

A photograph of a person's hands sowing seeds into the soil. The person is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt. Their right hand is holding a small amount of dark seeds, and their left hand is reaching into the dark, rich soil. A large, vibrant green vertical bar is on the left side of the image. The background shows some green grass and a brown, crumpled object, possibly a bag of seeds.

**a sower
went out to
SOW**

MATTHEW 13:3



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Bulletin Insert

Saturday, July 11, 2026 ~ 5:00 pm

Sunday, July 12, 2026 ~ 9:00 am

GATHERING SONG

"Beautiful Savior"*

ELW #838

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65:1-13

- ¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.
- ² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**
- ³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.
- ⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your
temple.**
- ⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.
- ⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**
- ⁷ You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- ⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**
- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of
God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
- ¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- ¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- ¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves
with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

A reading from Romans.

- ¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by

sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

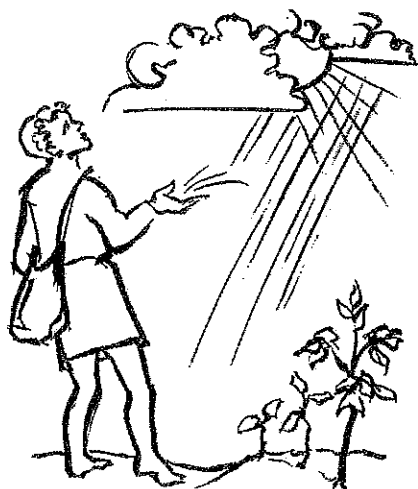
¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble

or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY	"As Rain from the Clouds"	ELW #508
COMMUNION HYMNS	"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"	ELW #512
	"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"*	ELW #767
SENDING SONG	"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"	ELW #547



** Hymns were requested as a favorite.*

Thank you to those who share in our worship services!

	<u>Saturday Evening Service</u>	<u>Sunday Morning Service</u>
Ushers	Doug & Michelle Olson	Mary Moore & Mike Staples
Reader	Joan Hennigen	Chris Copley
Communion Assistants	Carol Roe	Chris Copley
Counters	Joan Hennigen & Carol Roe	<i>Not yet determined</i>
Organist	Susan Becker	
Online Streaming Team Craig Bloomingdale, Lucas Golinghorst, Scott La Plante & Kevin Zidarich		

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net

www.faithlutheranelldridge.com

GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheranelldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and place the card in the offering plate.



Flowers This Week

The altar flowers on the altar are from Dave & Linda Golinghorst in honor of their 35th Wedding Anniversary.

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site.



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people
and all who are in need in our prayers.

Steve Mixdorf	Cheryl Torey	Linda Benskin	Dave	Gary
Patty Denner	June Mephram	Marilyn	Linda	Paul
Kathy Stoltz	Rebecca Casson	Kelly	Donna	Jerry
Jan Goettsch	Cherri Grimes	James	Julie	Kathy
Barb Conklen	Judy Rigg	Cindy	Judy	
Meyer Mixdorf	Judy Feller	Thad	Janet	



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Even though the medical facilities might ask about notifying your church, they do not actually contact us unless a situation is dire. Please contact us at the church office at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.



The 3rd quarter Word in Season devotionals are available for pick up on the Welcome Center.



Worship at the Outdoor Chapel has returned. Join us every other Sunday morning, through September 6 for outdoor worship. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move worship inside. Please bring a lawn chair and join us outside on **July 12, July 26, August 9, August 23, and September 6.**



North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry

Feed Our Children Ministry will provide a free lunch opportunity to children in the North Scott community during summer break. Our goal is to provide a free nutritious lunch to children in our community through this twice a week ministry, on Tuesdays and Thursdays through **August 20, 2026.**

To volunteer <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4DACAC23A7F85-63443951-2026#/>

Thank you! ~ *The North Scott Feed Our Children Ministry Team*

Saturday, July 11 Eldridge Summer Festival

Youth Mission Trip

11:00 am Faith float in Eldridge Parade
5:00 pm Worship In Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, July 12

Youth Return from Mission Trip

9:00 am Worship Outdoors
10:15 am Fellowship

Monday, July 13 Office Closed

6:00 pm Lions Club Exec.

Tuesday, July 14

10:00 am Feed Our Children
5:30 pm Food Pantry

Wednesday, July 15

1:00 pm Friday Fun Club Mtg.

