REFORMATION 2017 It's *Still* All About Jesus

Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
Sunday, October 29, 2017

Pastoral Care

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, 32-year-old Martin Luther lived as a monk in Wittenberg. He earned his doctorate and soon began lecturing on the Psalms and Romans and would eventually preach well over 2,000 sermons in the City Church before he died in 1546. What began with Luther studying and lecturing on Scripture eventually led to an explosion that rocked the Christian world and continues to do so. That explosion can be summarized by the three "solas" (Latin for alone) — that salvation is free by grace alone (*sola gratia*), apprehended by faith alone (*sola fide*) and believed from "Scripture alone" (*sola Scriptura*).

So what is the Reformation? Lutheran pastor/theologian Hermann Sasse described it as an episode in the history of the *Church*. It is foremost about the *Church of Jesus Christ*. "All [other] attempts to explain the Reformation [fail] . . . because they do not approach the Reformation from that point of view from which alone it can be understood—from the point of view of the reality of the church."

The real story of the Reformation is about the march of the Church of Jesus Christ in the face of impossible odds — thirsting for Christ and His means of grace, trusting in the Bible as God's inerrant Word, struggling in places in the world but growing tremendously in others. The Lord's Church is one church— strong in the weakness of Christ, confident of eternal life.[1]

Pastoral Care

The most major impulse for the Reformation may be one that is often forgotten in our brief retelling of the Luther Story every year. Luther was at heart a pastor—one who is called by God to care for souls. AND he saw that how the Church was teaching Scripture, keeping Scripture from the people, organizing itself, and ruling the people—all of those things were causing great harm to people's souls.

Luther's pastoral heart kept his focus on landing predominately on Gospel and God's work. This is our focus as the Church, and even as "pastoral care" sounds like it only is about what the pastor does, truly the mission of the Church is provide "pastoral care," the care of souls.

[1] Adapated from "Does the Lutheran Reformation Have a Future?" by President Matthew Harrison, www.lcms.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month
Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, "Take and eat; this is My Body … This is My Blood…" Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. ***Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.***

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

	Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:45 a.m.
Elder:	Mike Bandman	*Rich Arnold*
Comm/Asst. Elder:	Bob Souza	*Jack Warneke*
Acolytes:	Jeremy Leicht, Logan Rosenthal	*Lily Freehling*
Ushers:	Tera Redman, OPEN	*John Schultz, Lance Rasmussen*
Lay Readers:	Lynn Faitsch, Tim Faitsch	*Jose Rayos, Randy Gifford*
Greeters:	OPEN, Pipia/Erwin Family	*Rayos Family, Swanson Family*
Fellowship:	Kozlik/Ramon	
Oct. Altar Guild:	Diane Rogala	Diane Sanders
Oct. Counters:	Margie Tatgenhorst	Sue Best

