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**M:** Minister

**A:** All

## WELCOME

**HYMN:**

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”  
*found on page 5 of this worship folder*

## INVOCATION

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**A:** Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**A:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**A:** Amen.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

*The minister offers the Prayer of the Day.*

## THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON:

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

<sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.

<sup>7:2a</sup> To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me!

<sup>51</sup> "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! <sup>52</sup> Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—<sup>53</sup> you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

<sup>54</sup> When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

<sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

### SECOND LESSON:

1 Peter 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup> For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup> But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." <sup>25</sup> For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**A:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there 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.**

**HYMN:**

“To God Be the Glory”  
*found on page 8 of this worship folder*

## MESSAGE

“Conversations Jesus Had After His Resurrection: With the Disciples in Jerusalem”  
*based on John 20:19-29*

### John 20:19-29

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”<sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

## PRAYERS & BLESSING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*The minister offers the Prayer of the Church.*

### LORD'S PRAYER

**A: 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.**

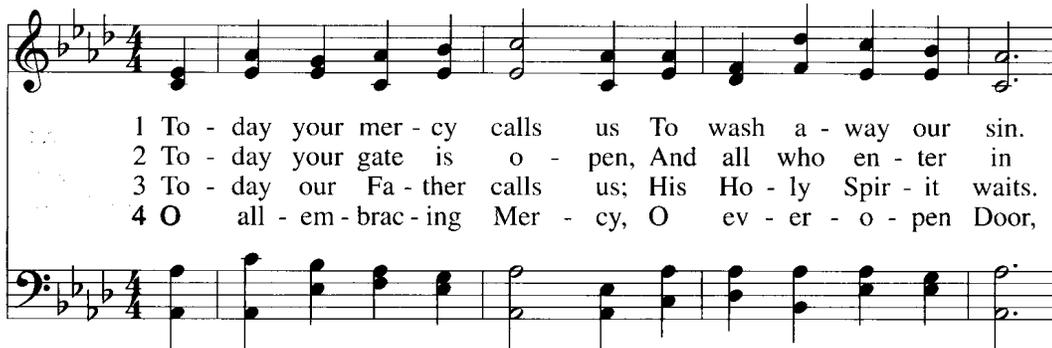
**M:** May God grant you good health and hope in Jesus.

### HYMN:

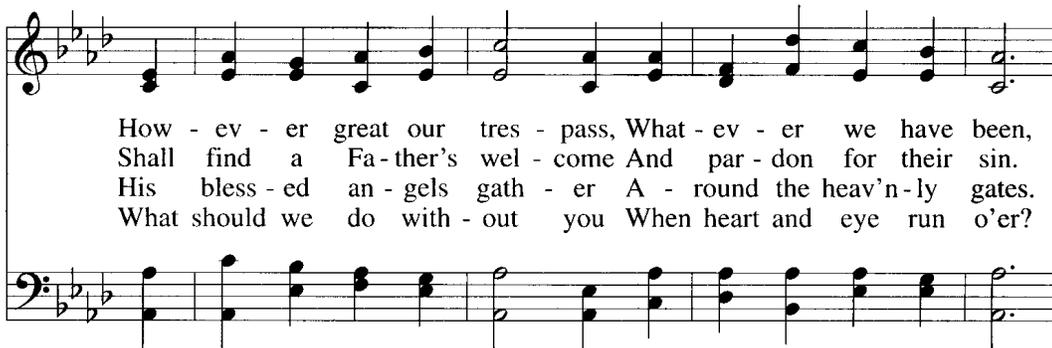
*“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”  
found on page 8 of this worship folder*