Thursday, July 16

10:00 am Feed Our Children

Friday, July 17

9:30 am Food Pantry

Saturday, July 18 NOISY OFFERING

5:00 pm Worship In Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, July 19 NOISY OFFERING

Campers & Mission team leave for Lutheran Lakeside Camp

9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary
10:15 am Fellowship



July 4 & 5 - 5:00 pm: 30, 9:00 am: 61, Online: 48, Total: 139

The Generous Gardener

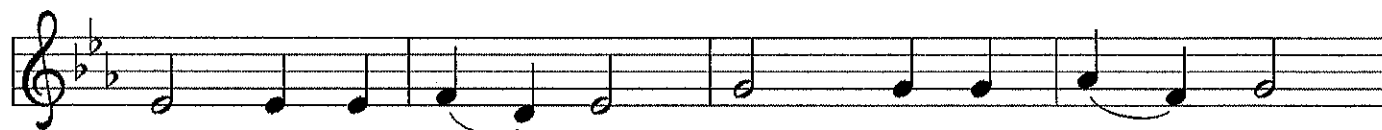
In this parable, Jesus tells the disciples a story of a gardener. While many people carefully plan where to plant seeds (with some modern farmers using technology to map out, down to the millimeter, where each seed will grow best), the gardener in Jesus' story scatters seed generously, almost carelessly.

As the disciples, familiar with farming and fishing, would have known deep within themselves, things don't come easy in this life. Faith is the same. Like seeds that take their time, when the conditions are right to grow and bear fruit, faith isn't always a steady path. There are seasons of cold isolation—times when prayer and devotions don't warm the heart as they once did. There are seasons of scorching busyness—times when endless distractions overwork the head enough to overheat. Faith might look different at these times, but no matter the season, faith is never gone.

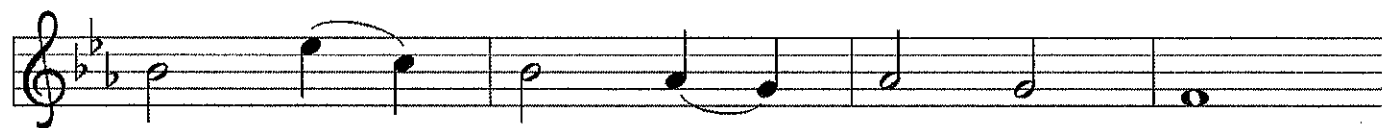
Ultimately, faith isn't measured down to the millimeter. Instead, this haphazardly generous gardener extends faith into the impossible places. And when rocks, sun, or thorns from this world and within choke this faith that God has given us, the impossible becomes possible. In every season, God comes again and again to sprinkle more and more seed and to reach out to us before we can even try to grow on our own. And with time and divine Presence, that seed of faith starts to sprout.

Because of this never-ending abundance, every season is an opportunity to engage with God the generous gardener, whose nearness is always available and who gives the gift of faith, no matter the conditions. Today, let the summer breeze remind you of how close God's Spirit is, always nurturing and providing the abundance that is the essence of faith.

Beautiful Savior



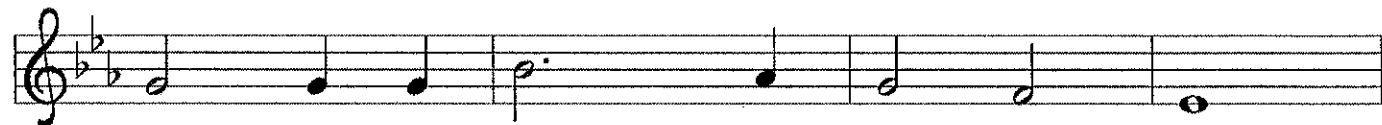
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

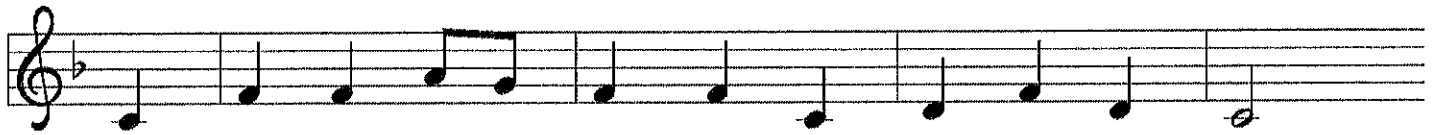


light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

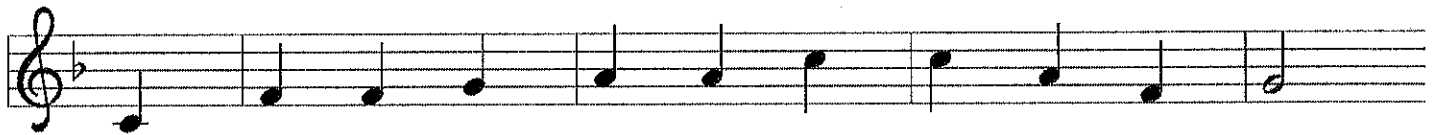
Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904

Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

As Rain from the Clouds



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.