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

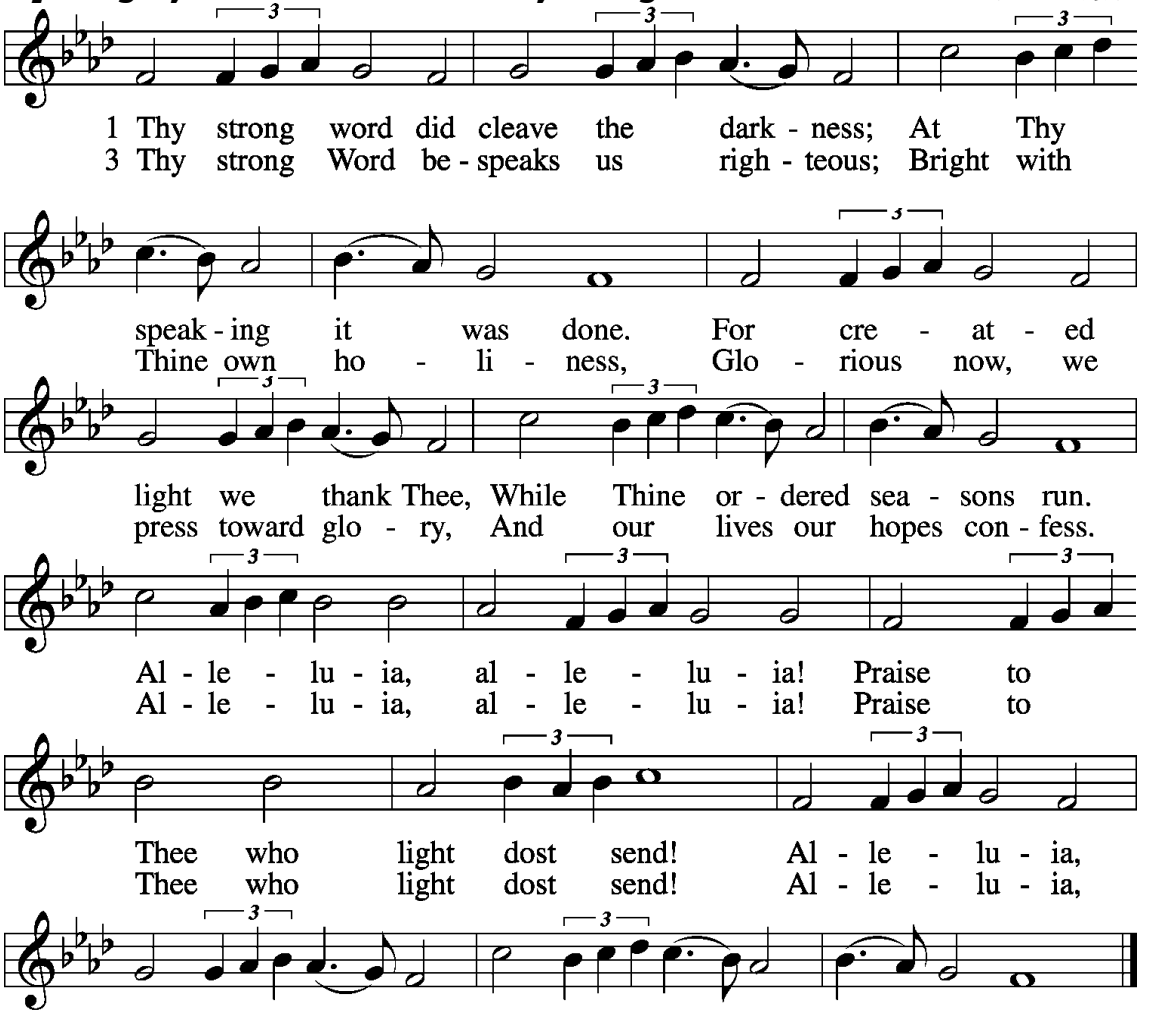
The Blasko family in celebration of John E.'s 20th birthday, and
Jerry and Lauri Rizzo in loving memory of Lauri's father, Robert Oye.

Write Your Prayers on the Fortress Walls

On the left side, add names (or initials) of people you are asking God to bring to faith in Jesus. On the right side, write things that you praise God for today. At the Prayers of the Church, Pastor will pray from the Fortress Walls. *Other requests can be submitted on attendance cards to be included in future Prayer Lists.*

Opening Hymn — *Thy Strong Word*

LSB 578 sts. 1, 3, 5–6



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5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

Invocation, Exhortation, and Confession of Sins

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… 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.

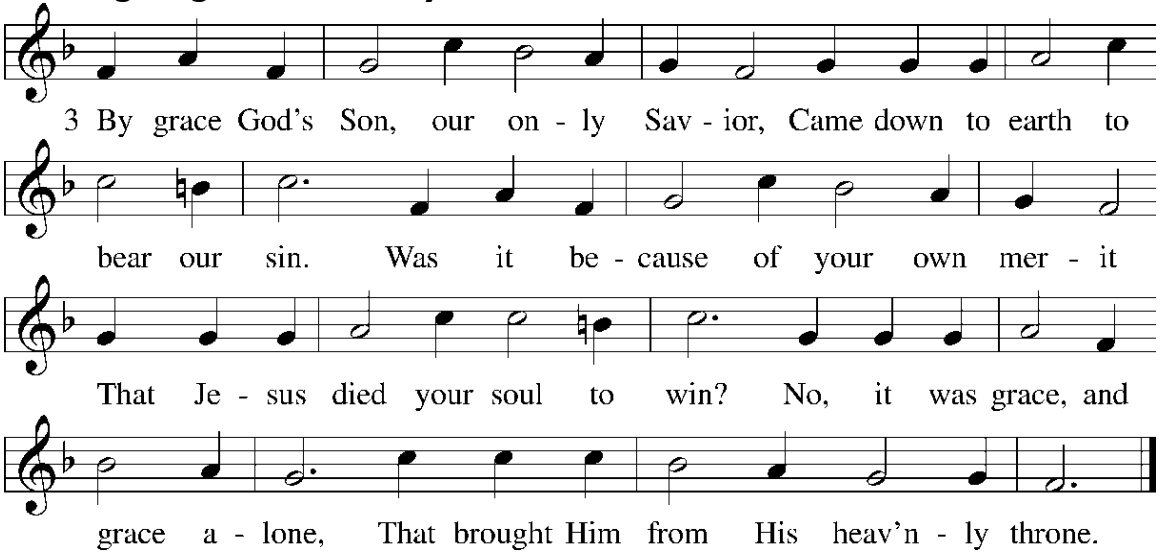
P: *Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.*

