Last Sunday of the Church Year November 23, 2025



CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

TEACHING AND REACHING PEOPLE FOR THE KINGDOM

Pastor: Chuck Westra 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.

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

CAUSE/EFFECT—SCRIPTURE/ANTICIPATION



SERIES THEME:

"Every why hath a wherefore." That was Shakespeare's poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally, there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect.

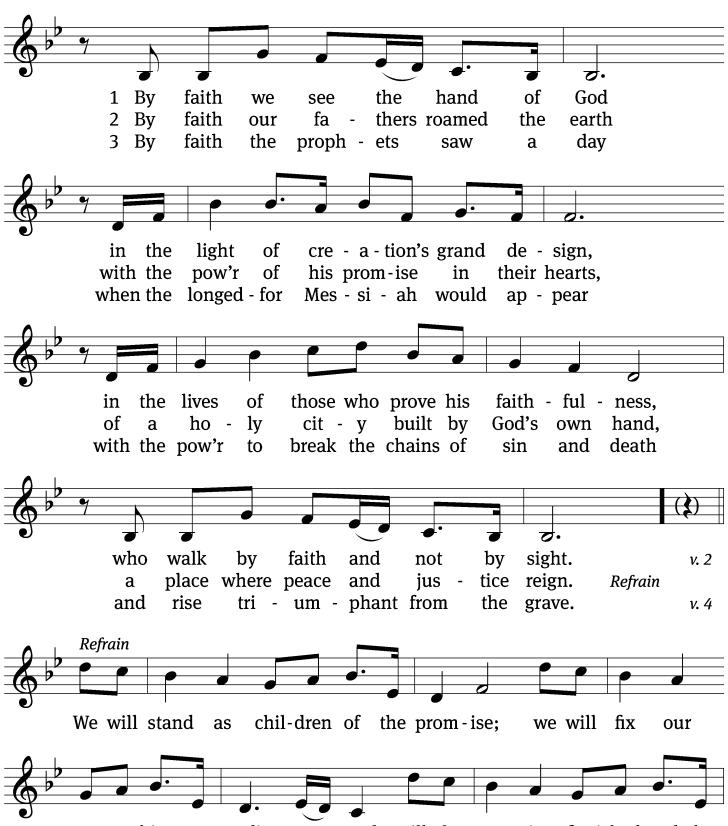
We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus' life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that "every why hath a wherefore." We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God's kingdom.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The Church has marked the passing of yet another Church Year, waiting for its Lord to return. How long will we have to wait and watch for Jesus to return? We do not know. Jesus said he would return soon. However, the definition of "soon" for the One who has no beginning or end will naturally differ from ours. Whenever Jesus returns, it will take us by surprise. So, how do believers avoid growing lethargic? How do we remain ready and watchful for Christ's return? Our Savior points us to his Scriptures.

The promises Jesus has made us this past year—promises that give us comfort and hope and purpose—were not merely spoken. Jesus ensured those promises were written down in Scripture. As we see in Scripture all the promises that Christ has fulfilled, there is discernable effect. The Spirit creates within us an eager anticipation regarding the Scriptural promises that are as-of-yet unfilled. While we cannot be certain when the day of fulfillment will come, we are completely confident of what that day will bring. No matter how many years we must mark, we watch with eager anticipation, and we pray, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

868 By Faith



eyes on him, our soul's re - ward. Till the race is fin-ished and the



- 4 By faith the church was called to go in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost to deliver captives and to preach good news in ev'ry corner of the earth. *Refrain*
- 5 By faith this mountain shall be moved and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail, for we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon his name. *Refrain*

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Tune: arr. Ruth N. Coleman, b. 1953; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Text: © 2009 Thankyou Music (PRS), admin. CapitolCMGPublishing,com; © Getty Music Publishing (ASCAP), admin. Music Services . Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712940 Tune: © 2009 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing,com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712940

MEDITATION ON THE CREED 1

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

C: Amen.

P: The word is near you;

C: It is in your mouth and in your heart.

