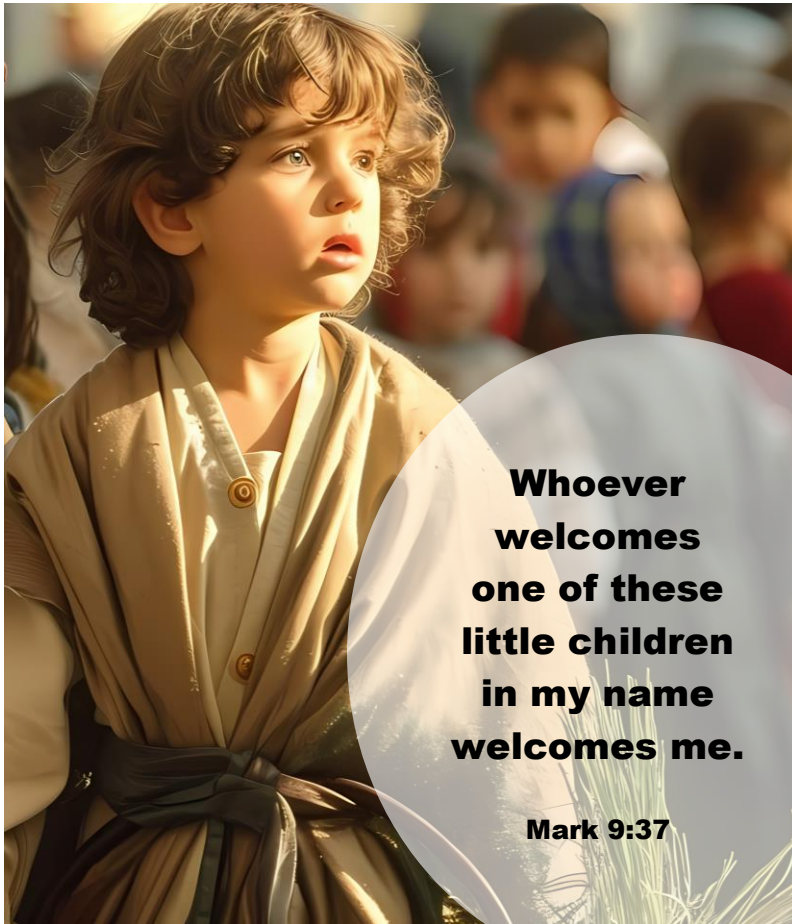


# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



**Whoever  
welcomes  
one of these  
little children  
in my name  
welcomes me.**

**Mark 9:37**

THE NEED FOR FOLLOWERSHIP:  
Christ's Followers Are Humble Servants  
*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 29, 2024



## Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome! We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we can continue to serve you.

Restrooms are located in the hallway outside the gym. If you would like one, large print copies of the service folder or a children's bulletin for kids are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can also help you find the restrooms or answer any other questions you may have.

## Service Notes For This Service

Humility and pride are polar opposites. Pride exalts self at the expense of God and others. Humility exalts God and others at the expense of self. Pride is the essential vice, for it increases one's hunger for all other sins. Humility increases one's hunger for the forgiveness and healing found in Christ. The one who is proud demands to be served. The one who is humble is not content unless serving others. St. Augustine described it this way: "It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels."

As we see all Christ did to serve us, our hearts melt. Within us grows a Christ-like obsession to serve others, without counting the cost, without any desire to be repaid. Those who are in positions of Christian leadership understand that their leadership can only be achieved through service. For followers of Christ are humble servants.



## Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Organist Sue Kulhanek; Musical Offering Kristi Perry

## Acknowledgements

Morning Prayer (Matins) from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

# Morning Prayer (Matins)

Morning Prayer begins on page 207 of the hymnal.

## Welcome

### Hymn

737 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

Stand



O Lord, o - pen my lips,



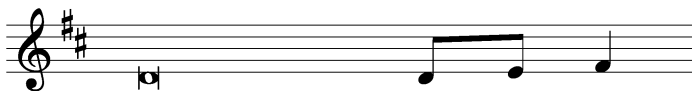
and my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Has - ten to save me, O God;



O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



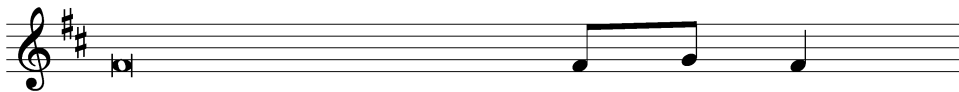
General Jesus Christ is Lord of all:



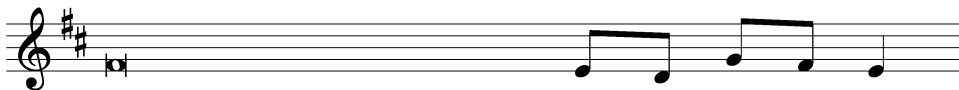
praise and thanks to God!

