

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

TEACHING AND REACHING PEOPLE FOR THE KINGDOM

Pastor: Isaac Crass

Staff Minister: John Dale

Preschool Director: Juliana Kock

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WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad that you have joined us for worship this morning. We have come into God's presence to worship him as our Lord and Savior.

- ❖ Restrooms are located to the right of the main doors.
- ❖ There is a staffed nursery available outside of the worship area for children under 3.
- ❖ There is a private area for nursing mothers located in the main preschool classroom.
- ❖ Coffee and drinks are available after the service.
- ❖ Please sign the guest register in the fellowship area.

PENTECOST 19

OCTOBER 4, 2026

**THE BEGINNING OF THE END:
IT'S TIME TO SPEAK TRUTH TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE GOSPEL**

The Beginning of the End >



SERIES THEME:

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. Christ will come again on Judgment Day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us.

Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready.

"The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Sometimes people get braver when they realize they are nearing the end. They speak things they couldn't or wouldn't say before, even to those they wouldn't otherwise confront, because they realize they have nothing to lose.

The message of repentance and forgiveness of sins through Jesus' death on the cross has many enemies. Sometimes those enemies are religious people, rebellious spirits and heretics. Sometimes those enemies are people of this world who worship their own personal desires and glory in their shame.

It doesn't matter who the enemies are. God persists in speaking his truth and drawing our eyes to his Son, who will help us persevere to the end and speak truth to those who oppose him.

SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

INVOCATION ¹

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS ²

LORD, TO YOU I MAKE CONFESSION

A small group sings:

We have come into God's presence;
Maker of the heav'ns and earth.
He created us to love him;
To serve him as his precious child.
We have disobeyed and erred,
Thus deserving wrath and anger.

P: Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

The congregation sings:

Lord, to you I make confession;
I have sinned and gone astray;
I have multiplied transgression,
chosen for myself my way.
Led by you to see my errors,
Lord, I tremble at your terrors.

¹ The Invocation, which uses the words spoken over us at our baptisms, remind us of who we are (children of God) and what we are members of—the church of God on earth.

² We cannot approach God without having our sins forgiven. He is holy and we are not. Confession assures us of a clean slate before God and prepares us for worship, hearing God's Word, and receiving the Lord's Supper.

P: "This is the one I esteem; he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word," declares the LORD. (*Isaiah 66:2*)

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love.**

The congregation sings:

**Lord, on you I cast my burden;
Sink it in the depths below!
Let me know your gracious pardon;
Wash me, make me white as snow.
Let your Spirit leave me never;
Make me only yours forever.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.

The congregation sings:

**For your Son has suffered for me,
Giv'n himself to rescue me,
Died to save me and restore me,
Reconciled and set me free.
Jesus' cross alone can vanquish
These dark fears and soothe this anguish.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY ³

P: Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 5:1-7 ⁴

¹I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

²He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

³"Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard

³ The Church prays that in recognition of God's goodness, we may be ever ready to freely produce the fruits our Lord desires. The prayer comes from the Gelasian Sacramentary (c. 750), the second oldest surviving liturgical book of the Western church.

⁴ The Lord pictures his patient love in a story about the owner of a vineyard.

than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?
⁵Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.
⁶I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briars and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it."