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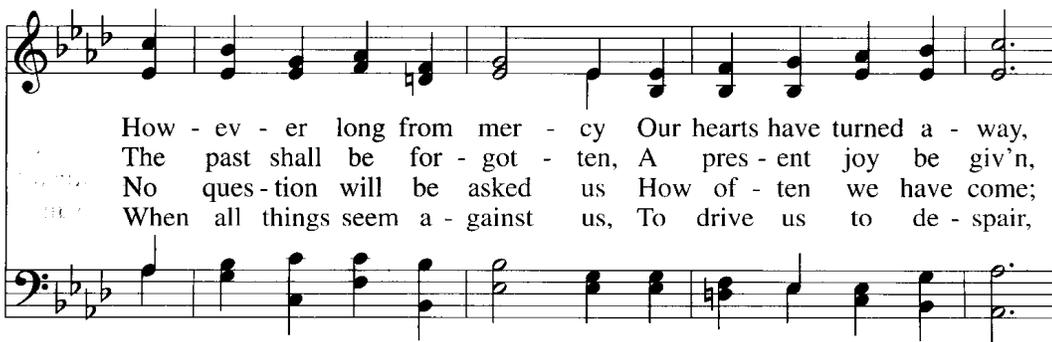
## Today Your Mercy Calls Us



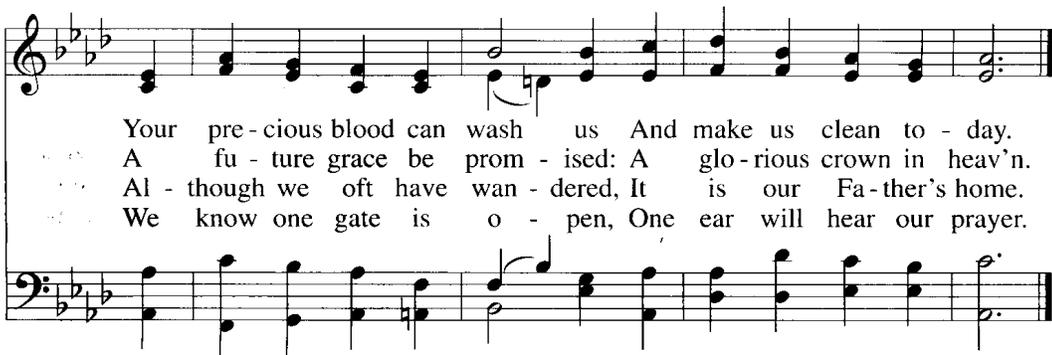
1 To - day your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
 2 To - day your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in  
 3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits.  
 4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
 Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.  
 His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
 What should we do with - out you When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
 The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
 No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;  
 When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
 A fu - ture grace be prom - ised: A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
 Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
 We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt.  
 Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857

ANTHES  
 76 76 D

Alternate setting: 336

# 399 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!  
 2 Oh, per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,  
 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done.

He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,  
 To ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;  
 And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son,

Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin  
 The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves,  
 But pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
 That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.  
 Our joy and our won - der when Je - sus we see.

*Refrain*



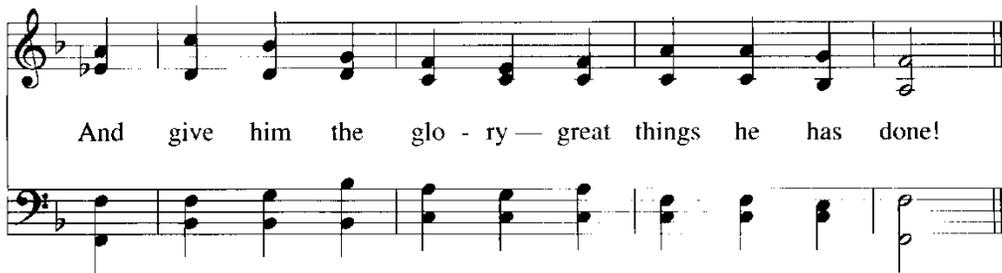
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!



Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son



And give him the glo - ry — great things he has done!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915, alt.  
Tune: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

TO GOD BE THE GLORY  
11 11 11 11 with Refrain

# 329 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; Fill our hearts with  
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For the gos - pel's  
 3 So when - e'er the sig - nal's giv - en Us from earth to

joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
 call a - way, Borne on an - gels' wings to heav - en.

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. Oh, re - fresh us,  
 In our hearts and lives a - bound! Ev - er faith - ful,  
 Glad the sum - mons to o - bey, May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful To your truth may we be found.  
 may we ev - er Reign with Christ in end - less day.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.  
 Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863-1924

NEW ULM  
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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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