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***C: Amen.***

Absolution (Forgiveness) 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.***

Thanksgiving Verse ***By Grace I'm Saved*** *LSB 566 st. 3*



Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: ***Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: ***Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: ***Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: ***Lord, have mercy.***

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: ***Amen.***

Greeting and Collect (Prayers of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ. ***C: Amen.*** ***(Prayers continue)*** →

P: Lord Jesus, our Savior, You have compassion upon all the sick and afflicted. Be with us, Your servants, so that we may always rightly comfort, admonish strengthen, and encourage others in need of our care. Grant us Your Holy Spirit so that all we say may be blessed and our prayers and supplications be pleasing to You. Into Your hands we commend ourselves; at Your bidding we go. You will preserve us, for we trust in You. Blessed be Your holy name.

C: Amen.

Psalm Reading — *Psalm 46 (ESV)*

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
8 Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.
10 "Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Letter) — *Romans 3:19–28 (ESV)*

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

[21]But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law,
although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— [22]the righteousness of God
through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23]for all
have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24]and are justified by his grace as a gift,
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25]whom God put forward as a
propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's
righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26]It
was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the
justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

[27]Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a
law of works? No, but by the law of faith. [28]For we hold that one is justified by faith
apart from works of the law.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem "From Living Stones" Adult Choir

- *Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.*

From living stones God builds this house of faith. On Christ alone we set this sacred place.
From hearts and lives of grateful people, we raise a soaring steeple a chapel made of praise!

From living stones God builds cathedrals strong; Our Cornerstone, His own beloved Son.
God's mighty hand will ever lead us. His love will never leave us. Yes, we are not alone!

We are His Church of living stones. We are His church of living stones.

What stones are these that rise from Jordan's cleansing waters?
What stones are these where God engraves His sacred law?
What stones are these, that shepherds dare to conquer giants?
Children of the Easter stone, live now for God alone; reveal the glory of the risen Lord.

From living stones God builds this house of faith. On Christ alone we set this sacred place.
From hearts and lives of grateful people, we raise a soaring steeple a chapel made of praise!

From living stones God builds cathedrals strong; Our Cornerstone, His own beloved Son.
His mighty hand will ever lead us. His love will never leave us. Yes, we are not alone!

We are His church of living stones! We are God's church of living stones!
God's living stones!

Holy Gospel ***John 8:31–36 (ESV)***

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

31So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you
are truly my disciples, 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
33They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved
to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

34Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a
slave to sin. 35The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains
forever. 36So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