# O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

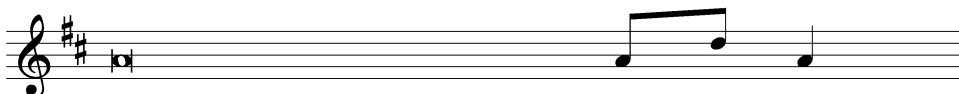
CW 208



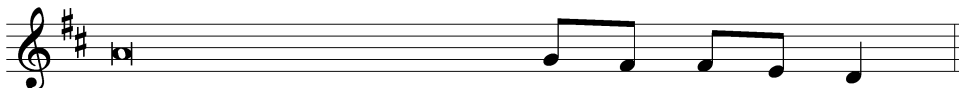
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great \_\_\_\_\_ God
- 3 The sea is his, for he made \_\_\_\_\_ it,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and his hand formed the dry \_\_\_\_\_ land.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
- 2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
- 3 O come, let us worship and bow \_\_\_\_\_ down,
- 4 For he is our God,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
- 2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
- 3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
- 4 and we are the people of his  
pasture and the sheep of his \_\_\_\_\_ hand.

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Numbers 12:1–15

*The pride of Aaron, the high priest, and Miriam, a prophetess, led them to bad-mouth humble Moses and belittle Moses' wife, simply for being of another race.*

<sup>1</sup>Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman). <sup>2</sup>They said, “Has the LORD really spoken only through Moses? Hasn't he also spoken through us?” The LORD heard this.

<sup>3</sup>(Now the man Moses was very humble, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

<sup>4</sup>Right then the LORD spoke suddenly to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “You three come out to the Tent of Meeting!”

The three of them came out. <sup>5</sup>The LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance to the tent. He called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. <sup>6</sup>He said, “Now listen to my words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, will make myself known to him in a vision. In a dream I will speak with him. <sup>7</sup>Not so, however, with my servant Moses. He is faithful in my whole household. <sup>8</sup>With him I speak face-to-face, clearly, and not in riddles. He sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant, against Moses?” <sup>9</sup>The LORD's anger burned against them, and he left.

<sup>10</sup>The cloud went up from above the tent, and immediately Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. Aaron turned to Miriam and saw that she was leprous.

<sup>11</sup>Aaron said to Moses, “My lord, please do not hold this sin against us. We have acted foolishly. We have sinned. <sup>12</sup>Please do not let her be like a stillborn infant that comes out of its mother's womb with its flesh half-eaten away.”

<sup>13</sup>Moses cried out to the LORD, “God, please heal her, please!”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “If her father had merely spit in her face, would she not be disgraced for seven days? Have her confined outside of the camp for seven days, and after that she can be brought back in.”

<sup>15</sup>Miriam was confined outside of the camp for seven days, and the people did not set out until Miriam was brought back in. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

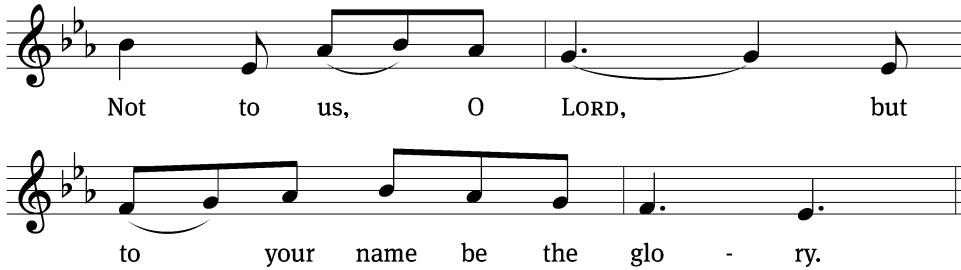
**Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm

115A Not to Us, O LORD

Pastor will introduce the refrain. Join to sing following refrains plus the verses in bold.

## Refrain



Not to us, O LORD, but  
to your name be the glo - ry.

## Tone



Why do the nations say, "Where / is their God?"

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.

**The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:**

**He will bless his people / Israel,**

he will bless those who / fear the LORD—  
small and / great alike. *Refrain*

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—  
he is their / help and shield.

**House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—  
he is their / help and shield.**

You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—  
he is their / help and shield.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Music: Michael D. Schultz © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

## Second Reading

James 3:13–18

*St. James teaches that ambitiously pursuing greatness is not just prideful but also demonic. True greatness in Jesus' kingdom is acting toward others in ways that are humble.*

<sup>13</sup>Who among you is wise and intelligent? Let him by his good way of living show that he does things in wise humility. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and lie, contrary to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but it is worldly, unspiritual, and demonic. <sup>16</sup>In fact, where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and every bad practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that comes from above is first pure, then also peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and sincere. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who practice peace. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 5:2

Alleluia. And walk in love, just as Christ loved us  
**and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Alleluia.**

## Gospel

Mark 9:30–37

*The greatest in Jesus' kingdom is the one humble enough to gladly serve a little child who could not possibly repay that favor.*

<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know this, <sup>31</sup>because he was teaching his disciples. He told them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him. But three days after he is killed, he will rise.”

