

**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

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## As We Gather

How disappointed God was with His people, over and over again! He had prepared the Promised Land and brought them out of Egypt to inhabit it. Yet, long before He let outsiders destroy it, the people—the vines in His vineyard—were producing “wild grapes,” according to Isaiah. And when the vineyard owner’s son came to receive good wine, they would have nothing to do with him. Jesus spells all that out in a parable. But the death of the Son is what produces life for all who call on Him in faith. Knowing Christ, as Paul proclaims, is all that matters. Everything else is rubbish. It wasn’t easy for Paul to say, and it isn’t easy for us to live, but nourished by Word and Sacrament, we can press on toward the upward call of our Savior, who awaits us in His eternal vineyard.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

4 – God Himself Is Present

#### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

#### Opening Sentences

Isaiah 5:1, 7; Philippians 3:5–7

**P** Isaiah wrote, “Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning His vineyard.”

**C** And he continued, “The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant planting.”

**P** Paul wrote that he considered himself, “as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless.”

**C** But he continued, “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

#### Confession and Absolution

Is 5:4; 1 Jn 1:9; Ps 80:7; Phil 3:9, 12

**P** Although God had done everything needed for His vineyard, “When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?”

- C** Although our Lord Jesus did everything needed for us to be His pleasant planting today, we confess that we have not valued His sacrifice for us above all else. We have considered the things around us and our very selves to be our possessions. We have thought, spoken, and acted for our own interests. We have neglected to press on, responding to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. We have no righteousness of our own for which God might listen to us.
- P** If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- C** Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
- P** Paul wrote of his own struggle: “Not that I have already obtained [the resurrection] or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own.” You are not your own; you were bought with a price: the life, sufferings, and death of our Savior. Moreover, God has bestowed on you the righteousness “which comes through faith in Christ.” Therefore, as His called servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## ✠ The Service of the Word ✠

### Introit

Psalm 118:22-24

- P** The stone that the builders rejected
- C** has become the cornerstone.
- P** This is the LORD’s doing;
- C** it is marvelous in our eyes.
- P** This is the day that the LORD has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son
- C** and to the Holy Spirit
- P** as it was in the beginning,
- C** is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy  
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us.

## Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo-ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of  
Lord Je-sus Christ, the Fa-ther's on-ly Son, You  
A-lone, O Christ, You on-ly are the Lord, At  
heav'n-ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor-ship  
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of  
God's right hand in maj-es-ty most high: Who, with the  
You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al-  
God, Your glo-rious vic-t'ry won, Re-ceive our  
Spir-it wor-shipped and a-dored, With all the  
might-y Fa-ther, heav'n-ly King.  
prayer, grant us Your peace with-in.  
heav'n-ly host we glo-ri-fy.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

<sup>4</sup> If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 80:7-19

**P** Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C** let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**P** You brought a vine out of Egypt;

**C** you drove out the nations and planted it.

**P** You cleared the ground for it;

**C** it took deep root and filled the land.

**P** The mountains were covered with its shade,

**C** the mighty cedars with its branches.

**P** It sent out its branches to the sea

**C** and its shoots to the River.

**P** Why then have you broken down its walls,

**C** so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

- P** The boar from the forest ravages it,  
**C** **and all that move in the field feed on it.**  
**P** Turn again, O God of hosts!  
**C** **Look down from heaven, and see;**  
**P** have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted,  
**C** **and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.**  
**P** They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;  
**C** **may they perish at the rebuke of your face!**  
**P** But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,  
**C** **the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!**  
**P** Then we shall not turn back from you;  
**C** **give us life, and we will call upon your name!**  
**P** Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!  
**C** **Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-46

<sup>33</sup> “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. <sup>34</sup> When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup> And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup> And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup> When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup> They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “ ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? <sup>43</sup> Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup> And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” <sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

## Alleluia

**P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are  
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the  
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

## Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

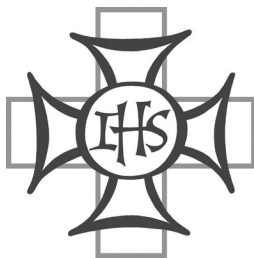
I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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

760 – Oh, Love, How Deep



# Sermon Text

Isaiah 5:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. <sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. <sup>3</sup> And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? <sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. <sup>6</sup> I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. <sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!