Romans 10:8

P: It is with your heart that you believe and are justified,

C: and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10

P: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

C: Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame. Romans 10:11

¹The doctrine of the Trinity is not a logical exercise or a dogmatic excursion. It's central to our salvation. The Triune God is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Lose this doctrine, and as the Creed says, you lose it all. A Jesus who is less than God is also less than Savior. Today we meditate on the confession of the Apostles in the Creed. The Apostles' Creed is divided into three articles, each focusing on a member of the Trinity.

PRAYER

P: O Holy Spirit, come to us with your comforting Word, which can drive away our doubts. Direct us to our Savior, Jesus, so that we may trust in him with our whole heart.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION²

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION 3

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

² When you feel in your conscience that you are guilty, be very, very careful not to contend with either God or men in an effort to defend or excuse your sin. Rather, do this: When God points his spear at you, do not flee *from* him; on the contrary, flee *to* him with a humble confession of guilt and a plea for pardon.

³ God is gracious and merciful. He forgives us for Christ's sake. This assures us that we can receive the rest of his gifts through the service and return thanks for those gifts, having been set free from the burden of sin.

PRAYER

First Article

- P: Heavenly Father, Creator of all things, you give us all that we need for body and life.
- C: Every good and perfect gift comes from you, the Father of the heavenly lights.

 James 1:17

Second Article

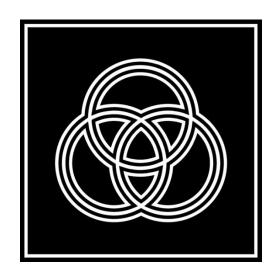
- P: Lord Jesus Christ, by your suffering and death you have opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
- C: We approach your throne, O God, with confidence, for mercy and grace in our time of need.

 Hebrews 4:16

Third Article

- P: Holy Spirit, counselor and guide, you have raised us from death by your powerful Word.
- C: You, O Spirit of God, have made us. Your breath, almighty One, gave us life.

 Job 33:4
- P: Lord, fill our hearts with thanksgiving for your mercy and love.
- C: Move us with our hearts to believe and with our mouths to confess your saving name. Amen.



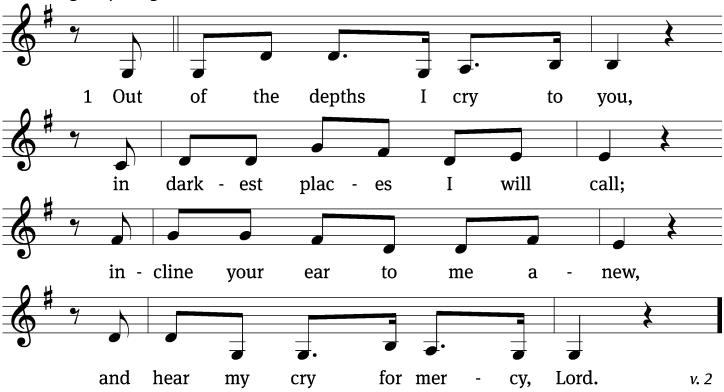
PSALM 130G I WILL WAIT FOR YOU 4

A duet sings:

LORD, from the depths I call to you; Lord, hear me from on high And give attention to my voice When I for mercy cry.

LORD, in your presence who can stand, If you our sins record?
But yet forgiveness is with you,
That we may fear you, Lord.

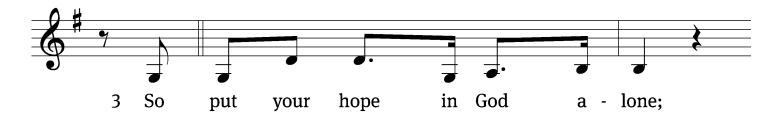
A small group sings:

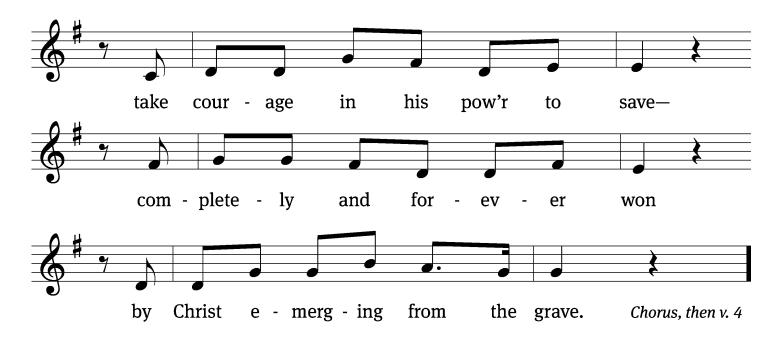


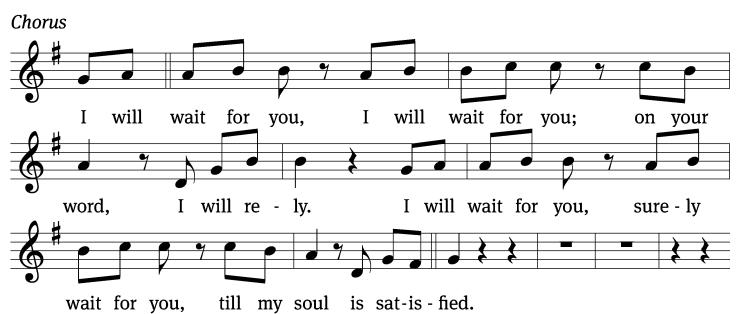
⁴ Martin Luther said, "Psalm 130 is a prayer psalm. The psalmist confesses that no one is righteous before God, and that no one can become righteous by their own works and righteousness. People can only become righteous through grace and the forgiveness of sins, which God has promised."

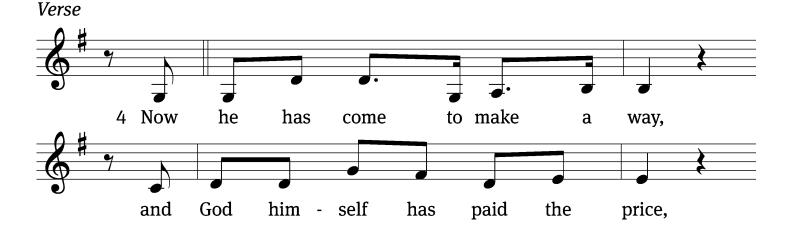
The congregation sings:

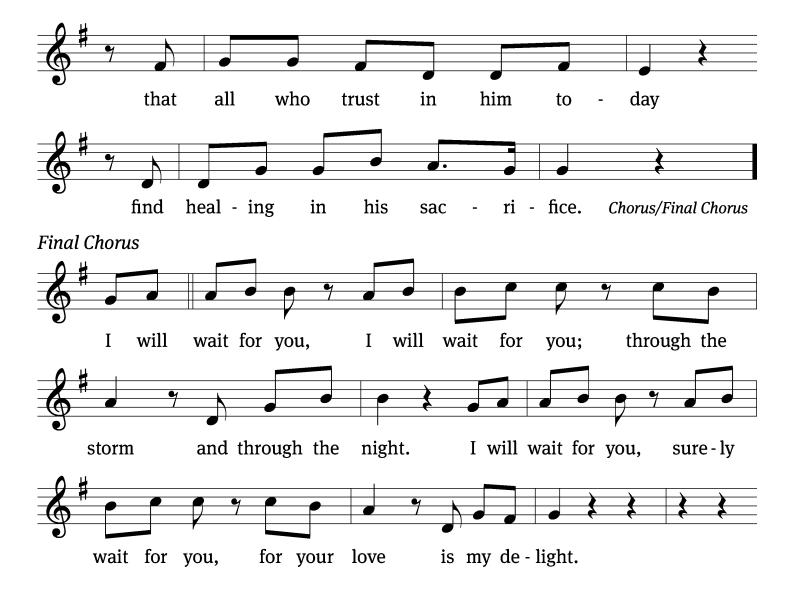












A small group sings:

I wait—my soul waits—for the Lord; My hope is in his word. More than the watchman waits for dawn My soul waits for the Lord.

O Israel, put your hope in God, For mercy is with him And full redemption. From their sins His people he'll redeem.

PRAYER OF THE DAY 5

P: Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; 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: HABAKKUK 1:1-3; 2:1-4 6

¹The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

²How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?
³Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds...

2I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts;

⁵The Prayer of the Day is a short general prayer that makes a request of God based on the theme of the day. It is (normally) a five-part prayer: 1) Address; 2) Basis for the petition; 3) the Petition; 4) Reason for the petition; 5) Conclusion of praise to God.