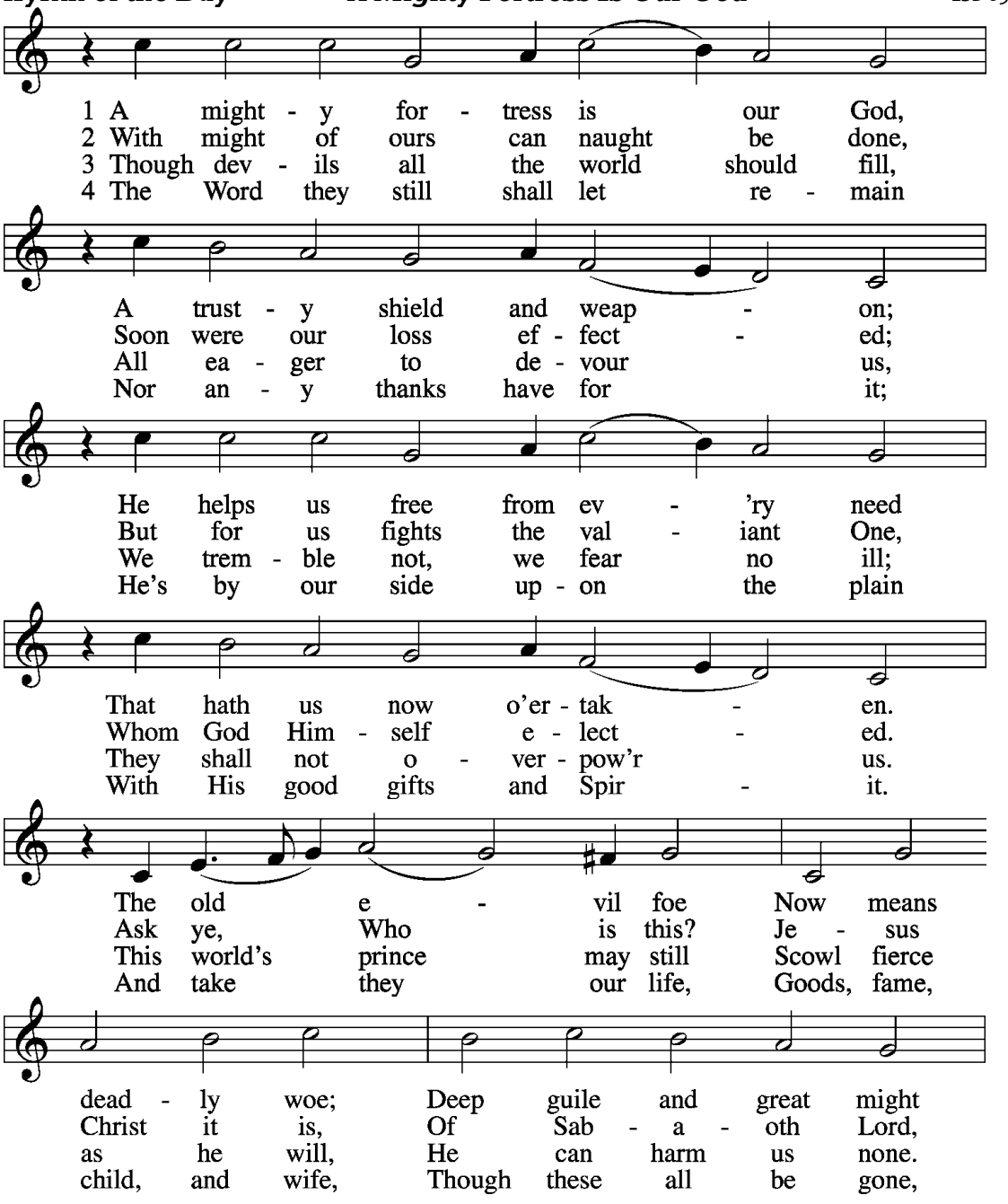
Confession of Faith ***Nicene Creed***

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.—And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.—And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Write Your Prayers on the Fortress Walls

On the left side, add names (or initials) of people you are asking God to bring to faith in Jesus. On the right side, write things that you praise God for today. At the Prayers of the Church, Pastor will pray from the Fortress Walls. *Other requests can be submitted on attendance cards to be included in future Prayer Lists.*

Hymn of the Day ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*** *LSB 656*