*Sermon*

## Remember Who Your God Is

### Offertory

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly  
 Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -



va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

**Hymn**

473 (1-2, 4-5) – The Church's One Foundation

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn**

442 (2)

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,  
 free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy  
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
 Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

**General Prayer**

# The Lord's Prayer

**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.

## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## Hymn

423 (1-3, 6) – Jesus, I My Cross have Taken

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## ✠ Announcements ✠

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### Upcoming Schedule

October 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
October 15	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
	11:15 am	Board of Trustees/Church Council
October 22	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

**Upcoming Meetings:** The following is our schedule of meetings through the annual meeting in January:

- **October 15** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **November 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **November 19** – Board of Education
- **December 3** – Board of Elders/Church Council
- **December 17** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 7** – Annual Voters' Meeting

**MDF Shortage:** When the convention approved the calling of our third foreign missionary, it determined that the funding of that missionary would come fully from the MDF for the first year. The cost of funding that missionary is about \$80,000 and has had an impact on other planned MDF projects. Currently the balance of the MDF is enough to cover the cost of our third foreign missionary for the rest of this fiscal year and a few other essential projects, but without additional funds, we will not be able to fund other planned projects. We have already put a hold on all other projects including all funding of Bibles and other Christian literature, church building assistance, and many planned outreach projects. We pray that the members of the CLC will remember this work in their prayers and their offerings that we might continue to carry out the work the LORD has set before us and which we have decided to do as a church body.

**Nominations for Immanuel Professor Call:** The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created by the retirement of Professor Mark Kranz at the end of the 2023-24 academic year. The position would be best served by someone who is teacher trained and has the ability to teach high school (if nominee is male or female) and college classes (if nominee is male) primarily in social studies (history/geography), elementary education methods, and other potential disciplines commencing with the 2024-25 academic year. Those submitting nominations would need to include information regarding the nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in technology expertise, extracurricular activities, or administrative positions. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight November 20, 2023 (letters postmarked November 10, 2023) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: [jeb6217@yahoo.com](mailto:jeb6217@yahoo.com).

**Nominations for ILC President:** The Board of Regents invites nominations for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College. The current term of Professor Daniel Schierenbeck concludes on June 30, 2024. All pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the CLC are entitled to nominate a man from the faculty of Immanuel Lutheran College to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2024. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight November 20, 2023 (letters postmarked November 10, 2023) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

**2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip:** Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Find more information and apply online: [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org)

**CLC Call News:** Pastor Neal Radichel of Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN is considering the call from Messiah Lutheran of Eau Claire, WI to be their third pastor. <> Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran in Batavia, IL is considering the joint call from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter’s Lutheran of Iron River, MI.

<b>Fruits of Faith</b>	<b>October 1, 2023</b>	<b>WH: 44</b>
Immanuel Home		\$1,519.25
Tuition Grant		\$50.00
Property Improvement Fund		\$100.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,669.25</b>

## ✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

October 9 - October 14

**Monday: Mark 10:17-23** – To Jesus comes a young man who thinks he has kept all the commandments, and is ready to do more. Jesus shows him that his riches still occupy a place in his heart that belongs to God according to the very first commandment.

**Tuesday: Mark 10:24-27** – The disciples are astonished at Jesus' suggestion that earthly riches can be a problem for entering the kingdom of God. "What hope is there then?" No hope except that God would bring us in (v27).

**Wednesday: James 2:10-13** – In case we thought that keeping one commandment would make up for breaking another, James points out that our only hope is in God's mercy, which sets us free from the judgment.