⁶The LORD instructs the prophet Habakkuk to write down what he was about to hear God say. That revelation empowered God's people to anticipate God's deliverance.

I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

²Then the LORD replied:

"Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. ³For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

4"See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness.

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 22:6-13

⁶The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

⁷"Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!"

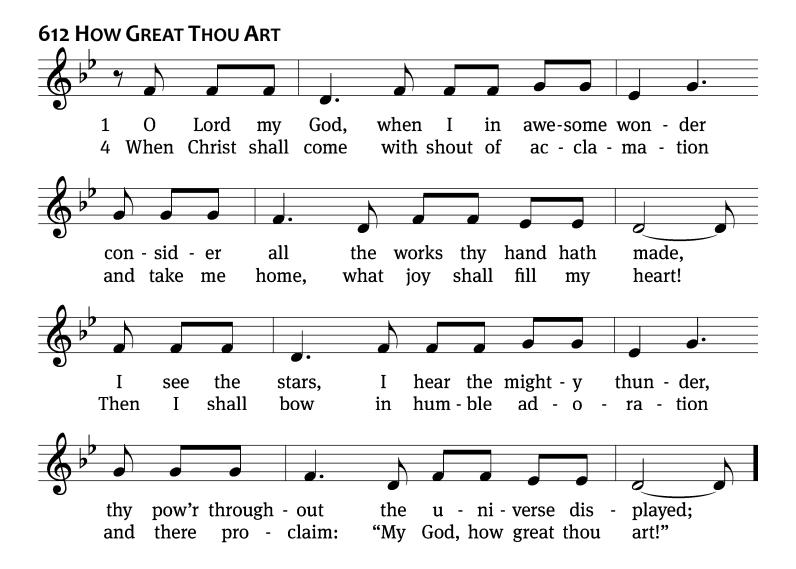
¹⁰Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. ¹¹Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy."

¹²"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

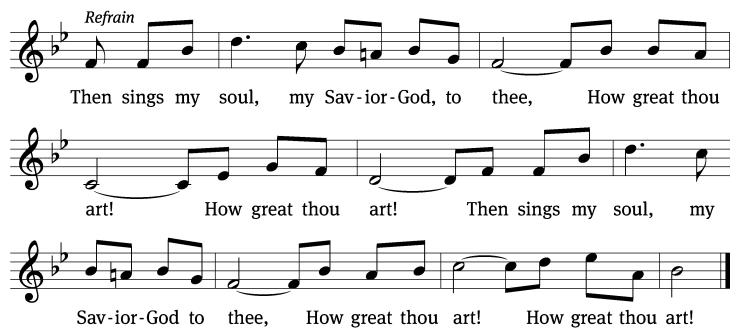
VERSE OF THE DAY 7

MATTHEW 24:42

P: Alleluia. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Alleluia.



⁷The 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.



Text: Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989 Tune: Swedish Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust . US print rights admin. Hope Publishing Co. All other rights admin. Capitol CMG Publishing . Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712940

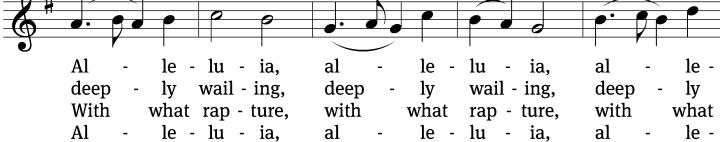
GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 12:35-408

³⁵"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

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⁸ Though we cannot know when Jesus will return, we can be certain what will happen when he does. So, we watch and wait with anticipation.

487 Lo! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING Lo! with clouds de scend - ing, He comes Ev shall hold him 2 'ry eye now be sion Those dear to kens of his pas dore Yea, let all thee men, a a 'ry once for sin slain; ev ner glo - rious robed in maj es ty; still his daz zling bod V bears, thine high on e ter nal throne; sand saints thou thou sand ing at tend naught sold him, those who set at and end of less ex ul ta tion cause take the pow'r Sav - ior, and glo ry, swell the of tri - umph his train: nailed him pierced the and to tree, ran - somed ship his to wor ers. claim the king - dom thine own. as





Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON 9

REVELATION 22:6-13

A Preview of Coming Attractions

- I. He is coming soon
- II. What should we do?

⁹The 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.

