



HYMN OF THE DAY

*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Hymn 516

SERMON

Choices

Matthew 24:45–51

CATECHISM

Seventh and Eighth Commandments

LSB p. 321

CREED (8:00 only)

Nicene Creed

p. 174

BLESSING OF OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES

Beloved in the Lord, Christ our Lord commended the giving of gifts of mercy to the poor and needy, saying, “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

**P** Furthermore, the Apostle Paul reminds us:

**C** “**For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**P** that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor,

**C** **so that you by His poverty might become rich.”**

**P** Out of this richness, our Lord calls us to give, as the Apostle also says,

**C** “**God loves a cheerful giver.**

**P** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times,

**C** **you may abound in every good work.**

**P** As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor;

**C** **His righteousness endures forever.”**

As the Lord has taught us in His holy Word that everything is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer, it is fitting that we bless and sanctify these Operation Christmas Child boxes to be distributed to children around the world who are poor and in need.

**P** Let us pray:

O God, You have directed us to bring offerings for Your glory, and gifts of mercy for the poor, out of love for You and for our neighbor, because in Christ You first loved us. We implore You to ✠ bless these Operation Christmas Child boxes. Grant that they may reflect our love for You and for our neighbor, bringing joy and blessing to those who receive them, as we rejoice to bring them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING (8:00)

*You’re Worthy of My Praise*

arr. Peggy Bettcher

Bell Choir

(10:30)

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

Rodger Kalbfleisch

OFFERTORY

p. 176

