



Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



December 2021
January 2022

If God Himself Be for Me Lutheran Service Book #724

If God Himself be for me,
I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master,
Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?

I build on this foundation,
That Jesus and His blood
Alone are my salvation,
My true, eternal good.
Without Him all that pleases
Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I have from Jesus
Alone have priceless worth.

No danger, thirst, or hunger,
No pain or poverty,
No earthly tyrant's anger
Shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder,
My fortress You shall be;
No fire or sword or thunder
Shall sever You from me.

My heart with joy is springing;
I am no longer sad.
My soul is filled with singing;
Your sunshine makes me glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit
Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit
Makes me rejoice and sing.

Paul Gerhardt
(1607-1676)



**“... and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us
from all sin.” 1 John 1:7**

Dale has a problem with his blood. He has multiple myeloma – a sort of bone marrow cancer. (Please do not correct us; just let us make our point.) As medical laymen, we do not understand all the ins and outs of what the disease is, just that it can be fatal if left untreated. So, we are heading home in order to receive treatment and, if it is God's will, a healing of Dale's blood.

Blood is a universal truth. Everybody has it. In fact, if you run out of it, you die. That is because blood carries oxygen, nutrients, and other needed items – both coming and going. So, diseases of the blood are serious business! Better get those cured or at least in remission.

How different is the blood of Jesus. Recently, in an online blog by a Christian, the argument was made that we get too hung up on the blood of Christ, especially in our hymnody. What a strange observation, especially when you consider the blood of all those sacrifices and the blood that hallowed God's people. (There are 85 references to blood in Leviticus alone!) There is John's reference to the flood of blood and water that came from the side of the dead Christ. And John in his greetings to the seven churches in the Revelation says: *To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ... be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen* (Rev. 1:5-6 ESV.)

It is Christ's blood that sees us through all our trials. It assures us of heaven. It helps us take our stand against all evil that may come against us. It is the cure that every sinner needs; because, by it, we are cleansed from all sin. And so, the Lord speaks to us: *“Take, drink”*

The blood of Jesus is a purifying flood. That is what we have been sent to proclaim as the great medicine for every person. And though we may have to go home for a while, we are going to keep proclaiming it. We will still be teaching it online, and we will still be seeing to its proclamation from the pulpit at St. Michael the Archangel in Prague. But who knows whom the Lord will put on our path? Perhaps, there is a member of our medical team who needs to hear about this blood. Perhaps, it is people we will meet in waiting rooms. It can be whomever and wherever the Lord leads us. We may not know where the road passes through, and we do not know what will be along the way. But the road that God puts every Christian on is the road that leads to His eternal and glorious kingdom where we will meet the One who shed His blood for us. Thanks be to God!



We thank the Lord for all of the people and ministries that support us. This month, we especially give thanks for:

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Pt. Pleasant, NJ

Grace Lutheran
LeMars, IA

Bethlehem Lutheran
Jacksonville Beach, FL

Please, pray for Dale as he goes through medical treatments.

Please, pray for our new missionary in the Czech Republic, Hayden, that she might settle into her work.

Please, pray for our regional director, Rev. James Krikava.

Please, pray for Dale's mom, Marcia, whose cancer is now untreatable and is in a residential facility.

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download the application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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Christmas at St. Michael

It has become a bit of a tradition for our congregation on Christmas Eve and Day that our members, Sam and Anna, offer special music during the Divine Service. We also, just like in America, light candles and sing *Silent Night*. It is always a bit of home for those of us who are from the United States. But even more so, it

gives us a chance to shine the Light of Christ into this dark world.

Pastors' Meeting in Wittenberg, Germany

Three of us pastors – Gary Schuschke in Frankfurt, Christian Tiews in Hamburg, and I – were able to gather for a pastors' winkle meeting. We studied the Scriptures and the Schmalkald Articles as well as enjoyed some good fellowship. The meeting finished with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We used to do this regularly, but Covid put an end to it for a while. We were so happy to restart them. We will bring in another pastor who was unable to travel right now, and we will reach out to some LCMS military chaplains to join us. It is so encouraging to be with these fellow soldiers of the cross.



Missionary Get-Together

After all the busyness that fills the time right before Christmas Day, some of the missionaries in both Germany and the Czech Republic were able to share a Christmas meal and to spend some time in fellowship. The next morning, we celebrated the Lord's Supper. It is such a blessing to see each other!

While we are home, Dale will still be serving as much as his health allows. He will still teach Bible study and Catechism through the internet. And he will be writing sermons to be used at St. Michael. So, please remember, we are not on vacation. We still need your prayers and support.

We pray God's blessings on all of you,
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster – Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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P.O. Box 66861
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Czech Republic," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/kaster.

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