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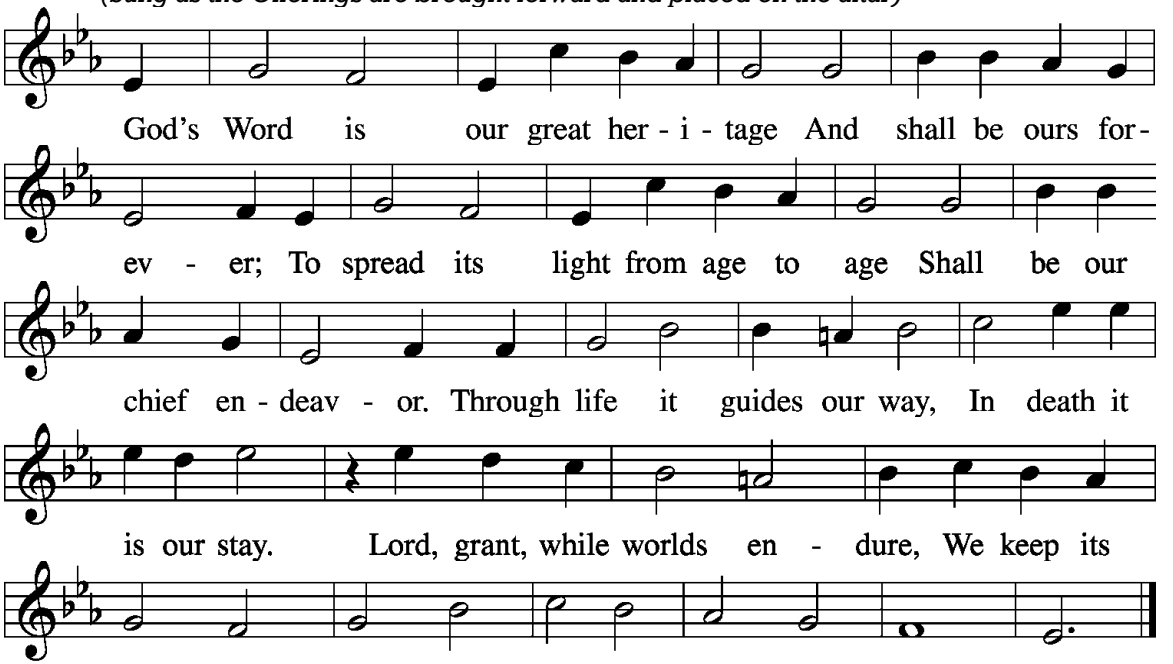
Sermon ***"Pastoral Care"***

Offering

Offertory ***God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*** *LSB 582*

(Sung as the Offerings are brought forward and placed on the altar)

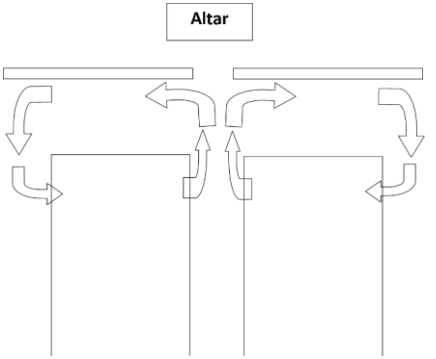


Prayers

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed
are invited to receive Communion with us
if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ,
and the wine is the blood of Christ,
truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.
If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.

