

The Holy Gospel

John 15:1-11

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

The Apostles' Creed (p. 159)

The Hymn of the Day: 655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

The Homily

Offerings are not gathered during Service. While Pastor Messer prepares the Table for the Holy Supper, you may spend time prayerfully preparing to receive the Blessed Sacrament (you may wish to read through Luther's “Christian Questions . . .” on pp. 329-330). If you wish to leave an offering, you may do so by placing it in the plate by the door as you depart after Service.

The Prayer of the Church

☞ Lord, in Your mercy, **☛** hear our prayer.

The Service of the Sacrament

(Communicants are to be in full confessional fellowship with the LCMS)

The Preface - Agnus Dei (pp. 160-163)

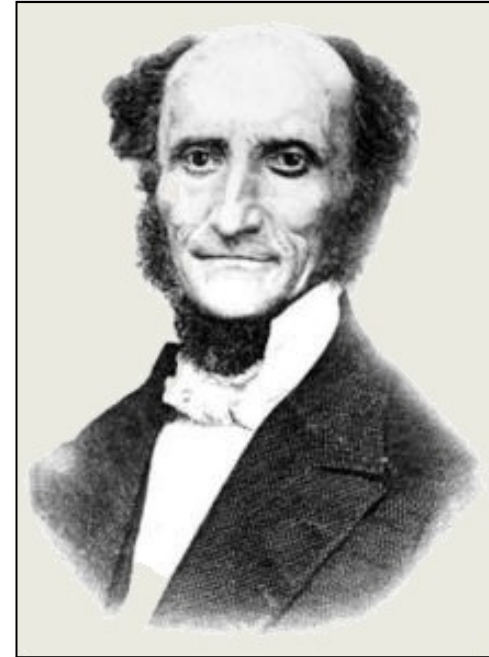
The Distribution

The Nunc Dimittis - Benediction (p. 165)

Soli Deo Gloria!

The Commemoration of C.F.W. Walther, Theologian

18 May Anno † Domini 2011 (Observed)



Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther (1811-87), the father of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, emigrated from Saxony, Germany, with other Lutherans in 1839 and settled in Missouri. He served as pastor of several congregations in St. Louis, founded Concordia Seminary, and in 1847 was instrumental in the formation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (then called the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States). Walther served as the Synod's first president from 1847 to 1850 and again from 1864 to 1878. Walther worked tirelessly to promote confessional Lutheran teaching and doctrinal agreement among all Lutherans in the United States. He was a prolific writer and speaker, and among his most influential works are Church and Ministry and The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel.

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DIVINE SERVICE 1, PAGE 151

The Service of Preparation

(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

Confession and Absolution (p. 151)

The Service of the Word

The Introit

Ps. 89:1, 5, 15-16; antiphon: 119:46

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O LORD,]
and shall not be put to shame.

**I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all
generations.**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,
who exult in your name all the day
and in your righteousness are exalted.**

**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.**

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O LORD,]
and shall not be put to shame.

The Kyrie (p. 152-53)

The Gloria in Excelsis (p. 154)

The Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 156)

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers, like C.F.W. Walther, whom we commemorate today, to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may remain steadfast therein and be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6-11

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

The Gradual

Rom. 10:15b, 18b; Is. 52:7b, alt.

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news,
who publish peace and bring good news of salvation.

**Their voice has gone out to all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world.**

The Epistle

Romans 10:5-17

⁵For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

The Alleluia and Verse - Common (p. 156)