<sup>32</sup>But they did not understand the statement and were afraid to ask him about it.

<sup>33</sup>They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they remained silent, because on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>Jesus sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he will be the last of all and the servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and placed him in their midst. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes not just me but also him who sent me.” (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# Children's Message

## Hymn

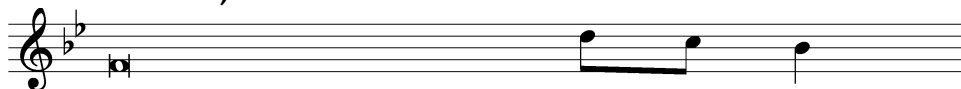
767 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

## Sermon

Stand

### We Praise You, O God

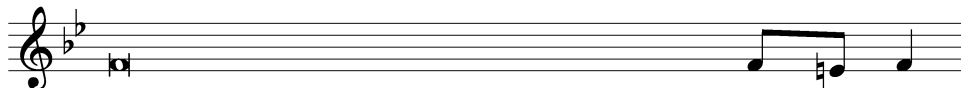
CW 210



- 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:



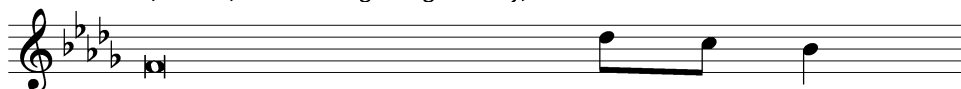
- 1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
- 2 The glorious company of apostles praise — you.
- 3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



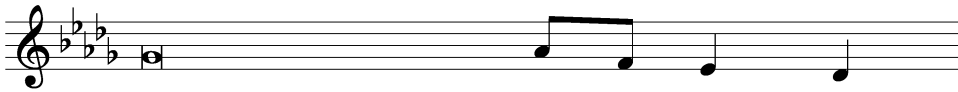
- 1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
- 2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise — you.
- 3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



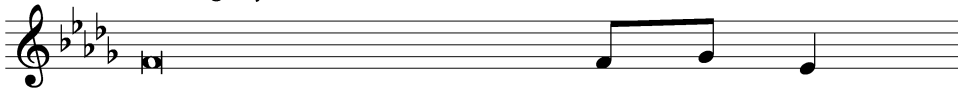
- 4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



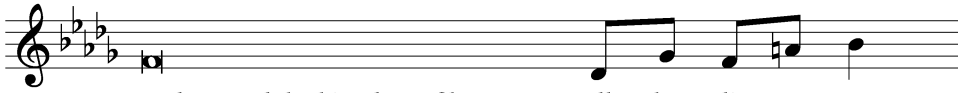
- 5 When you became man to set us free,
- 6 You sit at the right hand of God



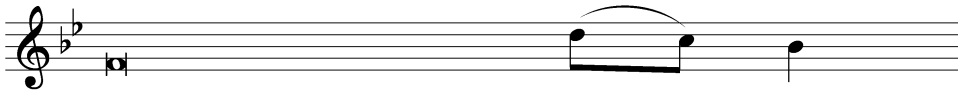
5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.  
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 You overcame the sting of death  
6 We believe that you will come



5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.  
6 to 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.

Be seated

## Connect Card & Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



## Musical Offering

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service





Let us praise the Lord.



**Thanks be to God.**



The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**A - men.**

**Hymn**

*766 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*



# Take Home Questions

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## Numbers 12:1-15

1. Share any historical context you know about Moses and his family members involved in this account. In what ways does that give a fuller understanding to these verses?
2. Diagnosis Aaron and Mirriam's complaint. What was at the heart of their issue?
3. In what ways does Moses here demonstrate his humility and servant-leadership?

## James 3:13-18

4. Describe the worldly way of pursuing greatness according to these verses. Where does it start? Where does it lead?
5. In what ways does this differ from godly greatness and wisdom?

## Mark 9:30-37

6. Compare and contrast the vast difference between the attitude and actions of Jesus and that of the disciples in these verses. In what ways does Jesus teach and demonstrate true greatness?
7. Can you think of another time when Jesus taught this lesson with his actions?
8. In what ways can you be "the servant of all" in your life? Think personally and concretely.

## Bonus

9. Share something that struck you or a take away from the worship service or sermon.

# News & Announcements

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## **This Sunday's Bible Study: Foundations of the Christian Faith**

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

## **Shop the NPH Book Fair**

Sept. 29-Oct. 27

Our Book Fair from Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) is now open for business. Look for the display in the Welcome Center. All books come at discounted price during the book fair, and someone will be available to assist you with ordering.