⁷The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

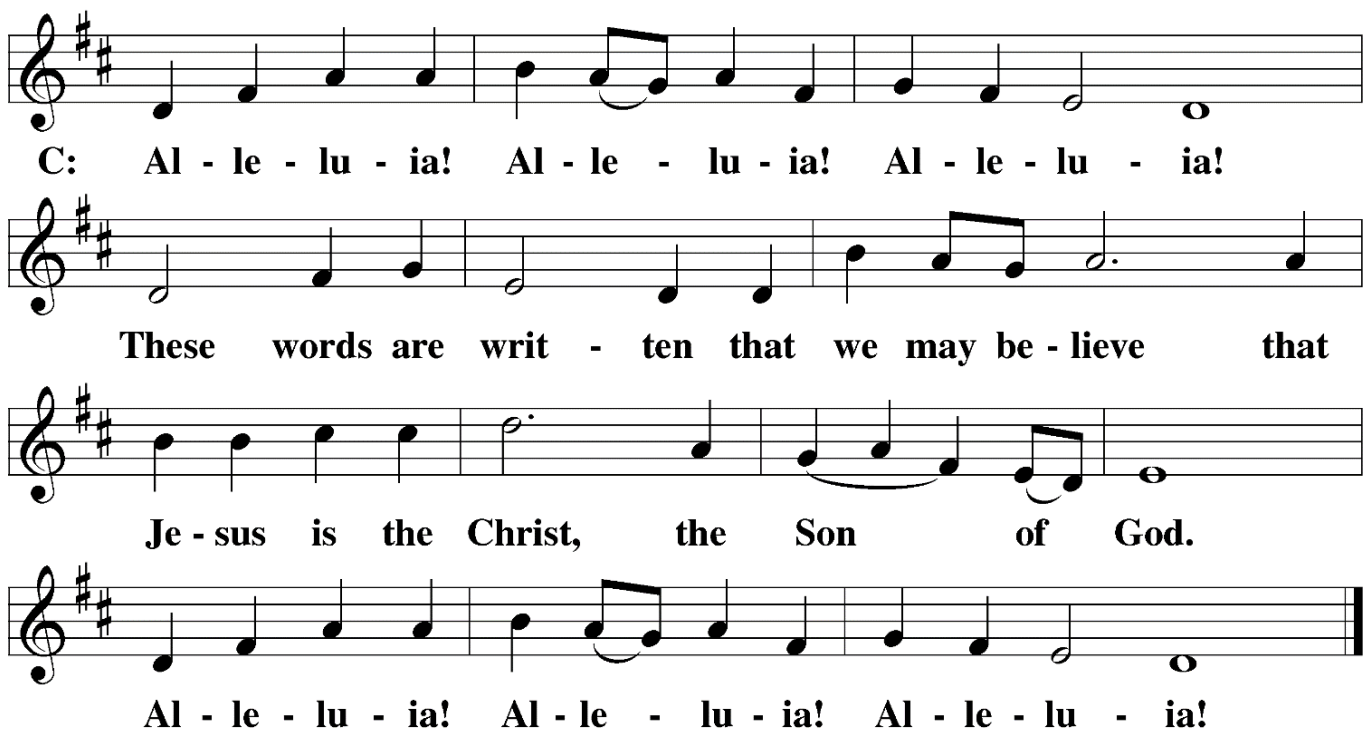
¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

VERSE OF THE DAY ⁵

EPHESIANS 2:10

P: Alleluia. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

⁵ The Verse of the Day, traditionally called the Alleluia (a Latinized form of the Hebrew word meaning "praise the Lord") highlights a text of particular relevance to the theme of the day.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 21:33-43⁶

³³“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

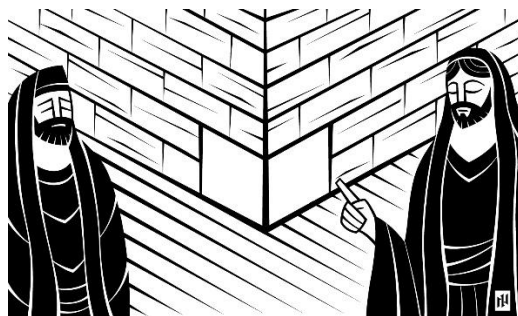
⁴⁰“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“ ‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

⁴³“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.



⁶ Jesus tells the parable of the tenants to call leaders to repentance.

862 LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son and to de - stroy what he has done.
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife and lead us out of death to life.

SERMON ⁷

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

Press On!

- I. As citizens of heaven
- II. As imitators of Paul

⁷The Sermon is the Word of God, proclaiming the living voice of the Gospel to God's people. The preacher is the appointed representative who illuminates the Scripture for the congregation and applies it to our contemporary situation. He is neither lecturer nor entertainer, but a link through whom the Holy Spirit brings law and gospel to bear upon the hearts and minds of the worshiper and enlivens their faith and life.

