



20th Sunday after Pentecost

God Patiently Looks for Good Fruit

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

October 18, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

- **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women's bathroom.
- A worship monitor is to the right as you exit. We encourage children of all ages to participate in our worship. Please don't be afraid to bring them into the service. We have a nursery room with toys, books, and other items that you can use to help calm your child.

WORSHIP THEME

Jesus' parable highlights the patience of our God in seeking "fruits of faith" from his vineyard. Could God have done any more for his Old Testament people? Their fruit-of-faith was rotten. But God is patient and he warned them just as he warned the religious leaders.

Let us cultivate "good fruit" that comes from treasuring the patient, faithful, forgiving, and saving love of God in the cross of Christ. Build your life on the sure "Foundation" and "Cornerstone"

Even if it is to be rejected the Lord spares no expense at all, even giving his own son to produce the fruit he loves.

The Service of the Word and Sacrament

The high and holy worship of God is faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith is created and sustained by God's service to us (the German, "Gottesdienst," "God/Divine Service). In the Divine Service, the Lord comes to us in His Word and Sacrament to bless and enliven us with His gifts. The Service is not something we do for God, but His service to us received in faith. The liturgy is God's work. He gives, we receive.



HYMN

466 Though Thoughtless Thousands

466 **Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose**



1 Though thought - less thou - sands choose the road
 2 In Christ, by faith, I wish to live,
 3 Christ is my ev - er - last - ing all,
 4 Soon will the Lord, my life, ap - pear;
 5 Soon will the saints in glo - ry meet,

That leads the soul a - way from God,
 From him my life, my all, re - ceive,
 To him I look; on him I call.
 Soon shall I end my tri - als here,
 Soon walk through ev - 'ry gold - en street

This hap - pi - ness, dear Lord, be mine:
 To him de - vote my fleet - ing hours,
 He will my ev - 'ry want sup - ply.
 Leave sin and sor - row, death and pain.
 And sing on ev - 'ry bliss - ful plain,

To live and die en - tire - ly thine.
 Serve him a - lone with all my pow'rs.
 In time and through e - ter - ni - ty.
 To live is Christ; to die is gain.
 "To live is Christ; to die is gain."

Text: Joseph Hoskins, 1745–88, alt.

Tune: WAREHAM (LM) William Knapp, 1698–1768, alt.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **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.**

ABSOLUTION

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.

C: **Amen**

From God's Word we know that wherever God puts His name, there He is to bless. In the Old Testament the temple was the place where God graciously caused His name to be present (1 Kings 8:27-30).

God has put His name—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—on us in Holy Baptism. The Divine Service begins with the Invocation, the words spoken over us at our baptisms. Every Divine Service is for the hallowing of the Lord's name, which the Small Catechism reminds us is done "when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it" (Matthew 28:18-20).

The shorter repeated expressions in the liturgy are excellent ways for young children to participate in the worship service. Help children watch for and join in phrases like, "Lord, have mercy," "Amen," and "Alleluia."

LORD, HAVE MERCY - Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

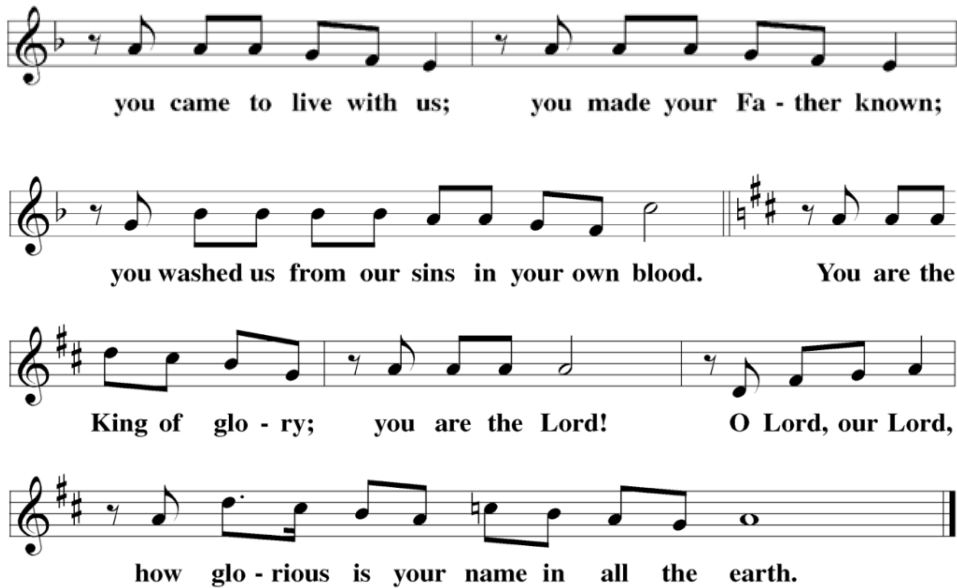


M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

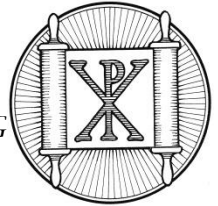
C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