You can also shop virtually from your phone or home computer. Use the QR code to access the book fair or visit <https://online.nph.net/nph-book-fairs>. When you checkout, be sure to use the code V173C352370 to receive book fair pricing.



Feel free to just browse today and order when you have narrowed down your list. Or come back next week, if you find you want one more book. The book fair runs through Oct. 27.

## **Christ Through Us**

Filled with captivating images and fascinating stories, *Christ Through Us* is a limited edition pictorial history of the Wisconsin Synod. The pre-order window has been extended to Oct. 15. Reserve your copy and receive a 20% discount on the cover price. This book will be published in 2025. For more details and to pre-order, visit [NPH.net](http://NPH.net).

## **Choir Practice Starts This Week**

Sept. 30

If you enjoy singing, we would love to have you as a part of our church choir. Practices are held on Mondays at 4:30 pm in the balcony. The choir performs at special services such as Reformation Sunday. Practices begin This Monday, Sept. 30



## **Haven't signed up yet?**

We would love to have more members connecting with each other and with God's Word. Connect Groups allow you to do just that. The groups meet seasonally for four weeks. Gatherings last about an hour and half, and the take-home questions from the service folder are discussed. There will also be plenty of time for fellowship. You can even invite an unchurched friend to come with you. See the Ministry Table for times and places.

## For those Touched by Miscarriage or Stillbirth

Oct. 1 | 7:00 pm

Many women report experiencing intense sadness or depression following the loss of a preterm infant. They feel alone, even though they are far from alone. The upcoming webinar, "Little Lives with Jesus," scheduled for Oct. 1, at 7:00 pm, will address these issues. To register, visit <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/womens-ministry-webinars/>



## Evening Compline Service on Wednesday

Oct. 1 | 6:30 pm

The monthly evening service is this Wednesday, Oct. 1. This Compline Service focuses on peace and forgiveness. The Lord's Supper will be offered. Everyone is invited.

## Cheer on the Home Team

Oct. 1 & 3 | 4:30 pm

Our Panthers have home volleyball games twice this week. They face St. Peter's – Schofield on Tuesday and Assumption on Thursday. Games get underway at 4:30 pm. Concessions are available. Come cheer on the home team!

## Turn in Your Mite Box Offering

Some of the ladies in the congregation still use a mite box to collect coins for missions and the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). Mite boxes are small cardboard containers with a slot in the top. As time has passed, many now just write a check to support these efforts. You could even donate through PayPal, designating that the gift is for LWMS. Whichever way you choose to give, donations are due by next Sunday, Oct. 6. Gifts will be passed on to the LWMS at the fall mission rally on Saturday, Oct 12 at St. John's in Christie.

## Another Teen Event

Oct. 15

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites our teens to explore the corn mazes with them at Feltz Dairy Store on Tuesday, Oct. 15. There are three mazes of different lengths. Everyone will meet at the store at 4:30 pm. The cost is \$12 per person. Feltz is located at 5796 Porter Drive in Stevens Point.

## More Pie Making

Sept. 30 | 1:30 pm

Lend a hand as we prepare for the Fall Bake & Craft Sale on Oct. 19-20. We will be making pies in the cafeteria on Monday, Sept. 30 at 1:30 pm. You can help with peeling apples or assembling pies. If you cannot help during the day, we welcome your donations of pies and other baked good to the sale. They can be brought to the church on Oct. 18.

## Upcoming Events

- Oct. 12 Fall Mission Rally at St. John's, Christie
- Oct. 15 Teen Outing to Feltz Corn Maze
- Oct. 19-20 Fall Bake & Craft Sale



Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-5th
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday	1:30 PM	Pie Making Session in the cafeteria
	<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Spiritual Health Group in the chapel at WR Health Services</b>
	<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>Choir Practice in the Balcony</b>
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Faith Group at the home of Todd &amp; Kay Ferkey</b>
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	4:30 PM	HOME Panther Volleyball Games in the gym
	6:30 PM	Unified Board Meetings
Wednesday	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Bible &amp; Brews at B's Tap House</b>
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Compline Service</b>
	7:00 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	7:00 PM	Catechism Class
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	4:30 PM	HOME Panther Volleyball Games in the gym
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Peace Group in the Resource Center</b>
Friday	5:00 PM	Strategic Planning Meeting
Saturday	8:00 AM	Strategic Planning Meeting
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-5th
	10:30 AM	Worship – PK-8 <sup>th</sup> Singing

## Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 216

## Next Sunday

Theme: The Need for Followership:

Christ's Followers Know How to Love Their Families

Readings: Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; Mark 10:2-16





[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)

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