

Sunday, May 8th

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



*Call to Worship

Leader: Day by day, God leads us:

**People: to the deep, deep pools of peace, to the green, lush lawns
of grace.**

Leader: Day by day, Jesus calls us:

People: to pour out ourselves in service, to anoint the stranger with hope.

Leader: Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

People: the community we could be, the family we are called to become.

*Hymn # 409 – God is Here!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in the presence of our enemies, we divide and demonize. When you face our enemies, you choose neither contempt nor punishment, but set a table and make provision for us all. Our ways are not your ways, O Creator, and they are an affront to the work of your hands. Have mercy on us, O God, and heal us. Send our risen Lord among us again to repair relationships and restore humanity. Set us free to share the love of Christ Jesus just as he does at his table. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Psalm 23

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Through the Darkest Valley

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**People: That I am not my own,
but belong—**

body and soul,

in life and in death—

to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

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**He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.
Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.**

Blessing of Days for Girls Kits

Special Music

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your heart.

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayers of the People

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Sharing of the Meal

Prayer After Communion

**Loving God, you graciously feed us,
who have received these holy mysteries,
with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.
May we who have received this sacrament
be strengthened in your service;
we who have sung your praises
tell of your glory and truth;
we who have seen the greatness of your love
see you face to face in your kingdom.
For you have made us your own people
by the death and resurrection of your Son our Lord
and the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.**

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***Hymn # 187 – Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response: Hymn # 606 – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Postlude

GATHERING

409

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas, this text is one of the few to devote attention to how customary church features facilitate worship. The tune was composed in wartime Britain to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

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This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.