NICENE CREED⁸

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

⁸ The Nicene Creed is the great Confession of the Christian faith professed by all Christians. The Creed originated at the First Council of Nicaea (c. A.D. 325) and was finalized at the First Council of Constantinople (c. A.D. 381), which are respectively known as the First and Second Ecumenical Councils of the Church. The Creed itself was crafted as a clear confession of Scripture – that the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit are God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

THANKSGIVING

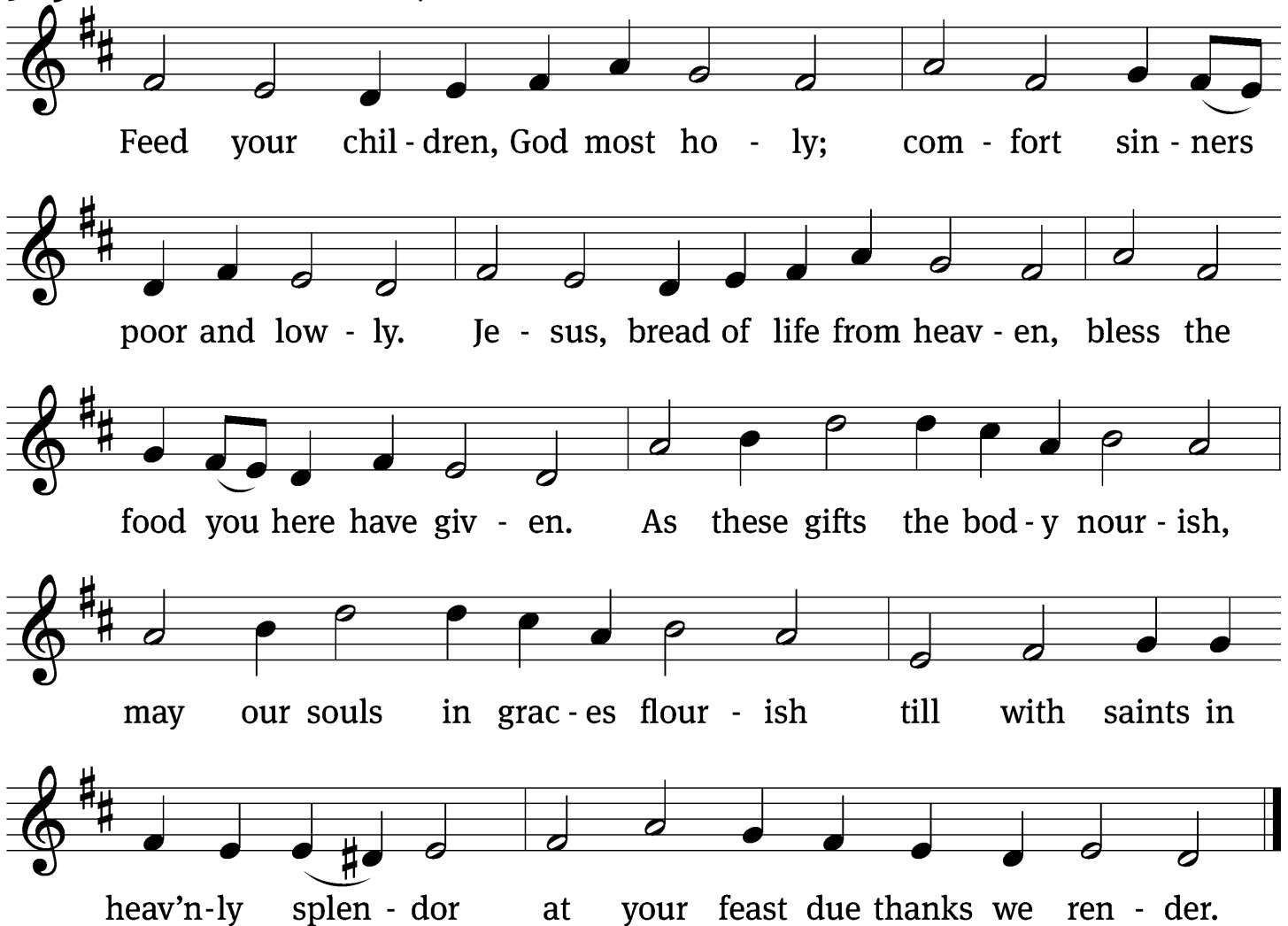
OFFERING

The members of Christ Our Savior have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. An offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary. We also offer an electronic giving option. If you would like to start giving your weekly offering electronically, please go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "Vanco Mobile" to download the App for free or use this QR Code:



This offering is a joyful response of our faith; so, if you are visiting with us this morning, we do not want you to feel obligated. Please stand for the next hymn.

