

↓ TOP^a ↓ down
FAITH ↓

**THE LIVING LORD COMPLETELY CHANGES OUR
VIEW OF DEATH**

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

June 30, 2024

SERIES THEME: A TOP-DOWN FAITH

The phrase “from the top down” is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those “at the top” are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even oppressively—on those below. From the top down. We have entered the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We will see that Christianity is very much a top-down faith. Christian teachings come “from the top down,” but not in the sense that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a “top-down faith,” we mean that it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn’t possibly have originated from human thinking. The Christian faith contains teachings that are so wonderful that we would never even believe them unless God himself revealed their truthfulness to us. So, God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth—from the top down—to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable.

THEME OF THE DAY: THE LIVING LORD COMPLETELY CHANGES OUR VIEW OF DEATH

Most people fear death to some degree. Some fear death because they assume it is the end. Others fear death because they assume it isn’t the end at all, but that there is some sort of reckoning after death which might not go well for them. And have you seen what happens to a dead body? It is far from pretty. So, it is understandable that most people would fear death. Not so for those to whom God has given a top-down faith. Christianity teaches that for God’s children death is not discipline but deliverance. The living Lord gives Christians such a radically different view of death that they can have confidence to face death in their effort to give Christ glory. They understand that death does not cut us down, but only raises us up. Finally, the Christian has been given the topdown faith that believes Jesus can wake us from death as easily as we can wake a sleeping child from his nap.

Worship Leader
Organist/Pianist

Pastor Justin Wilkens
Timothy Richert

Acknowledgments

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The Service, Morning Prayer (page 207 in Christian Worship 21)

Hymn: 846 I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name

Stand

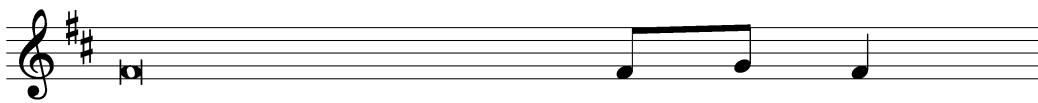
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Hasten to save me, O God;
O Lord, come quickly to help me.

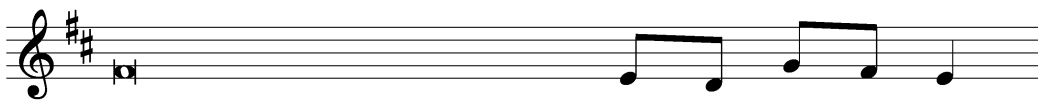
Jesus Christ is Lord of all:
praise and thanks to God!

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

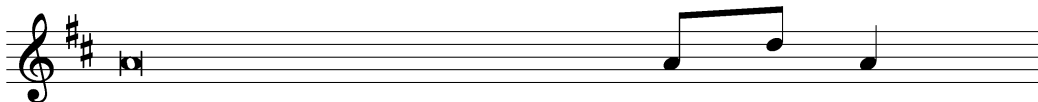
CW 208



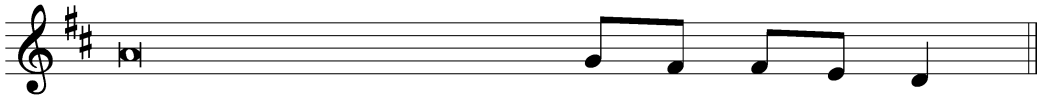
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great _____ God
- 3 The sea is his, for he made _____ it,



- 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

Lamentations 3:22–33

God's people were suffering. But the prophet Jeremiah knew that suffering and impending death can focus our attention on what matters- the Lord's compassion and salvation.

²²By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed,
for his compassions do not fail.

²³They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

²⁴My soul says, "The LORD is my portion. Therefore, I will hope in him."

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

²⁶It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷It is good for a man that he bears a yoke early in his life.

²⁸Let him sit alone and be silent, because the LORD has laid this upon him.

²⁹Let him stick his face in the dust. Perhaps there still is hope.

³⁰Let him turn his cheek toward the one who strikes him.

Let him be filled with disgrace.

³¹For the Lord will not push us away forever.

³²Even though he brings grief, he will show compassion
on the basis of his great mercy.

³³Certainly, it is not what his heart desires when he causes affliction,
when he brings grief to the children of men.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:7–15

St. Paul knew that serving Christ might result in death. But he also knew the one who raise Jesus from the dead will also raise us.

⁷We hold this treasure in clay jars to show that its extraordinary power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not despairing; ⁹persecuted, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹To be sure, while we are living we are continually being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. ¹²So then, death is working in us, but life is working in you.

¹³Since we have that same spirit of faith, which corresponds to what is written: "I believed; therefore, I have spoken," we also believe, and therefore we speak. ¹⁴For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us (together with you) into his presence. ¹⁵In fact, all this is for your benefit, so that as grace increases, it will overflow to the glory of God, as more and more people give thanks.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Lamentations 3:25

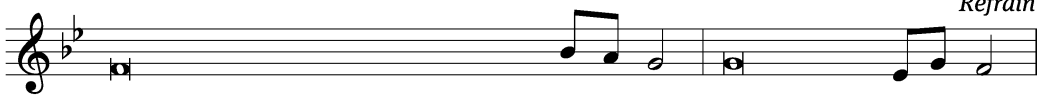


Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him.