The musical score is written for a single voice part in C major, 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The first seven staves are in C major (one sharp). The eighth staff changes to B-flat major (two flats). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) in the second, third, and fourth staves. The piece ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to B-flat major.



The Service of the Word

Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God for encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Gracious God, You gave your son into the hands of sinful men who killed him. Forgive us when we reject your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

God planted a vineyard, he built a tower, and spared no expense. What a surprise that when God came to look for fruit and found only the rotten fruit of injustice and unrighteousness. We are warned, wherever the gospel is despised, the outcry of injustice is heard, and God's judgment is never far behind.

I will sing about the one I love,
a song about my loved one's vineyard:
The one I love had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He broke up the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted it with the finest vines.
He built a tower in the middle of it
and even dug out a winepress there.
He expected it to yield good grapes,
but it yielded worthless grapes.

³So now, residents of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
please judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more could I have done for my vineyard
than I did?

Why, when I expected a yield of good grapes,
did it yield worthless grapes?

⁵Now I will tell you
what I am about to do to my vineyard:
I will remove its hedge,
and it will be consumed;
I will tear down its wall,
and it will be trampled.

⁶I will make it a wasteland.
It will not be pruned or weeded;
thorns and briars will grow up.
I will also give orders to the clouds
that rain should not fall on it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of Armies
is the house of Israel,
and the men^[a] of Judah,
the plant he delighted in.
He expected justice
but saw injustice;

he expected righteousness
but heard cries of despair.

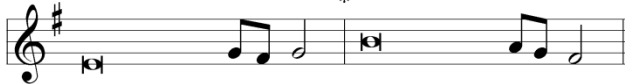
PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 118, p. 108

Refrain



Psalm tone



The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.
The LORD's right hand is lifted high;
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!
I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning.

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:12-21

God is so loving that he has already given us salvation. Paul encourages us to live up to what we already have.

¹²Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not^[a] consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, ¹⁴I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly^[b] call in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Therefore, let all of us who are mature think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this also to you. ¹⁶In any case, we should live up to whatever truth we have attained. ¹⁷Join in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and pay careful attention to those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For I have often told you, and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame; and they are focused on earthly things. ²⁰Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Hebrews 2:12

Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia. (Hebrews 2:12)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-43

In the parable of the tenants the Lord shows incredible patience with those who abuse their responsibility to care for the Lord's Church. God rightfully insists on fruits. But each of his messengers met with harsh rejection until, finally, the Son is murdered. Those who have rejected their Savior, Jesus Christ, will be destroyed, and God will give the kingdom to others who will produce fruit.

³³ “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner, who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it to tenant farmers and went away. ³⁴ When the time came to harvest fruit, he sent his servants to the farmers to collect his fruit. ³⁵ The farmers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Again, he sent other servants, more than the first group, and they did the same to them. ³⁷ Finally, he sent his son to them. “They will respect my son,” he said.

³⁸ “But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those farmers?”

⁴¹ “He will completely destroy those terrible men,” they told him, “and lease his vineyard to other farmers who will give him his fruit at the harvest.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.^[a]
This is what the Lord has done
and it is wonderful in our eyes?^[b]

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to
a people producing its fruit.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