509 FEED YOUR CHILDREN, GOD MOST HOLY



Feed your chil - dren, God most ho - ly; com - fort sin - ners

poor and low - ly. Je - sus, bread of life from heav - en, bless the

food you here have giv - en. As these gifts the bod - y nour - ish,

may our souls in grac - es flour - ish till with saints in

heav'n - ly splen - dor at your feast due thanks we ren - der.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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 LORD'S SUPPER

Christ Our Savior practices "close communion". This means that we ask that only members of Christ Our Savior or those who have spoken to the pastor in advance take communion. We do this out of love and concern for our fellow men and women, for the Scripture clearly says, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) In communion we have a very close form of fellowship with our fellow Christians and we need to be sure that we stand together on the teachings of the Scripture. We read in 1 Timothy 4:16, "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

THE ORDER OF COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up 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 and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

SANCTUS⁹

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

⁹ *Sanctus* means "holy." The body and blood of our Lord are present in this Sacrament, and so we use the words of the angels from Isaiah 6 and of the Palm Sunday crowds from Matthew 21 to acknowledge the holy presence of God in this meal. Take note of the intense reverence of God's holiness in this song. We pray that we may daily show such reverence.

THE WORDS OF THE INSTITUTION ¹⁰

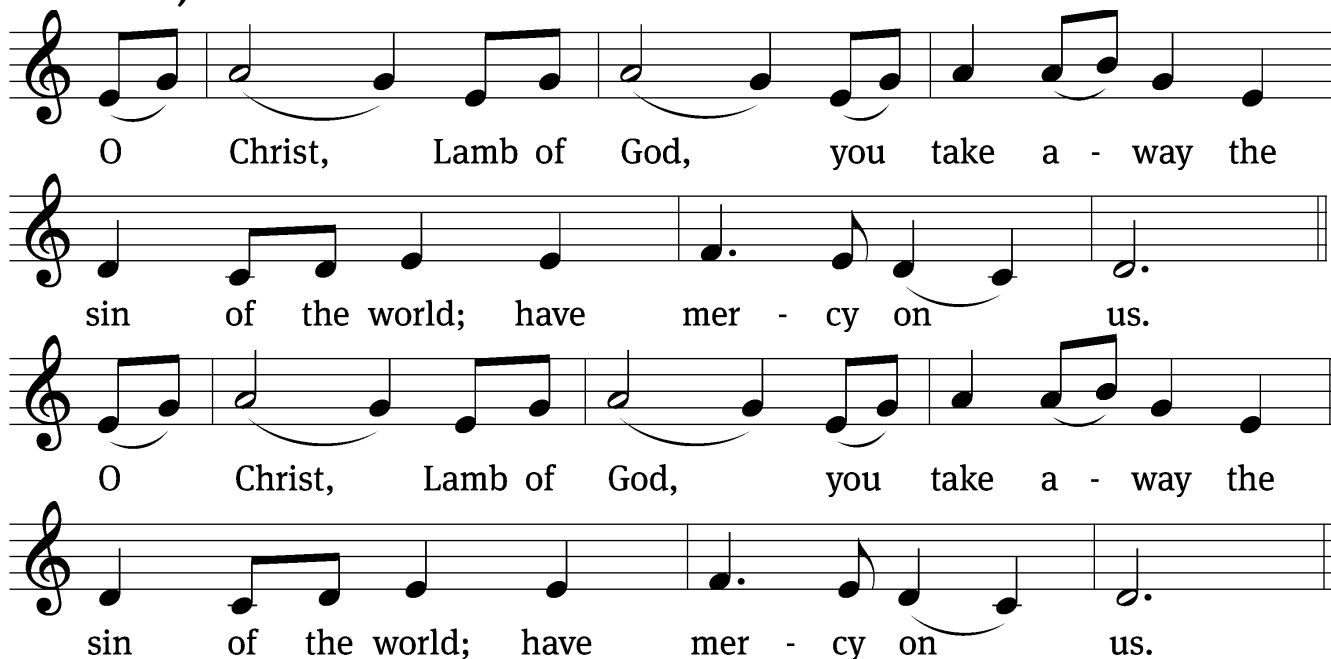
P: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, and said: "Drink of it all of you. This is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. ¹¹

C: Amen.