APOSTLES' CREED 10

I believe in God, the Father almighty,	2 Cor. 6:18
maker of heaven and earth.	ls. 51:13
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,	1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,	Lk. 1:35
born of the virgin Mary,	Lk. 1:34; 2:7
suffered under Pontius Pilate,	Lk. 23:16
was crucified, died, and was buried.	Mt. 27:32-61 et al.
He descended into hell.	1 Pet. 3:19
The third day he rose again from the dead.	1 Cor. 15:4b
He ascended into heaven	Ac. 2:33-34
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.	Heb. 1:13
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.	Mt. 25:31; 2 Tim. 4:1
I believe in the Holy Spirit,	Mt. 3:16-17
the holy Christian Church,	Eph. 5:23
the communion of saints,	Eph. 4:3-6
the forgiveness of sins,	Rom. 4:6-8
the resurrection of the body,	Ecc. 12:7
and the life everlasting. Amen.	1 Th. 4:17

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.

¹⁰ Having heard the Word of God, we confess our faith in his name. The creed is our saying back to God what he has first said to us. In the Creed we acclaim the truth of the triune God and his work of salvation accomplished for us in his incarnate Son, Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Philippians 2:11).



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH 11

LORD'S PRAYER 12

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.

¹¹ Through the Prayer of the Church we heed Christ's command to "love one another." One of the greatest forms of love we can show for our neighbor is to pray for them.

¹² The Lord's Prayer is a prayer given us by Christ himself. Daily the baptized people of God pray. The Lord's Prayer is both a prayer to pray and a model for all our prayers.





On my heart im - print your im - age, bless-ed Je - sus, King of grace,



that life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures have no pow'r to hide your face.



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, c

Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun-da-tion, and my glo-ry and sal-va - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758 Text and tune: Public domain

THE LORD'S BLESSING 13

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.

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¹³ As we began the service with the Lord's name, so we are sent out in his name. Worshippers may make the sign of the cross on themselves as they are encouraged to live each day with Baptismal confidence, knowing that they have the Lord's blessing and presence with them.

850 IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL



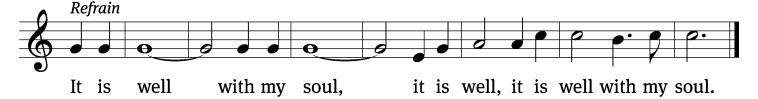
at - tend - eth my When peace like a riv er way, when tan should buf - fet, though tri Though als should come, Sa let 3 oh, the bliss of this glo ri - ous thought— My sinmy 4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like bil-lows roll— what - ev - er my lot, thou hast sea this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my sin, not in part, but the whole. is nailed to the cross, and clouds be rolled back the trump shall re-sound, and the a scroll: as



well. well with taught me say, it is it is my soul. and hath shed help - less es - tate his own blood for my soul. no more: praise the Lord, praise the Lord. bear 0 my soul! shall de - scend; it is well with my soul. Lord e - ven so,



Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888, alt. Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876 Text and tune: Public domain



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS:

The altar flowers are given by Dwight and Madeline Mann in celebration of their 2nd wedding anniversary.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Isaiah 2:1-5 Philippians 4:4-7 Matthew 21:1-11

SERVING THEIR SAVIOR AT CHRIST OUR SAVIOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30:

Flowers: **Needed**

Nursery: 8:30am—Pam and Duane Fauth

11:00—Lisa Seltz and Sophie Pfund

Ushers: 8:30am—Austin and Adam Moore

11:00am—Sam Janda and Dean Vogus

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT CHRIST OUR SAVIOR:

Sunday Worship 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Thursday Worship 7:00 PM

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

Lord's Supper 1st and 3rd Sundays Youth Confirmation Sundays, 6:00 PM

Bible 101 Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

Choir Wednesdays, 7:00 PM

Women's Bible Study 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 10:00 AM

Iron Sharpens Iron (*Men's group*) December 6, 8:30 AM Thanksgiving Eve Supper/Worship 11/26, 6:00/7:00 PM

Advent by Candlelight 12/5, 7:00 PM Advent by Campfire 12/12, 6:00 PM



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

Adult Bible Study: The birth of Jesus began the fulfillment of all God's ancient promises to his people. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised a Savior, the Messiah (Christ), who would "crush the head" of the serpent, who would "be a blessing to all nations," who would redeem his people from their sins, and so much more. This Bible study series explores the promises made hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus. As we approach Christmas, we will then see how our Savior fulfilled these promises for us. Join us on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary during the Bible study hour (9:45am).

