

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Grand Partita on Ein Feste Burg* OSTERLAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. Amen.

HYMN #504 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN FESTE BERG

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

PSALM 46 (sing responsively)



- ¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
- ³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.
- ⁷ The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,**
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, then, 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 stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3: 19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 8: 31-39

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Rev. Melanie Haack*

HYMN #517 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* ERHALT UNS, HERR

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, let us confess our faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING (8:15) *Lord, Thee I love with All My Heart* BEHNKE
(10:45) *Senior Choir O, How I Love Jesus* LLOYD LARSON

OFFERTORY #481 *Come to the Table of Mercy* COME TO THE TABLE



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes with some ties. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS [HOLY, HOLY, HOL Y]

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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of music in G major. The melody is more varied than the first section, including some dotted notes and a key signature change to F# (D major) in the second staff. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

AGNUS DEI [LAMB OF GOD]



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.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. Amen.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever. Amen

SENDING HYMN #511 *Thy Strong Word* EBENEZER

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *CWM Rhondda* CARLSON

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Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45

“The truth will make you free.”

Welcome to First Lutheran Church.

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

WE ASK EVERYONE to complete the “Footprints” and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person’s permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Toni and Dennis Poling, in honor of their granddaughter’s birthday!

A CARD WRITING MINISTRY has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven’t seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!

ALL SAINTS DAY is next Sunday, November 1st. On this day we remember the saints who have gone before us, especially those who have died since last All Saints Day. A special liturgy of remembrance and hope will be part of worship at both services.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ends next weekend! Be sure to set your clocks BACK on Saturday night or you will be early for worship next Sunday!

THE NEW 2027 FLOWER CHART is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God’s love for His people.

MILITARY MINISTRY Social Ministry is trying to keep the Military Ministry active and going. This would involve contacting families of our military and getting updated photos and addresses. Please pray about trying to help with this project and contact the office or Social Ministry committee if you are willing to assist with this very valuable ministry. Thank you.

SACRED DAILY During Pastor Tucker's sabbatical there will not be a pastor to lead Sacred Daily. The chapel will still be available Mondays through Thursdays at or about 11:30 a.m. for private or group praying of Noon Prayer. The order of service and Bibles are in the chapel pews.

OPEN POSITION: The position of Building Manager is available. Duties include opening and closing the church building, and the keep up and maintenance of the building. If interested, please contact Pastor Tucker or Casey Cox.

HOLY LAND COOPERATIVE VISITING

TODAY during both services, we will hear about the Christians of the Holy Land, and in the narthex there will be a display of olive wood religious handicrafts from Bethlehem available for a donation. The olive wood carvings include Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and others. They are carved by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on their crafts for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depends upon tourism as their only source of income. Tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income have been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflicts, which has made it very difficult for the Christian families to survive. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, but today it is less than 1%. If this continues, soon we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites. A Christian family from Bethlehem will tell us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and present these carvings after the services.