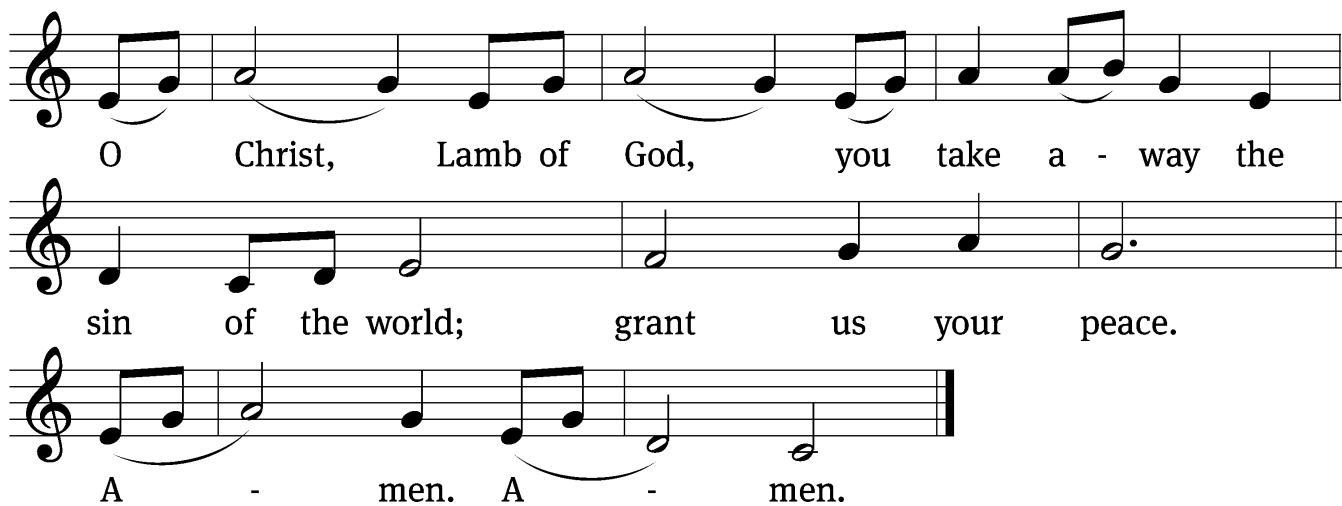
O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD ¹²



¹⁰ As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus (Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11) to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death, which is necessary for this Sacrament.

¹¹ "The peace of the Lord..." The resurrected Lord calmed the fears of his disciples with his peace. The resurrected Lord is present in the Supper, and so the pastor speaks to us on his behalf (John 20:19–21, 26).

¹² With the words of John the Baptist, the *Agnus Dei* confesses the mercy and peace that we receive from the Lamb of God in his Supper. He gave of himself – body and blood – that we may receive forgiveness, life, and salvation through that very body and blood in this meal.



DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PERSONAL PRAYER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

SONG OF SIMEON ¹³

O Lord, now let your servant
Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised
incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!

¹³ The *Nunc Dimittis*, which is Latin for "Now you dismiss", is a song that uses the words of the priest, Simeon, found in Luke 2. The Lord promised Simeon that he would see the Savior with his own eyes before his death. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon held the Son of God in his hands. Out of thanks for the fulfillment of his promise, Simeon praised God with these words.

LORD'S BLESSING ¹⁴

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

853 I'M BUT A STRANGER HERE



1 I'm but a stran - ger here; Heav'n is my home.
2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home.
3 There at my Sav - ior's side— Heav'n is my home—
4 There - fore I mur - mur not; Heav'n is my home.



Earth is a des - ert drear; Heav'n is my home.
Short is my pil - grim - age; Heav'n is my home.
I shall be glo - ri - fied; Heav'n is my home.
What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home.



