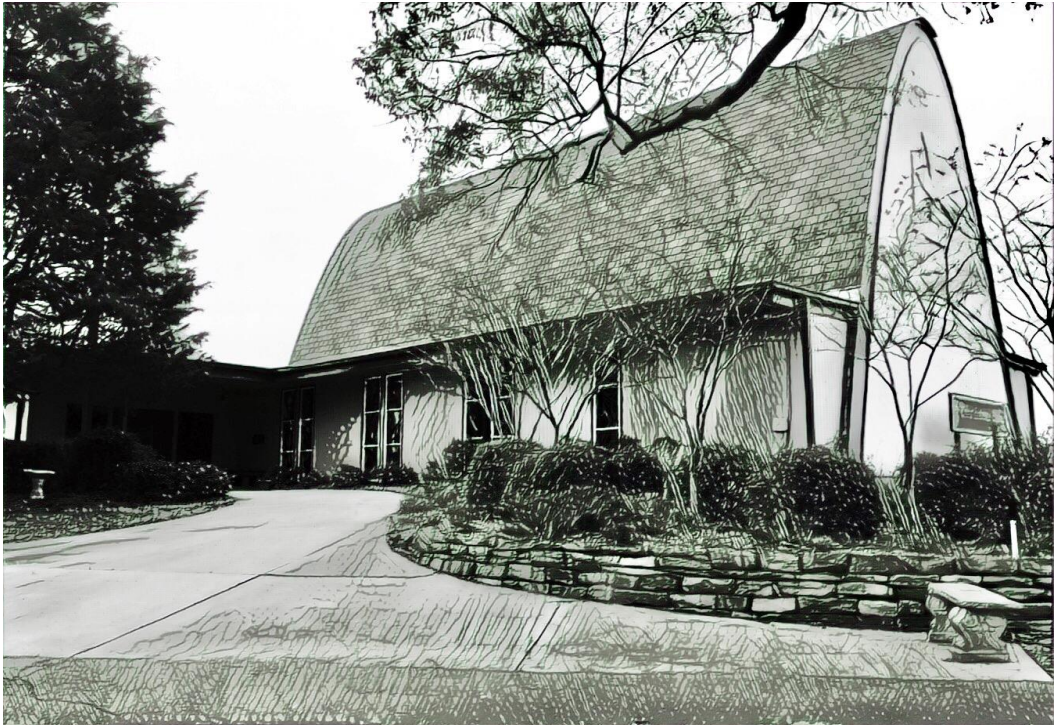


# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Rev. Dr. James R. Holowach, Pastor**

**Rev. George N. Fields, Pastor**

**Sr. Sara E. Fields, Deaconess**

Divine Service Each Week with Holy Communion: **10:30 a.m.**

Sunday School for all ages: **9:00 a.m.**

4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102 – (601) 366-2055

**[www.christlutheranjacksonms.org](http://www.christlutheranjacksonms.org)**

**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**+ September 27, 2020 +**

***“Returning to the Vineyard”***



We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today,  
and pray God’s richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

*All members and our guests are asked to complete the  
worship attendance pads which can be found on each pew.  
Guests are also asked to sign the guest register found in the Narthex.  
We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today!*

*LARGE PRINT worship folders are available  
at the usher stand at the back of the nave.*

**WELCOME:**

“How can we avoid the rebelliousness of the first son and the hypocrisy of the second son in today’s parable? The answer lies in the third Son, the One who is not a character in the parable but is instead the narrator – Jesus, the Son of God.”

–Francis C Rossow, “Gospel Handles,” CPH, 2001

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper (*Holy Communion*), it is important that we review and understand what the Bible teaches regarding this sacrament:

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion<sup>1</sup>, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins<sup>2</sup>, and strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal<sup>3</sup>. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

**Do I believe that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins?**

**Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?**

**Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?**

**Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?**

According to Christ's Word in the Holy Scriptures, and in confession with the true Christian faith, at Christ Lutheran we observe the practice of closed communion. We believe that all who commune must confess the same holy faith, as Holy Scripture teaches. Since one's church affiliation indicates an individual's confession of faith, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the above teaching **and** are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod commune. If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold a different confession of faith<sup>4</sup>, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

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<sup>1</sup>Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

<sup>2</sup>Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

<sup>3</sup>1 Corinthians 11:28-32

<sup>4</sup>1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

# DIVINE SERVICE III

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

*The congregation may use this time to pray and meditate.*

## OPENING HYMN

**Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

**#345**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

PSALM: AD TE, DOMINE, LEVAVI

*Psalm 25:1-10; Ant. Psalm 25:4*



Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\*  
teach me | your paths.