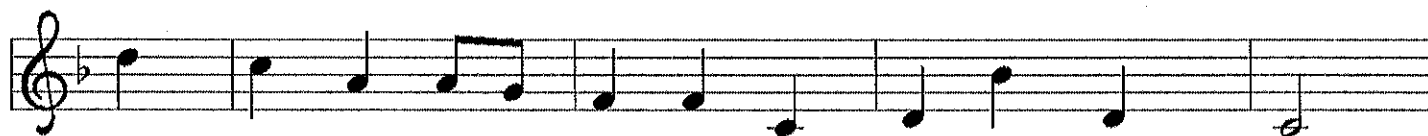


We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;

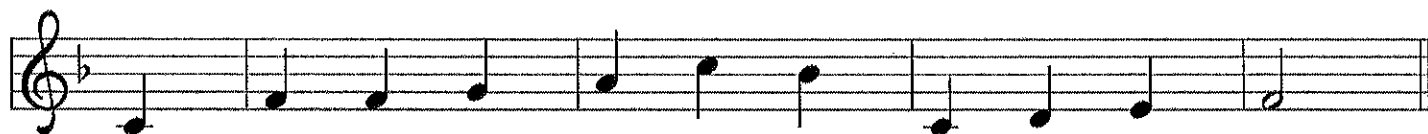
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we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896

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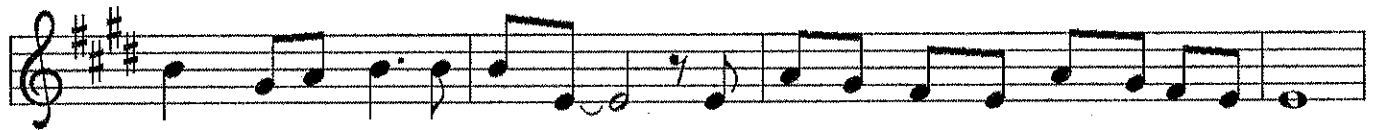
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Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,



di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
 for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
 I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
 Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
 then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!



so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
 for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
 So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE, Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860
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Sent Forth by God's Blessing



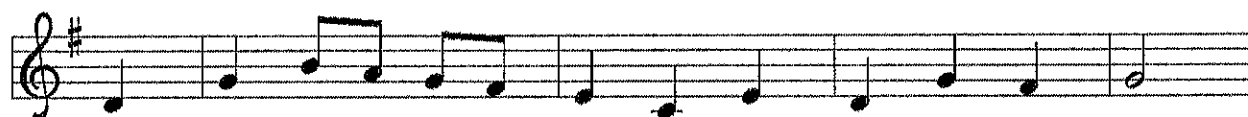
1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



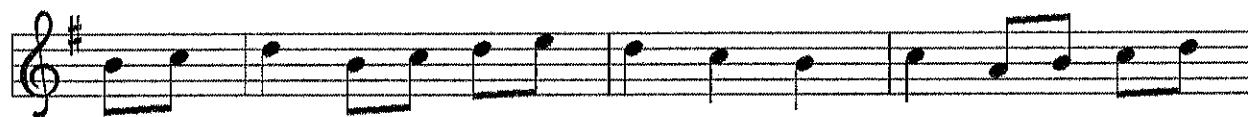
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



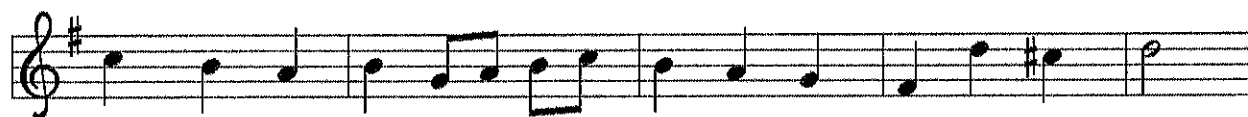
The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



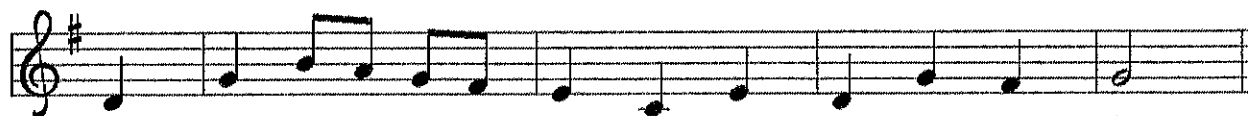
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.