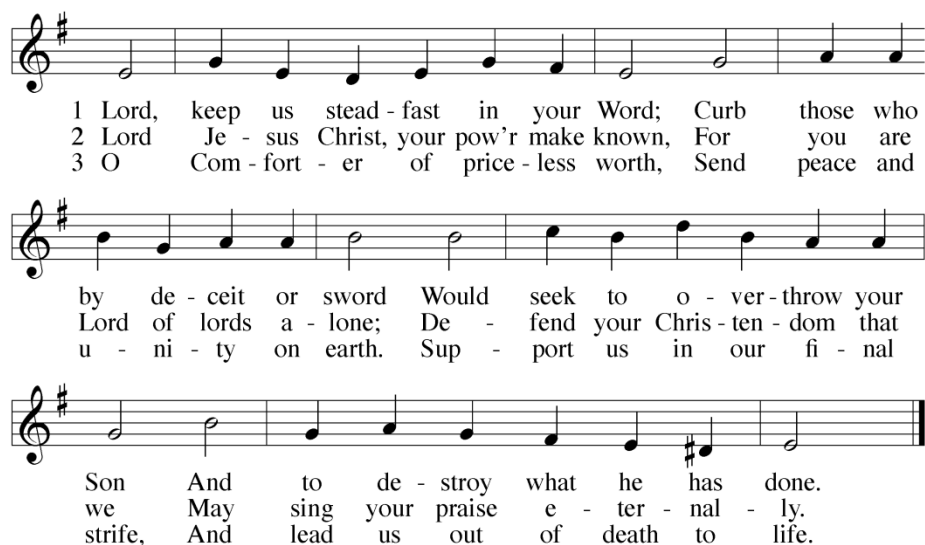


HYMN OF THE DAY

REFORMATION

203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg*, Wittenberg, 1543, alt.

SERMON

Isaiah 5:1-7

Having heard the Word of God, we confess our faith in His name. The creed is our saying back to God what He has first said to us. In the Creed we acclaim the truth of the triune God and His work of salvation accomplished for us in His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation,

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory

**to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

Dt. 6:4

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

Col. 1:16

1 Cor 8:6

Jn. 3:16

Heb. 1:2,5

Jn. 1

Jn. 10:30

Jn. 1:3

1 Th. 5:9

Jn. 6:38

Lk. 1:35

Gal. 4:4

Mk. 15:15

1 Cor. 15:3-4a

1 Cor. 15:4b

Ac. 2:33-34

Heb. 1:13

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

Lk. 1:33

Job 33:4

Jn. 15:26

Jn. 4:24

2 Pet. 1:25

*The Nicene Creed
is the great
Confession of the
Christian faith
professed by
all Christians.
The Creed
originated at the
First Council of
Nicaea (c. AD.
325)*

*The Creed itself
was crafted as a
confession of
Scripture in
opposition to the
Arian heresy,
which denied
that the Lord
Jesus and the
Holy Spirit are
God.*

**We believe in one holy Christian
and apostolic Church.**

Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. *Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38*

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

1 Cor. 15:21-22

Rev. 22

OFFERING

In response to God's love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

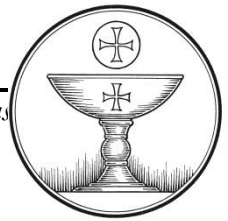
LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

C: 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.

The Service of the Sacrament

This greeting marks a new service, so to speak. These ancient introductory words & phrases highlight, celebrate and bring attention to the Sacrament.



M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

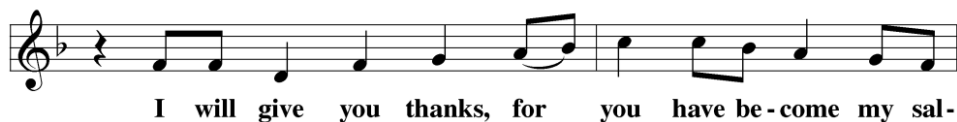
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. *In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.* Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who

sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - *Sanctus*



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22

M: 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,

The Words of institution both proclaim the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper.

“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.”

PEACE OF THE LORD – *Pax Domini*

John 20:19

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD – *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



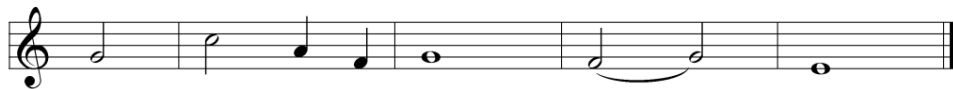
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



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



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: “*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*” (1 Corinthians 11:28)

*Christ Lutheran Church confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Close Communion**. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord’s Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.*

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through

Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord
with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

457 Fight the Good Fight

457

Fight the Good Fight



1 Fight the good fight With all your might;
 2 Run the straight race Through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a - side, Lean on your guide;
 4 Faint not nor fear; His arms are near.



Christ is your strength and Christ your light.
 Lift up your eyes and seek his face.
 His bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.
 He chang - es not, and you are dear.



Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;
 Lean, and the trust - ing soul shall prove
 On - ly be - lieve, and you will see



Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life and Christ its love.
 That Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–75, alt.

Tune: MENDON (448 88) *The Methodist Harmonist*, New York, 1821.



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