Service

Thursday, May 22

Friday, May 23

Saturday, May 24

10:00 am CFC graduation

Sunday, May 25

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour