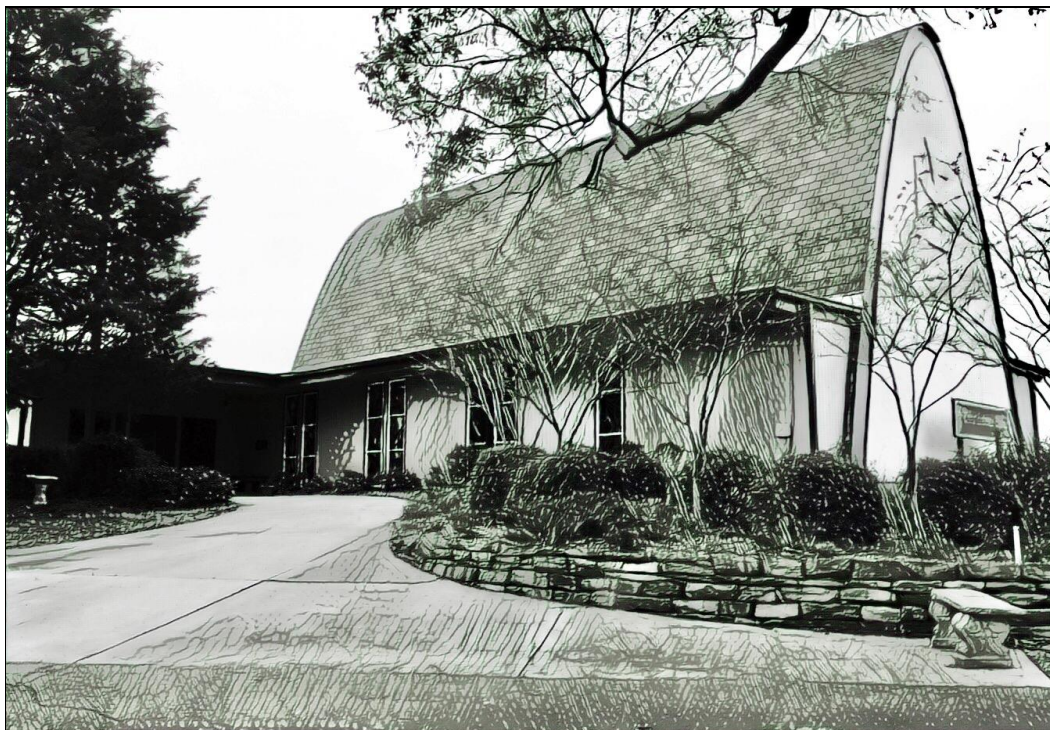


CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST + July 23, 2023 +

“I Am the First and the Last”



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:

“The Lord points out that our foe the devil sows the weeds of his wickedness and malice to choke the seed of God in us. The Lord indicates that the devil sows weeds among sleeping people—that is, among those who through negligence are overcome by their infidelity as in a kind of lethargy and fall asleep amid the divine injunctions. The apostle says concerning them: ‘For they who sleep, sleep at night, and they who are drunk, are drunk at night. Therefore let us not sleep as do the rest, but let us be wakeful and sober.’”

—Chromatius, *Tractate on Matthew*

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 Communion¹, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins², 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 meal³. 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 faith⁴, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

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

²Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

³1 Corinthians 11:28-32

⁴1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

DIVINE SERVICE III

PRESERVICE MUSIC

The congregation may use this time to pray and meditate.

OPENING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

#644

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

INTROIT: BENEDIC, ANIMA MEA, DOMINO

Psalm 103:15-19; Ant. Psalm 103:8



Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*

listen to my | plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk | in your truth;*

unite my heart to | fear your name.

**I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with | my whole heart,*
and I will glorify your name for- | ever.**

For great is your steadfast | love toward me;*

you have delivered my soul from the depths | of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men | seek my life,*
and they do not set you be- | fore them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious,*

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and | faithfulness.

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.

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*

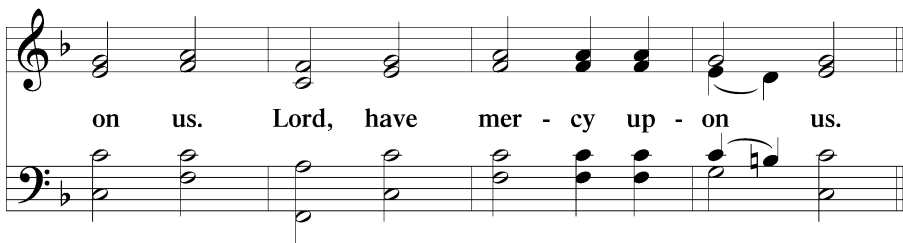
listen to my | plea for grace.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

The congregation is invited to sing in parts:

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

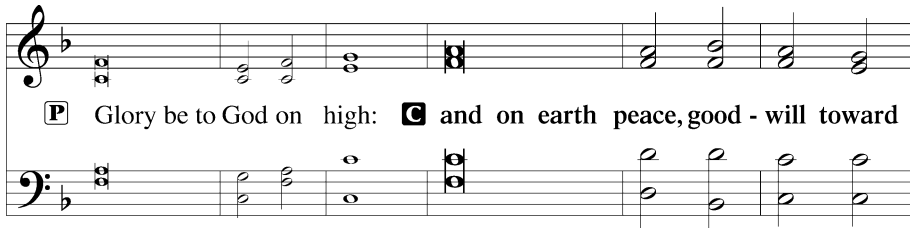


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

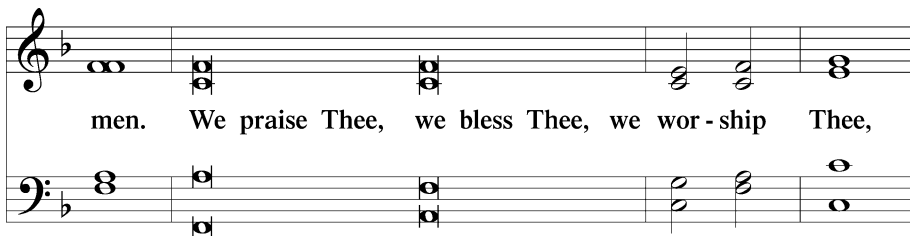
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

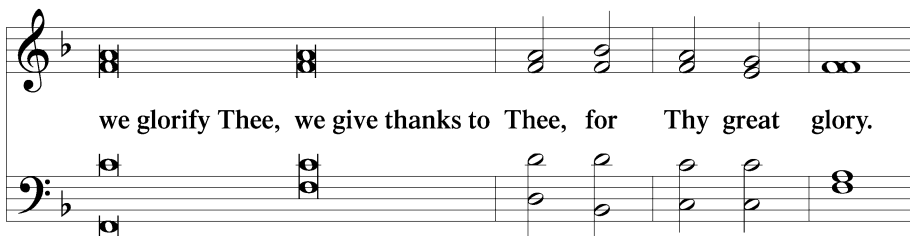
The congregation is invited to sing in parts:



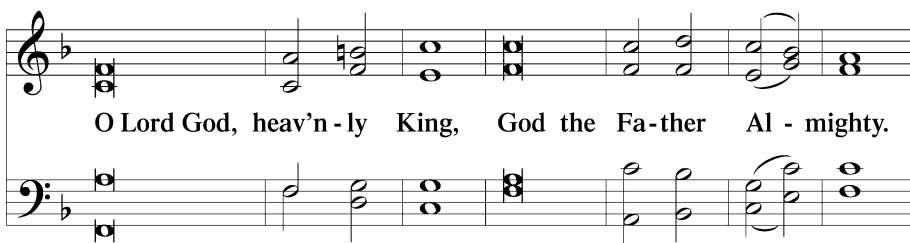
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



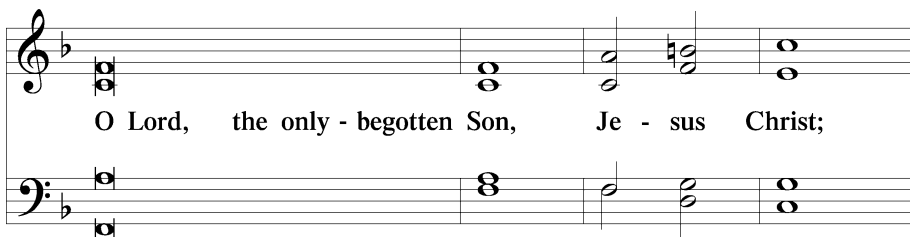
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



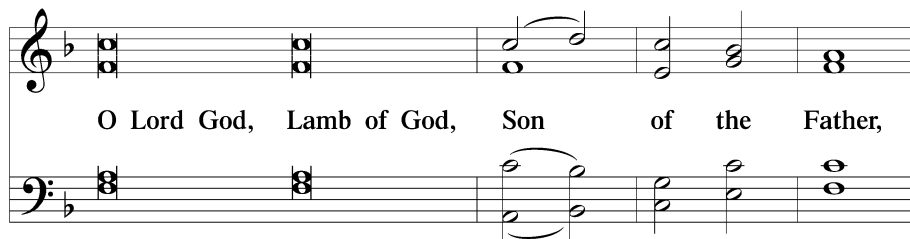
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



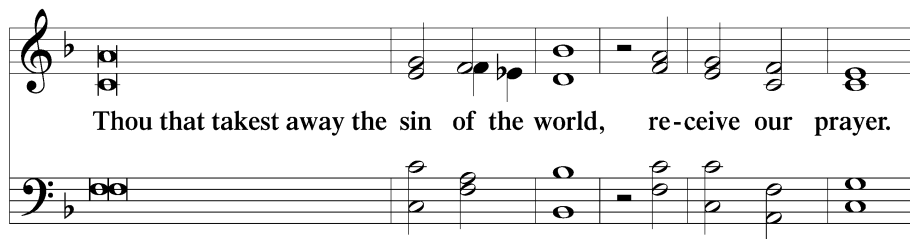
O Lord, the only - begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



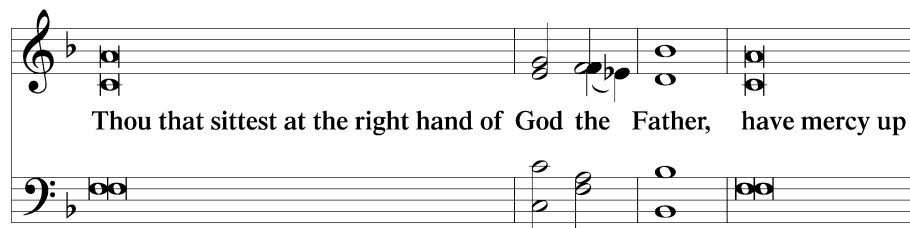
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



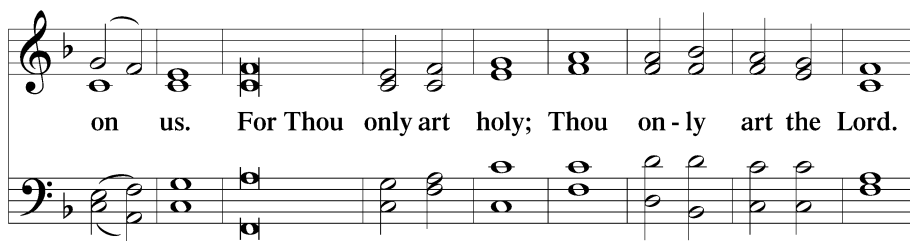
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



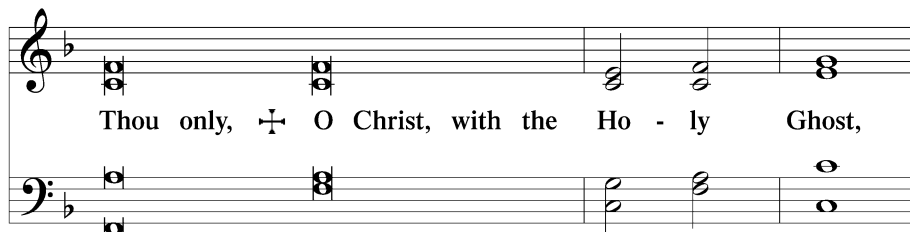
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.




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.

