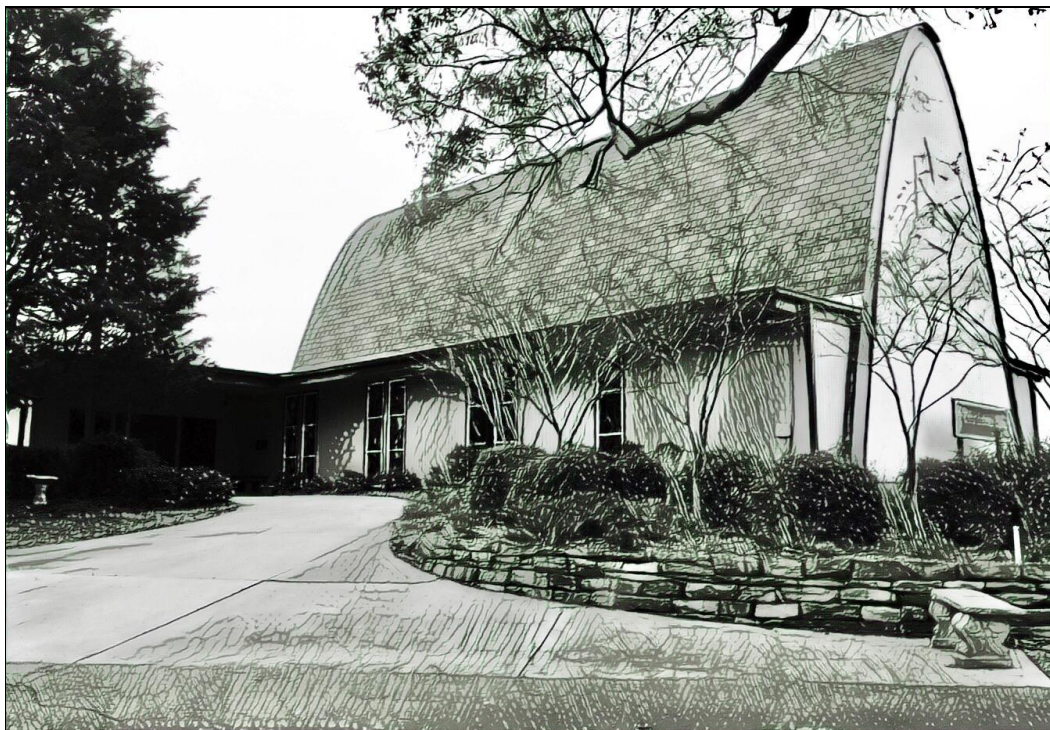


# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Rev. George Fields, Pastor**

**Sr. Sara Fields, Deaconess**

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

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

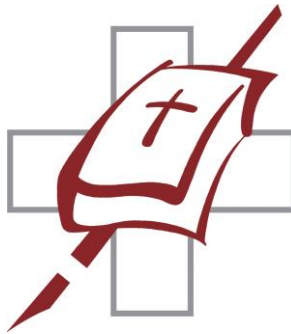
4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102 – (601) 366-2055

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

# THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

+ May 21, 2023 +

*“That They May Be One”*



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:**

“‘God’s name’ means: God present among men. It is said of the Temple in Jerusalem that God ‘made his name dwell’ there. Israel would never have dared to say simply: God lives there. Israel knew that God is infinitely great, that he surpasses and embraces the whole world. And yet he was truly present: he himself. That is what is meant by saying ‘He made his name to dwell there.’ He is truly present, yet remains infinitely greater and beyond our reach. Yet In Jesus, God gives himself entirely into the world of mankind: whoever sees Jesus, sees the Father.”

–Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*

# 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 II

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

*The congregation may use this time for prayer and meditation.*

## OPENING HYMN

**The Church's One Foundation**

**#644**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

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

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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

## INTROIT: IUBILATE DEO

*Psalm 100:1-5; Ant. Psalm 101:1*



I will sing of steadfast love and | justice; \*  
to you, O LORD, I will make | music.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth! \***

**Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with | singing!**

**Know that the LORD, | he is God! \***

**It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his |  
pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his | courts with praise! \*

Give thanks to him; | bless his name!