**Thursday: James 2:14-17** – Trusting God's mercy in Christ truly saves us, but if our "faith" is all talk and does not bear fruit in our lives, it is not really the trust that God works in the heart. The one who remains in Jesus bears much fruit (Jn 15:5).

**Friday: 2 Chronicles 1:7-12** – God offers Solomon anything he wants, and Solomon asks not for earthly riches but for wisdom and knowledge to serve well in his position in life. God is pleased and will also give him the lesser gift of earthly wealth.

**Saturday: Proverbs 11:23-31** – At the heart of these proverbs about people's use of wealth is verse 28: "Whoever trusts his wealth will fall, but righteous people will flourish..." The greatest wealth is not the earthly riches but the righteousness that God gives us in Christ.





...pray for us, that the word of the Lord  
may run swiftly  
and be glorified...  
2 Thessalonians 3:1



**Myanmar** (Southeast Asia) – A recent email was received from Pastor Thang letting us know that Pastor Kham was injured by bomb shrapnel from an early morning attack near the CLC-Myanmar headquarters and orphanage. He was treated for head and shoulder injuries and is expected to be released soon. There was also an incident with Pastor Kham's wife, Huai. As military forces stopped and interrogated her as she returned from the market, they searched her phone. They found chats and memes critical of the Junta. She was arrested and spent a few days in jail while Pastors Thang and Kham went to friends and relatives to borrow money for her release. She is safely home now, but they now have approx. \$1000 in debt. **Thank the Lord** for sparing the life of our brother in Christ, and ask for strength and courage as he heals. **Pray** for strength and courage for Hui as she deals with the emotional and physical trauma of her arrest. **Pray for the children** Pastor Kham and Hui care for as they live in constant fear of military attack and now also the fear of losing those who love and care for them. **Continue to Pray** for justice and peace for all the people of Myanmar. **Pray** especially for our brothers and sisters in Christ that our Savior will give them strength, comfort, courage, and boldness during these difficult times and that He will provide for all their needs. **Thank the Lord** for moving the hearts of His children to give generously to the needs of others through their offerings and prayers.

**Kate Sauers** (USA) – Kate is the wife of Board of Missions member Pastor Rob Sauers. She was diagnosed with ALK-positive large-cell lymphoma cancer this past week. She is scheduled to begin chemotherapy on Monday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kate and Pastor Sauers have three small children. **Please pray** that our Lord will give wisdom to her doctors as they treat her cancer. **Ask the Lord** to bless those treatments and grant complete and quick healing. **Pray for** courage, comfort, hope, strength, and trust in our Savior's love and plans for their family.

**Zambia** (East Africa) – Pastor Ibrahim was bitten on the leg by a scorpion while traveling to his native Tanzania a few weeks ago. He became very ill and has received treatment for several weeks in the hospital. For the past year, pastors from other churches in Zambia have been causing problems for Pastor Ibrahim and have involved the Zambian immigration department, accusing him of living and working illegally in Zambia. His trip to Tanzania was to get the appropriate paperwork from the government to allow him to apply for a permanent worker visa. **Pray for** continued healing and a full recovery. **Ask for the Lord's blessings** on Ibrahim's immigration issues and that He would turn the hearts of those trying to harm Ibrahim away from jealousy to repentance and love.

**The Philippines** (Southeast Asia) – Pastor Andrew Schaller (CLC Bd of Doctrine Secretary) continues the colloquy with Pastor Jordan Palangyos and the Lutheran Autonomous Mission in the Philippines (LAMP) via email correspondence. **Pray** that the Lord will bless the colloquy and that this will lead to a God-pleasing unity of faith and teaching. **Ask the Lord** to provide opportunities and all that is necessary for Pastor Jordan to continue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

**Pakistan** – Pastor Tim Daub continues to teach online video Bible lessons to two groups of Christians who are eager to start a Lutheran church in Pakistan. The Board of Missions has authorized Missionary Ohlmann to accompany Pastor Daub on a visit to Pakistan in 2024. With the upcoming elections in Pakistan and due to safety concerns surrounding it, there is some uncertainty about when this trip will occur. **Pray that the Lord will continue to bless** the teaching and learning of His word. **Thank our Savior** for this opportunity and the technology to proclaim the truth of His word in such a way.