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand.
And time's wild, win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
There are the good and blest, Those I love most and best,
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand.



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land; Heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last; Heav'n is my home.
And there I, too, shall rest; Heav'n is my home.
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land; Heav'n is my home.

¹⁴ The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them." (cf. Numbers 6:27) As we began the service with the Lord's name, so we are sent out in his name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS:

The altar flowers are given by Brian and Terry Brown in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary and Carly's 33rd birthday.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Isaiah 6:1-8

Romans 10: 13-17

Matthew 9:35-38

SERVING THEIR SAVIOR AT CHRIST OUR SAVIOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 11:

Flowers: Jacobs

Nursery: 8:30am—Jamie and Sawyer Davis

11:00am—Joan and Ron Weninger

Ushers: 8:30am—Austin and Adam Moore

11:00am—Kirk Hennig and Dwight Mann

Landscaping: Dave Tonak (10/10-10/23)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT CHRIST OUR SAVIOR:

Sunday Worship 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Sunday School, Adult and Teen Bible Study 9:45-10:45 AM

Lord's Supper 1st and 3rd Sundays

Youth Confirmation Sundays, 6 PM

Sunday Night Bible Study Sundays, 6 PM

Choir Wednesdays, 7:00 PM

Ladies Bible Study 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 10:00 AM

Iron Sharpens Iron (*Men's group*) 2nd Saturday of each month, 8:30 AM

Call Meeting
Ministerial Education Sunday
Sunday School Singing
Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat

Thursday, October 8, 6:30 PM
October 11
October 11, 8:30 & 11:00 AM
October 24, 4-8 PM



Want to hear more from us? Use this QR code to sign up for our weekly devotion and newsletter.

Adult Bible Study: The Christian church can sometimes look like a mess. That has always been true. Paul's inspired first epistle to the Corinthian church is a very practical book of the Bible. The problems and difficulties of the Corinthian congregation are in many instances the same as we experience today. The apostle deals with them all in light of the cross and the atoning work of Christ. Join us during the Bible study hour (9:45am) on Sunday mornings as we study 1 Corinthians to approach the practical matters of Christian living.

Call Meeting: We will hold a call meeting on Thursday, October 8th at 6:30pm. Our circuit pastor, Pastor Kent Holz from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Clarksville, TN, will present a list of candidates from which we will call for a second pastor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you would like to offer input to the call list, please email our District President, Pastor Jon Schroeder, at sadp@wels.net.

Church/Preschool Furniture Moving: Helpers are needed for the following days and times:

- October 4 following 2nd service
- October 8 following the call meeting
- October 10, 10:30 am

Please contact Matt Turner (property@coslutheran.com) if you have questions.

Ministerial Education Sunday: This year in the plan for ministry of Christ Our Savior, we approved scheduling a yearly "special Sunday" to highlight the ministerial education system and the missions in our church body on an alternating yearly basis. This first year we will be highlighting the ministerial education system,

which encourages and trains pastors, teachers, and staff ministers in our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. President Matthew Crass from Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI, will preach and present for us. Join us on Sunday, October 11th, for this special worship service and Bible study.

Fall Festival & Trunk-or-Treat: Everyone is welcome to the fellowship and fun at the Fall Festival on Saturday, October 24th from 4pm-8pm here at church. There will be food, a chili cookoff, games, and pumpkin contests from 4pm-6pm. Trunk-or-Treat for the entire community will be in the parking lot starting at 6pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship area if you plan to bring food and/or decorate a trunk.

Advent by Candlelight Hostesses Needed: Preparation has begun for Advent by Candlelight, which will be held on Friday, December 4th, at 7:00pm. This year's theme is "Have Yourself a Mary Christmas: An Advent Message from Mary of Bethany, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Mary of Magdala." Information about this event and sign-ups for hostesses and readers are posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship area. Please contact Sarah Crass (sarah.crass@coslutheran.com) or Melissa Moore (moorrbyn@gmail.com) with any questions.

Sunday School Singing: The Sunday School children will be singing at both services on October 11. Please have your children at church by 8:05 am on that day for a final practice.

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