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for- | ever, \*

and his faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

**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.**

I will sing of steadfast love and | justice; \*

to you, O LORD, I will make | music.

## KYRIE

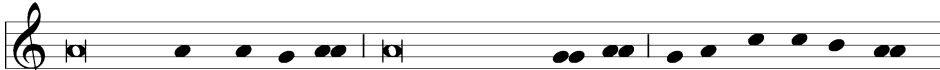
*Mark 10:47*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



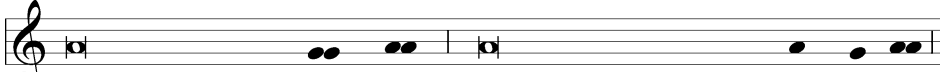
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



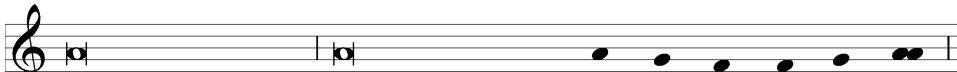
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



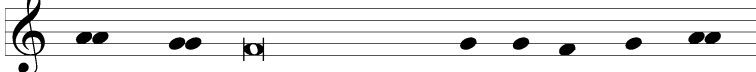
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## DIGNUS EST



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

*Please be seated*



## FIRST READING

*Acts 1:12-26*

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate,  
and let there be no one to dwell in it";

and

"Let another take his office.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

*Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7, Ps. 8:6*



**Christ has risen | from the dead.\***

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,  
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;\*  
he has put all things un- | der his feet.**

## EPISTLE

*1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand*

## ALLELUIA



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 17:1-11*

**P** The Holy ✠ Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



*Please be seated*

**OFFICE HYMN**

**At the Name of Jesus**

**#512**

**SERMON**

*Weaving a Story*

*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

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*After each petition of the prayer:*

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*For comfort, health and recovery:* **Barbara Glenn, Cathy McDonald, Mark Ochs, Alli Thomas, Donny Thomas, Leslie Thomas;**

*For those who mourn:* the family and friends of **Nancy Stowe;**

*For those who are ill or distressed:* **Stan Acey, Jenalee Adams, Layne Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Mimi Bradley, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Tina Burke, Wayne Burke, Bobby Carroll, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Randy Fowler, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Paul Hansen, Tim Hansen, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, Beth Jarratt, Joslyn Jones, Steve Kennedy, John Koster, Katelyn Lawing, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Jerry McMahan, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Mildred Odom, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Jonnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, Leonard Watson, Dana Weaver, Cynthia Widlitz, Carol Wright, Jimmy Wright, Marshall Wright, Barbara Zeigler;**

*For college and graduate students:* **Sara Fields, Will Nelson;**

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

*For foreign missionaries:* **especially Rev. Vance & Linda Becker;**

*This week's prayer family: Nancy Teal and her loved ones.*

*Please be seated*

## OFFERING

*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY



☐ What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

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



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al-so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



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



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
**†** Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28;*

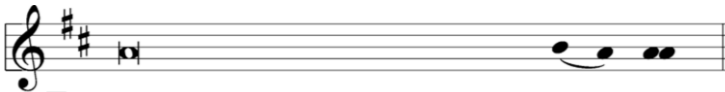
*Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**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 al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of  
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*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 the pastor are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to the 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

**Wide Open Stand the Gates**

**#639**

**Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus**

**#529**

**The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns**

**#532**

*Please stand following distribution of communion*

# NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32



**C** Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

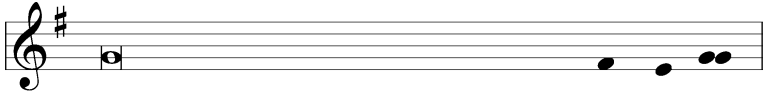
**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with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