**To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.\***

**O my God, in | you I trust;**

let me not be | put to shame;\*

let not my enemies exult | over me.

**Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame;\***  
**they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.**

Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\*  
teach me | your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my sal- | vation;\***  
**for you I wait all the | day long.**

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your | steadfast love,\*  
for they have been | from of old.

**Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions;\***  
**according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness,**  
**| O LORD!**

Good and upright | is the LORD;\*  
therefore he instructs sinners | in the way.

**He leads the humble in | what is right,\***  
**and teaches the humble | his way.**

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and | faithfulness,\*  
for those who keep his covenant and his testi- | monies.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\*  
teach me | your paths.

# KYRIE

Mark 10:47

*The congregation is invited to sing in parts:*

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

# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

*The congregation is invited to sing in parts, which can be found on LSB page 187.*

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



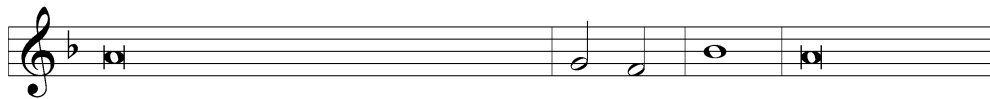
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



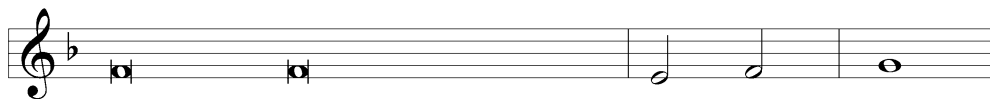
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Please be seated*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



## GRADUAL

*Psalm 91:11; 103:1*



**He will command his angels con- | cerning you\***  
**to guard you in | all your ways.**  
**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,\***  
**and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!**

## EPISTLE READING

*Philippians 2:1-18*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## ALLELUIA



☐ Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 21:23-32*

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Please be seated*

OFFICE HYMN

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

#704

SERMON

*Yes, Yes*

*Please stand*

NICENE CREED

**C** **I believe in one God,** (Rom 10:10; Deut 6:4)  
**the Father Almighty,** (Mt 6:9; Ex 6:3)  
**maker of heaven and earth** (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1)  
**and of all things visible and invisible.** (Col 1:16)  
**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,** (Rom 10:9)  
**the only-begotten Son of God,** (Jn 3:16; Mt 16:16)  
**begotten of His Father before all worlds,** (Jn 1:2)  
**God of God, Light of Light,** (Jn 17:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 1:1)  
**very God of very God,** (Col 2:9) **begotten, not made,** (Jn 1:2)  
**being of one substance with the Father,** (Jn 10:30)  
**by whom all things were made;** (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3)  
**who for us men and for our salvation** (1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23)  
**came down from heaven** (Jn 6:41; Lk 15:20)  
**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary** (Lk 1:34-35)  
**and was made man;** (Jn 1:14)  
**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.** (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18)  
**He suffered and was buried.** (Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53)  
**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures** (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6)  
**and ascended into heaven** (Acts 1:9)  
**and sits at the right hand of the Father.** (Acts 7:55)  
**And He will come again with glory** (Mt 26:64)  
**to judge both the living and the dead,** (Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12)  
**whose kingdom will have no end.** (2 Pt 1:11)  
**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,** (Jn 14:26; Gen 1:2; Acts 2:38)  
**the Lord and giver of life,** (Gen 1:2; Jn 3:6)  
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,** (Jn 15:26)  
**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,** (Mt 3:16-17)  
**who spoke by the prophets.** (Eze 11:5)  
**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,** (1 Pt 2:5; Eph 2:19-22)  
**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,** (Eph 4:5)  
**and I look for the resurrection of the dead** (1 Cor 15:35-49; 1 Thess 4:13-18)

**and the life † of the world to come.** (Mk 10:29-30; Mt 10:40-42)

**Amen.** (Ps 106:48)

*Us men* means all people.