Communion Distribution

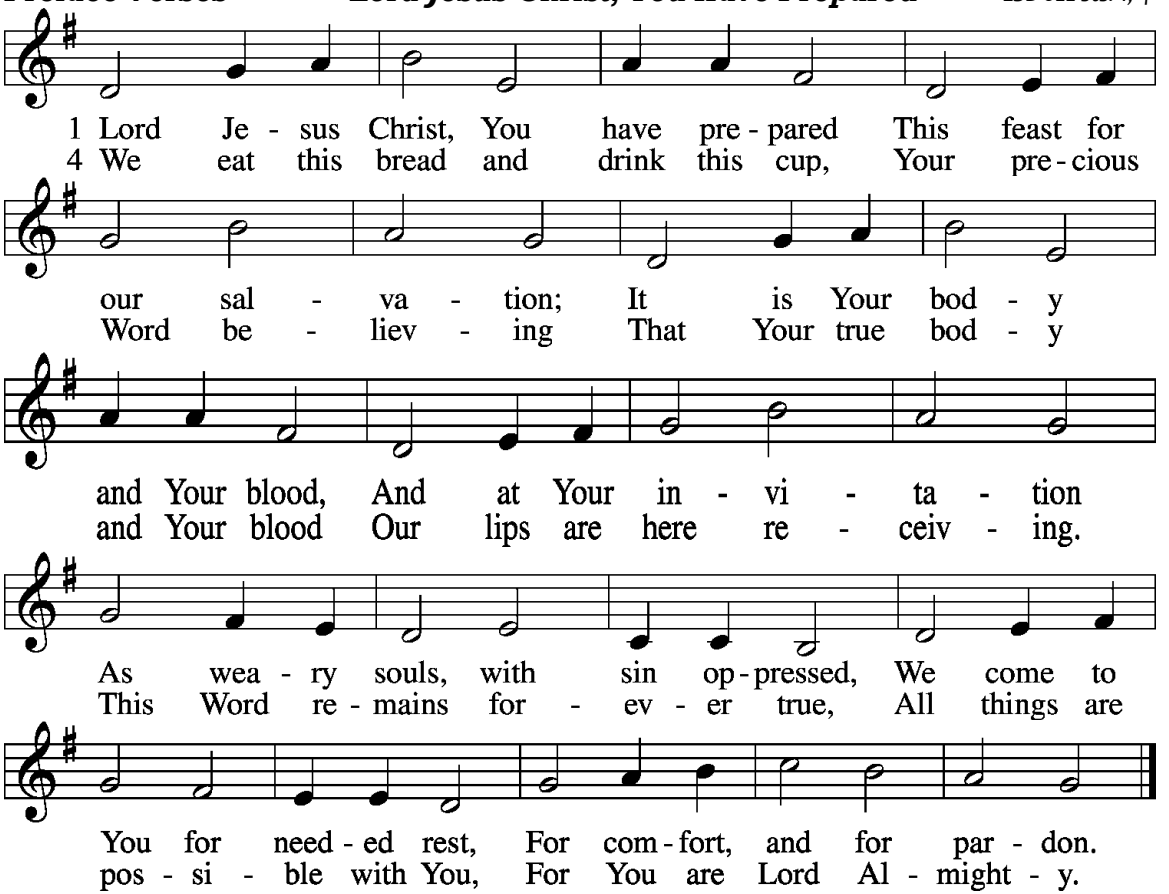


- *Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.*
- *Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.*
- *Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.*
- *Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.*
- *Return to your seat using the outside aisle.*
- *Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.*

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

P: The Lord be with you. ***C: And also 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: We pray: 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, 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. ***C: Amen.***

Preface Verses ***Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared*** *LSB 622 sts. 1, 4*



The Lord's Prayer

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

All: 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.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. ***C: And also with you.***

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

First Distribution Hymn ***Jesus Comes Today with Healing*** *LSB 620*

Note the "care of souls" and comfort in this hymn, especially stanza 6

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

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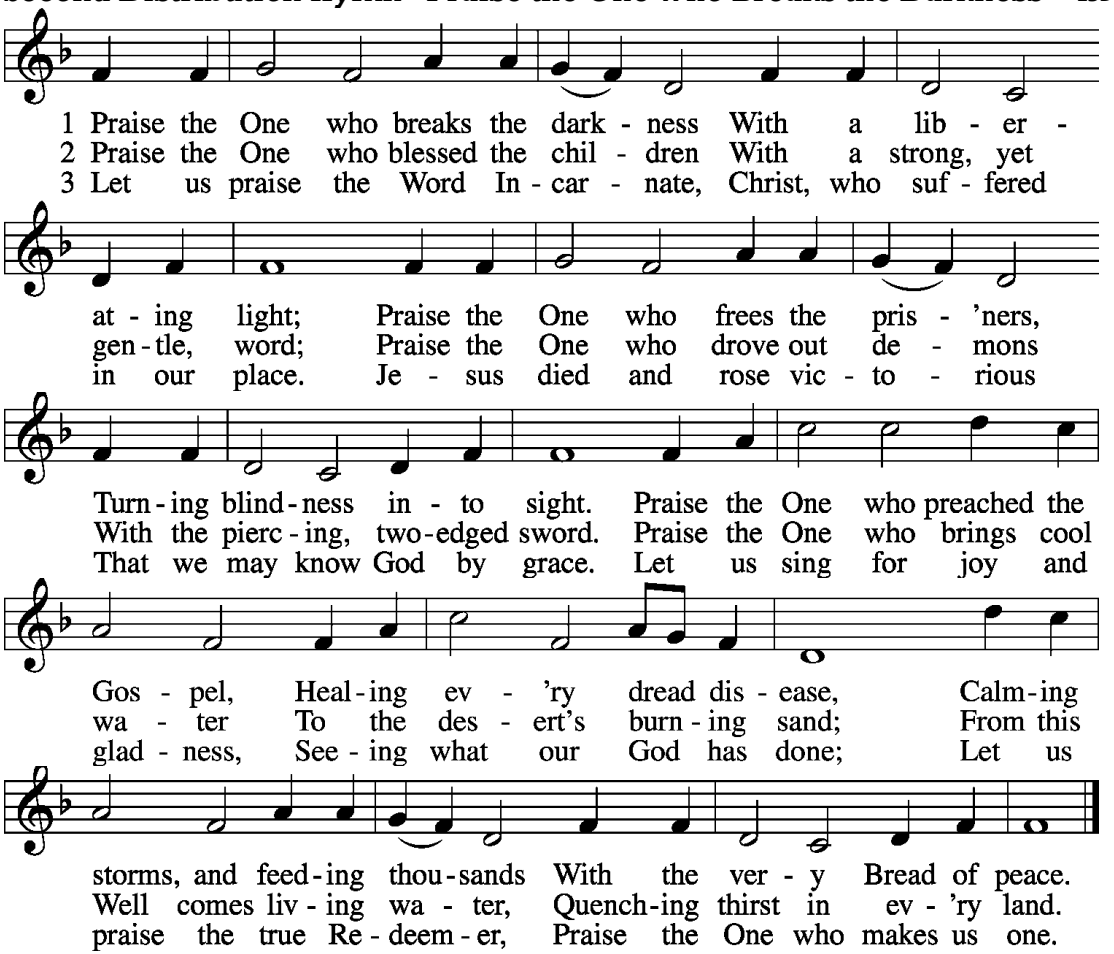
Second Distribution Hymn Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness *LSB 849*