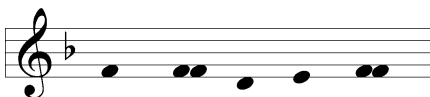


Thou only, † O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.

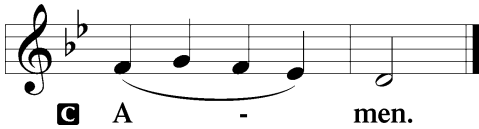


C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

Fear not, nor be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Romans 11:33, 36



Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:18-27

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P The Holy ✠ Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.

“So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house.

And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”

He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Please be seated

OFFICE HYMN

O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

#666

SERMON

An Enemy Has Done This

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: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

For comfort, health, and recovery: **Paul Barnett, Carole Cameron, June Clement, Walt Dissen, Paul Hansen, Jacqueline McGinnis, Richard McGinnis, Erin Norcross, Robert Pitman, Katie Rudsenske & Child, Dennis Walters;**

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, Hunter Burkhalter, 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, 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 Widlitze, 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: **The Bowman Family** and their loved ones.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please stand

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,



† bless - ed is He, bless - 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.



G A - men.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

The congregation is invited to sing in parts.

G 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, 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 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

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

#761

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

(Tune #843)

1 O Jesus, King most wonderful!
 O Conqueror renowned!
 O Source of peace ineffable,
 In whom all joys are found:

3 O Jesus, light of all below,
 The fount of life and fire,
 Surpassing all the joys we know,
 All that we can desire:

2 When once You visit darkened hearts,
 Then truth begins to shine,
 Then earthly vanity departs,
 Then kindles love divine.

4 May ev'ry heart confess Your name,
 Forever You adore,
 And, seeking You, itself inflame
 To seek You more and more!

5 Oh, may our tongues forever bless,
May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express
The image of Your own!


O Worship the King

#804

Please stand following distribution of communion

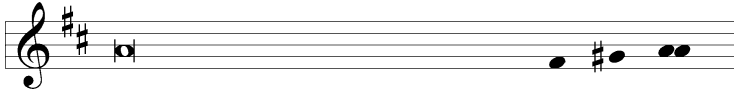
NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32

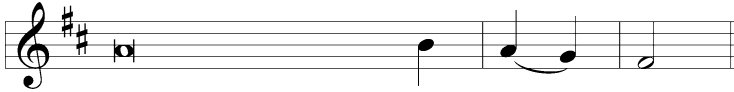


Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to 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.



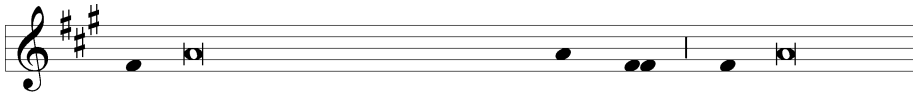
A Bless we the Lord.



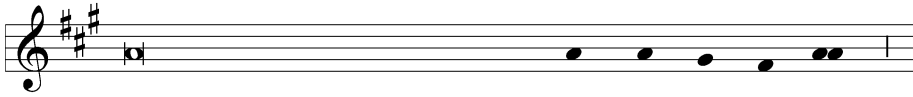
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

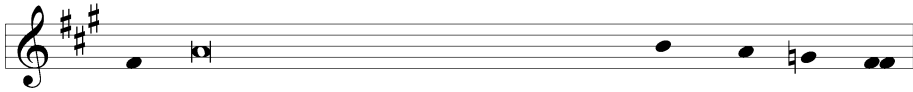
Numbers 6:24-26



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



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



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



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

CLOSING HYMN

Amazing Grace

#744

Acknowledgments

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Today's Worship Servants:

Celebrant: Rev. George Fields

Acolyte: Nathan Hansford

Interpreter: Denee Smith

Altar Guild: Margaret Haynes

Elder: Keith Martin

Organist: Sr. Sara Fields

Cantor: Merina Hansen

Readings for next Sunday, July 30th, the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:

Introit Ps. 105:2-6; Psalm 125; Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 13:44-52.

This week at Christ Lutheran Church: July 24 – July 30

Friday **6:30 a.m.** Bible & Breaky

Sunday **9:00 a.m.** Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Divine Service – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Issues, Etc.[™]

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LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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