**Bangladesh** (Southeast Asia) – Many Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM) members are newly converted to Christianity from Islam or Hinduism. Since Pastor Monotosh is the only thoroughly trained and ordained pastor of the BLCM, he stays

very busy traveling throughout the thirteen congregations he has started to provide ongoing Bible training to the members, lay leaders, evangelists, and pastors in training. **Ask our Savior** to continue to bless both the preaching and learning of God's word in Bangladesh and to provide all that is necessary for the ministry of the BLCM.

**Nepal** (Southeast Asia) – Pastor Raju and his father plan to begin outreach efforts in some of Nepal's far-flung and mostly unreached regions in the coming months. Partial funding for this effort has been approved by the CLC Board of Missions through an MDF grant when funds are available. **Pray for the Lord's blessings** on these efforts and that His word will accomplish that for which it is sent that many will be led by the Spirit to repent and trust in their Savior Jesus.

**Mission Development Fund** – CLC president Mike Wilke writes: *"When the convention approved the calling of our third foreign missionary, it determined that the funding of that missionary would come fully from the MDF for the first year. The cost of funding that missionary is about \$80,000 and has impacted other planned MDF projects. Currently, the balance of the MDF is enough to cover the cost of our third foreign missionary for the rest of this fiscal year and a few other essential projects, but without additional funds, we will not be able to fund other planned projects. We have already put a hold on all other projects, including funding Bibles and other Christian literature, church-building assistance, and many planned outreach projects. Pray that the members of the CLC will remember this work in their prayers and their offerings so that we might continue to carry out the work the LORD has set before us and which we have decided to do as a church body."*

**Missionary Bruce Naumann** (Tanzania-East Africa) – Missionary Naumann, along with his wife Paula, arrived in Tanzania about five weeks ago after his furlough in the U.S. The new semester at the Wittenberg Lutheran Theological Seminary began shortly after his arrival. In addition to his teaching responsibilities at the seminary, he will also begin taking a more active role in correspondence and training pastors in Kenya and Uganda. You can keep updated on things happening in Tanzania at [clc-tz.blogspot.com](http://clc-tz.blogspot.com). **Ask for the Lord's blessings** as Missionary Naumann and Paula continue to adjust to life in Africa. Pray for our Savior's abundant blessings on the work of training pastors, teachers, and leaders in Tanzania.

**Missionary Peter Evensen** (Togo-West Africa) – Missionary Evensen is in Togo, where he continues his work of translating lessons from English to French for use in the local seminary and for other French-speaking seminaries in Africa. He also teaches two days weekly at the CLC-affiliated seminary north of Lomé. **Pray for our Savior's blessings** on his work of helping to train faithful preachers, teachers, and leaders for the Gospel work in Togo and other French-speaking African nations.

**Missionary Ohlmann** – Due to various issues and the current political climate in Nigeria, Missionary Ohlmann's visit to Africa this fall has been postponed to early 2024. Instead, he will travel to Japan, Bangladesh, and Nepal in the last few months of 2023. In Japan, he will meet with the current pastor, who serves the congregation once in fellowship with the CLC. He will spend approx. three weeks in both Bangladesh, visiting congregations and preaching stations and conducting a five-day Pastoral Training Seminar. In Nepal, he will visit new outreach areas in western provinces, conduct a Pastoral Training seminar, and attend the Himalayan Bible Institute graduation. **Pray for** all that is necessary for these trips to be planned and take place. **Ask the Lord** to keep his wife Beth and their family safe while he is away. **Pray for** the Lord's love, wisdom, patience, and zeal during these visits that His name be glorified as the truth of His saving word is proclaimed and pastors are trained. You can read his blog at: [missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com](http://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com)

**Ongoing Opportunities** – please continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who, by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sent it.

That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:2