Advent by Candlelight (Ladies):

Advent by Candlelight is Friday, December 5th, at 7:00pm! Here are answers to frequently asked questions to help you prepare for this night of meditation on God's Word and fellowship with the ladies in our congregation:

When should I arrive? The service begins at 7:00pm in the back fellowship area. Light appetizers are served before the service starts. For the sake of our hostesses, please plan on arriving between 6:30-6:50pm.

What should I wear? Dressy, casual, or something in-between – come as you are comfortable!

How long does it last? The service of songs and readings typically lasts about 45 minutes. Desserts are served after the service and the rest of the evening is a time for visiting and fellowship.

Where will I sit? Attendees are assigned to tables provided and decorated by hostesses. Seating arrangements will be shared with you when you arrive at the event. If you have invited a guest, they will be seated with you.

What if I have other questions or need to change my RSVP? Please contact Sarah Crass (sarah.crass@coslutheran.com) or Melissa Moore with any questions and RSVP updates, as they do affect seating arrangements. It's not too late to sign-up! We can't wait to see you there!

Advent by Campfire (Gentlemen): On Friday, December 12th, the men of Christ Our Savior are hosting an evening around the campfire as we prepare for our Savior's birth. Food will be served at 6:00pm, followed by a time of devotion and fellowship. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend (friends and sons are also welcome) or bring any food or drinks. Contact John Dale (john.dale@coslutheran.com) if you have any questions.

<u>Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Dinner:</u> On Wednesday, 11/26, we will have a special Thanksgiving Eve Worship service at 7:00pm. We will also have a soup and sandwich potluck dinner beginning at 6:00pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship area if you can bring food or help with setup.

Note: There will be no service on Thursday, November 27th.

<u>Advent Sanctuary Decorating</u>: Please join us Saturday, November 29th at 9am to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season. All are welcome. Please contact Sara Kueck (931-215-2985) if you have any questions.

<u>Flowers/1st Sunday Snacks 2026:</u> Signups are on the bulletin board for altar flowers and 1st Sunday snacks in 2026. Reserve your spot today!

<u>Iron Sharpens Iron:</u> The men of the congregation are invited to join us on Saturday December 6 at 8:30am to study the topic "A Strategic Plan for Christian Living." To sign up for text message reminders about this group, use this QR code:



Youth Ski Trip 2026:

WHO: Youth in grades 5-12

WHAT: Fun games Friday evening, Saturday on the slopes of Ober Gatlinburg, Saturday evening Bible Study, Worship on Sunday morning.

WHERE: Downtown Gatlinburg in the heart of the Smoky Mountains. The Hotel is the Edgewater Hotel and Conference Center 402 River Rd, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. The base of Ober Gatlinburg is just two blocks away at 1001 Parkway Gatlinburg, TN 37738

WHEN: Friday, February 6th to Sunday, February 8th.

HOW MUCH: Cost is \$200 to ski and snowboard with equipment rental and lessons included.

Follow this link (<u>sa.wels.net/ski-trip-registration</u>) or the QR code below to register. Registration will close January 4th.



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Psalm 130: Tune: Hugh Wilson Text (sts. Intro, Intro (cont'd), Outro, Outro (cont'd)): © 2003 Psalmody Committee, Free Church of Scotland "Lord, from the Depths I Call to You". Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712940 Text (sts. 1–2, Chorus, 3–4, Final Chorus) and tune: © 2018 Townend Songs (PRS), admin. Music Services "I Will Wait for You"; (sts. 1–2, Chorus, 3–4, Final Chorus): © 2018 Getty Music Publishing (BMI), admin. Music Services "I Will Wait for You"; (sts. 1–2, Chorus, 3–4, Final Chorus): © 2018 Jordan Kauflin Music (BMI) "I Will Wait for You"; (sts. 1–2, Chorus, 3–4, Final Chorus): © 2018 Matthew Merker Music (BMI) "I Will Wait for You". Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712940

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