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Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord.… ***C: Amen.***

Post-Communion Prayer

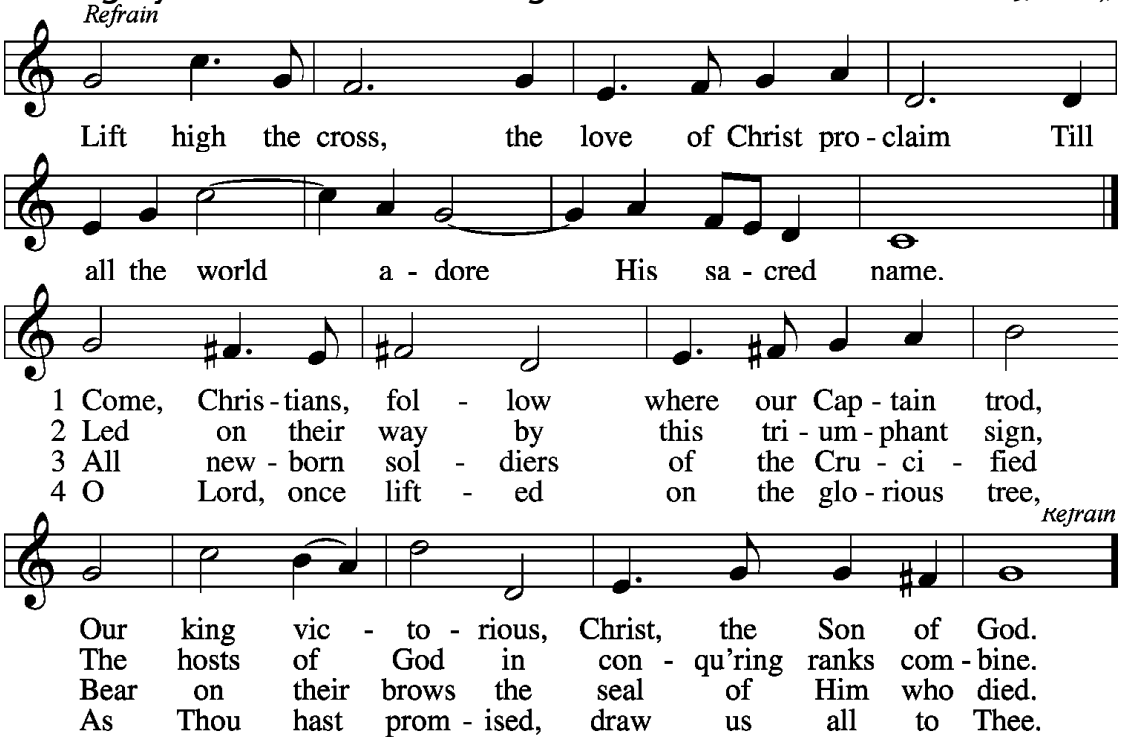
P: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

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. ***C: Amen.***

Closing Hymn — *Lift High the Cross* — *LSB 837 sts. ref, 1–6*



5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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Announcements

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