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

Gospel

Mark 5:21–24a,35–43

Jesus raises the young daughter of a synagogue leader from the dead as easily as you would wake someone who was sleeping.

The Daughter of Jairus

²¹When Jesus had again crossed over in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him near the sea. ²²Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³and repeatedly pleaded with him, “My little daughter is near death. Please come and place your hands on her so that she may be healed and live.” ²⁴Jesus went with him,

³⁵While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue ruler's house arrived, saying, “Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Teacher anymore?”

³⁶But when Jesus heard this report, he told the synagogue ruler, “Don't be afraid. Only believe.” ³⁷He did not allow anyone to follow him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸They went into the house of the synagogue ruler, and Jesus saw a commotion with people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.”

⁴⁰They laughed at him. But after he put everyone out, he took the father of the child, her mother, and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹Grasping the hand of the child, he said to her, “Talitha, koum!” (When translated, that means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”) ⁴²Immediately the little girl stood up and began to walk around. (She was twelve years old.) They were completely and utterly amazed. ⁴³Then he gave them strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and he told them to give her something to eat.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

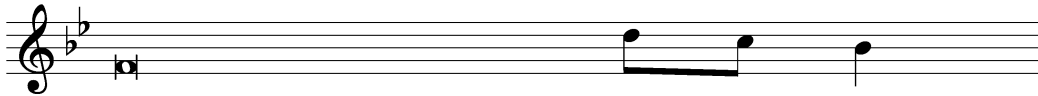
Hymn: 831 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

Sermon

Stand

We Praise You, O God

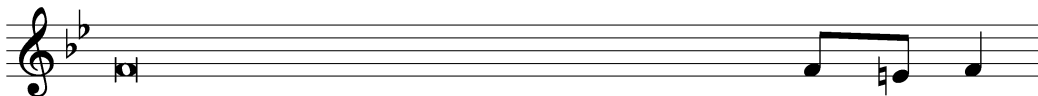
CW 210



- 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:



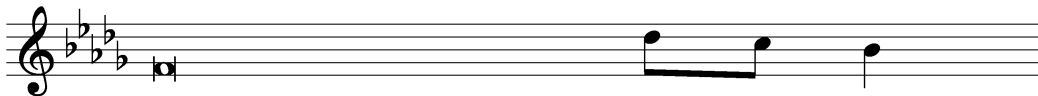
- 1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
- 2 The glorious company of apostles praise — you.
- 3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



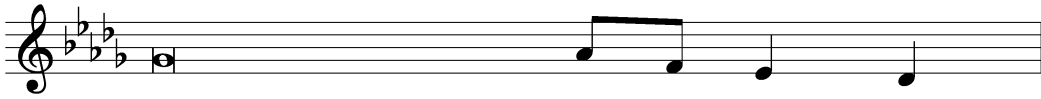
- 1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
- 2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise — you.
- 3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



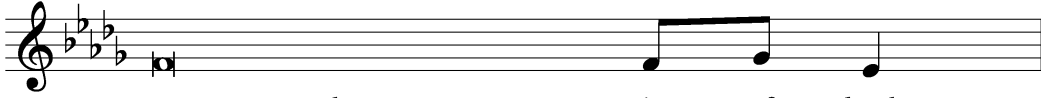
- 4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



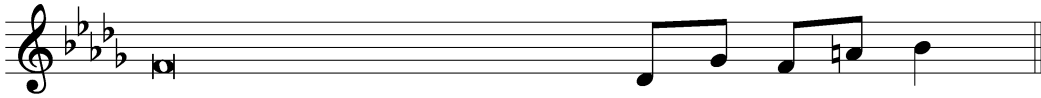
- 5 When you became man to set us free,
- 6 You sit at the right hand of God



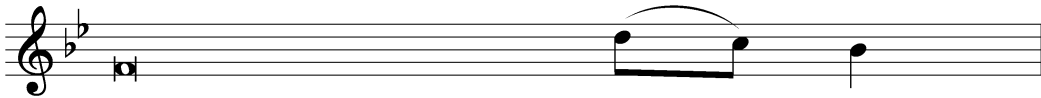
5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



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

Offering

Offering Hymn: 444 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

sts. 1-2

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Preface

CW 183

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en 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, ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Marty Haugen
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first four measures of the phrase "Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the". The second staff continues the melody for the next four measures. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

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

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Tune: Marty Haugen
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Be seated

Distribution

Close Communion We ask that only those who have previously spoken to our pastor or are members in good standing of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to Holy Communion today. Our practice of Close Communion (which has been the practice of the Christian Church throughout the ages) is in no way trying to judge anyone's faith. What we are trying to do is follow the Bible's clear teaching (1 Corinthians 11) to first study God's Word together. As we do so, we can share with/review with you what the Lord's Supper is all about. You, then, also have an opportunity to examine what we believe and teach before you come to the Lord's Supper and make a public profession that you agree with what we teach.

Distribution Hymn: 668 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The following prayer is said:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of faith of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Hymn: 835 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship

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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 68, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,854.90, Given \$1,296.30. **To God be the glory!**

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