*Christian:* the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition of the prayer:*

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*For comfort, health and recovery:* **Martha Barker, Doug Gilmore, Donna Goldsmith, Mary Holowach, Callen Parker, Noah Schultz, Kenny Solheim, John Unger, Ronnie Willis;**

*For those who mourn:* The family and friends of **Marion Wassum;**

*For those who are ill or distressed:* **Stan Acey, Jenalee Adams, Kimberly Airhart, Layne Bagley, Rose Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Mimi Bradley, Richard Bradley, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Tina Burke, Wayne Burke, Paula Burkhalter, Bobby Carroll, Arthur Collins, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Michele Rae Fowler, Randy Fowler, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Paul Hansen, Tim Hansen, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, Beth Jarratt, Jimmy Jarratt, Elaine Johnson, Joslyn Jones, Steve Kennedy, Arlene Kleinschmidt, Eleanor Koster, John Koster, Sandra Landers, Katelyn Lawing, Peggy Lucky, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Jerry McMahan, Mark Millard, Edlia Miller, Mark Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Lindberg Moore, Jerry Mutter, Don Ochs, Mildred Odom, Deborah-Annette Ried, Elmira Roever, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Johnnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sally Smith, Sam Schneider, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, MariLyn Unger, Betty Venator, Leonard Watson, Cynthia Widlitze, Carol Wright, Jimmy Wright, Marshall Wright, Barbara Zeigler;**

*For college and graduate students:* **Jake Everly, Sara Fields, Jonathan Kettler, Roselynn Nelson, Will Nelson;**

*For military servants and their families:* **Gabriel Escude, James (Glen) Hansford, Holden Hathcock, Christopher Martin, William Nelson, Steven Tatum, John Weidner Jr.;**

*For foreign missionaries:* **David and Shelee Warner;**

*This week's prayer family:* **Mark Ochs** and his loved ones.

*Please be seated*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*Psalm 51:10-12*

*The congregation is invited to sing in parts:*

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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**P** *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.*



**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

**P** The peace ✠ of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

## AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

*The congregation is invited to sing in parts.*

A two-staff musical score for the first system of Agnus Dei. The top staff is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time, featuring a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is in the same key and time, featuring a bass line of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: **C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

A two-staff musical score for the second system of Agnus Dei. The top staff is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time, featuring a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is in the same key and time, featuring a bass line of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that





tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Please be seated*

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to one of the pastors are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to a pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail and kneel, crossing one arm over the other in the shape of an 'X'. This symbolizes that one is marked by the cross and Triune name of Almighty God.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**All Christians Who Have Been Baptized**

**#596**

*Please stand following distribution of communion*

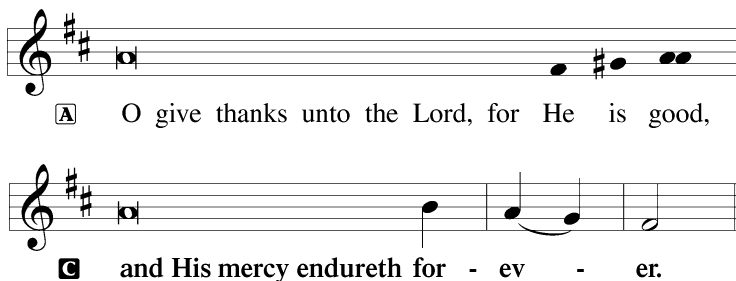
## NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

## THANKSGIVING



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**A** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## CLOSING HYMN

## Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Song

#812

### Acknowledgments

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## Serving Today:

**Celebrant:** Rev. James R. Holowach

**Acolyte:** James Hansford

**Interpreter:** Denee Smith

**Ushers:** Allen Goodlett, Eric Held; Bruce Bodkin, Mark Ochs

**Liturgist:** Rev. George Fields

**Organist:** Sr. Sara Fields

**Cantor:** Rachel Landrum

**No LifeLight this Week:** Take a quick breather this week – we are about to start another LifeLight Bible Study! Join us *next week* as we begin our new study on the book of Revelation.

**GSLs Oktoberfest:** Celebrate Oktoberfest with Good Shepherd Lutheran School! See this month's newsletter (or ask Sister Sara) for an order form, and send it to PO Box 5013, Brandon, MS 39047.

**Michaelmas, Corona-style:** Social distancing can't stop celebrating! Although we will not be together this year for the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (September 29<sup>th</sup>), we can celebrate together in spirit. Watch the Christ Lutheran Facebook page for traditions, recipes, and coloring pages to observe this special occasion!

**Readings for next Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:**  
Introit Ps. 118:22-24; Psalm 80:7-19; Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

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### *This week at Christ Lutheran Church: September 28 – October 4*

<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	Bible Study @ Christ Lutheran, Breakfast @ Broadstreet
	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Divine Service – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Service – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Journey through the Scriptures

**Matthew 21:26 – “But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd ...”**

Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God.