**C** A - men.

## BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



## CLOSING HYMN

## Christ Is the World's Redeemer

#539

### Acknowledgments

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### Today's Worship Servants:

**Celebrant:** Rev. George Fields

**Acolyte:** Emma Agent

**Interpreter:** Denee Smith

**Altar Guild:** Mary Atchley

**Elder:** Keith Martin

**Organist:** Sr. Sara Fields

**Cantor:** Keith Martin

**Altar Flowers:** This morning's altar flowers are given for the glory of God the Yenish Family in thanksgiving for this congregation.

**May Voters Meeting:** Our annual May voters meeting will be held immediately following the Divine Service **today**. We will be voting on the slate of council officers for the year. Thank you for faithfully attending to this task!

**New Members Reception Today:** Today's fun doesn't end with the voters meeting! We are excited to officially welcome the Sumralls into our Christ Lutheran family – and what better way to welcome than with food! Join us for a cake reception directly after the voters meeting and introduce yourself to our newest members. We thank God for blessing us with Chase, Rebecca, and Charlie!

**Communio [Koinonia] Tonight:** Don't let the name fool you – as Koinonia and meet Gemutlichkeit together for a while, we will now be known as Communio! (It rolls off the tongue better than Koino-keit). Our exploration of various and sundry topics continues, as we gather **tonight** to discuss how the story of Christ is illustrated in the holy vessels and vestments of the church. Join us for food and fellowship at the Goodlett home this evening at 5:00!

**Final Feast:** The festival season of the Church year comes to a close with our celebration of the Feast of Pentecost next Sunday – fifty days after Easter. This feast begins the long “green” season of the same name: the Season of Pentecost, which is the time of the Church, wherein the Body of Christ grows (hence the color green!). Come then, join the Feast, and continue to grow into Christ our Lord!

**Readings for next Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Pentecost:**

Introit Ps. 104:24, 27-28, 30, Psalm 25:1-15; Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39.

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***This week at Christ Lutheran Church: May 22 – May 28***

**Friday**            **6:30 a.m.** Bible & Breaky  
**Sunday**            **9:00 a.m.** Sunday School for All Ages  
                          **10:30 a.m. Divine Service – The Feast of Pentecost**



**Issues, Etc.**<sup>™</sup>  
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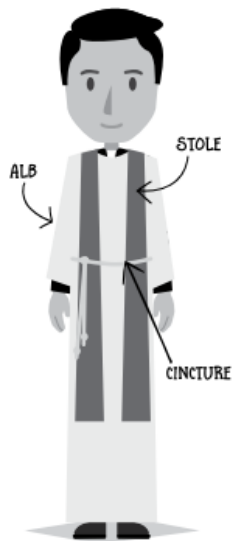
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Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to what you want when you want at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org). Simply click on “Listen”, choose “On Demand”, then select from the vast array of speakers and topics available in the archives.

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## What are “vestments”?

When you first see the pastor and his assistants in the Divine Service, what do you notice about them? They are wearing long robes and other unique garments. These are called “vestments.” The word “vestment” comes from the Latin word *vestmentum* which means “garment of office.” Vestments are garments worn by the pastor and the assistants during the Divine Service and other prayer offices.



## Why are vestments used?

A person’s vestment tells us about who they are and their role during the Divine Service. If you have two or more pastors, one may be dressed in vestments that mark him as the presiding minister. The other pastors may be dressed in vestments that mark them as assisting ministers. Vestments help to keep the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Sacraments in good order. Did you know that God’s people have been using vestments since Old Testament times? Wow! Vestments are great tools in the church!



**Parents:** Before the Divine Service, direct your child’s attention to the pastor’s vestments. What color are they? How are they different from what you are wearing? Be sure to let your child approach the pastor after church to ask him questions about the vestments.



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**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**  
4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102  
Church phone: (601) 366-2055  
**[www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org](http://www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org)**