

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.

PENTECOST 7

JULY 12, 2026

**WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT:
CHRISTIANS ARE PLANTED BY THE WORD**



SERIES THEME:

The Bible says Christians are different. Christians are people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. But they often look the same as those who do not believe in Jesus. How are Christians different? The answer is often something internal, attitudes or perspectives that come only from the work of the Holy Spirit in Word and sacrament. Ultimately, Christians are people who run to Christ for forgiveness because they have failed to live perfect lives. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to do all the things that Jesus says Christians do, things that make Christians different.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Planting seed by hand can be extraordinary. In your hand, the seed looks lifeless and insignificant. You put the seed into the soil, and suddenly, all by itself, the seed germinates and sprouts and reaches to the sun. Except when it doesn't! Plant multiple seeds, and often only some will grow.

The Bible describes Christians as planted by the Word. Why do some people grow in faith, and not others? What makes Christians different? The Bible describes the supernatural process by which God calls people to faith through the gospel. He promises that his Word always accomplishes his purpose. It is powerful all on its own, without our help. As we grow in faith, we give God thanks for the miracle of his work in our lives.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

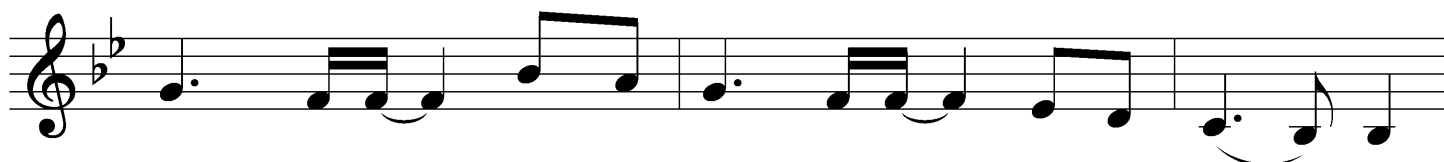
633 SPEAK, O LORD



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



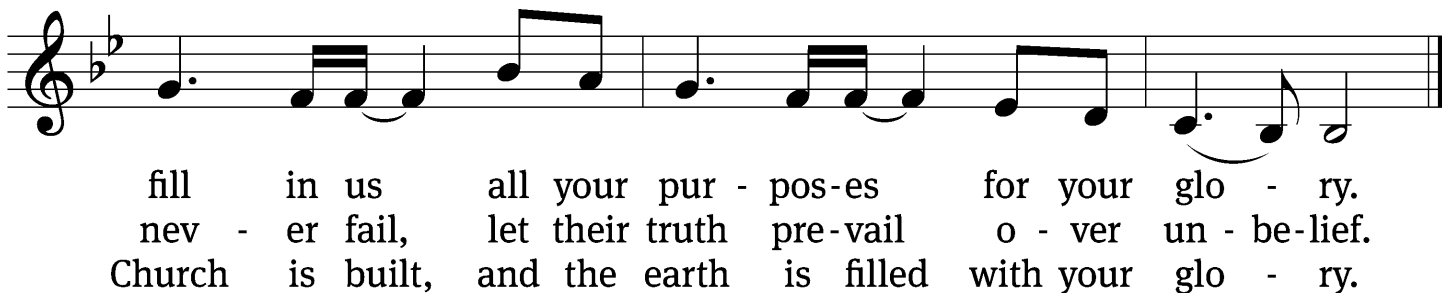
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



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

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

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. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

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

² Publicly confessing sins might seem like a strange practice to those not familiar with it. But to confess our sins is to speak the truth about our lives. To confess our sin is to state our agreement with God's just verdict that we have sinned against him and so deserve only death and hell (1 John 1:8-10). The truth of our sinfulness is answered by the truth of God's forgiveness for the sake of the suffering and death of his Son. From the lips of a pastor "called and ordained" as a servant of the Word, we hear God himself speaking absolution – that is, the forgiveness of sins. To that forgiveness faith says, "Amen," that is, "Truth."

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 strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious. His name is worthy of praise!

627 TO GOD BE THE GLORY

1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son,

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our joy and our won - der when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son

and give him the glory, great things he has done!

PRAYER OF THE DAY ³

P: Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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

³The 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.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 55:6-11 ⁴

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.

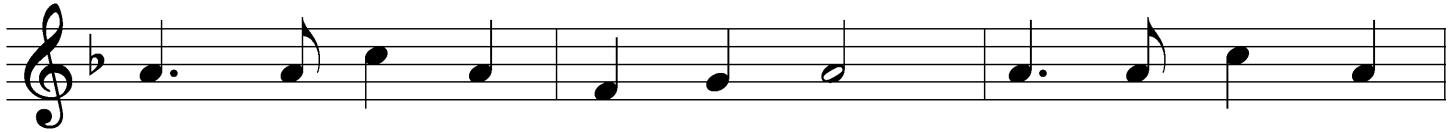
⁹"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

⁴ God's Word produces the fruit that God desires.

PSALM 65 EVERY HEART ITS TRIBUTE PAYS ⁵



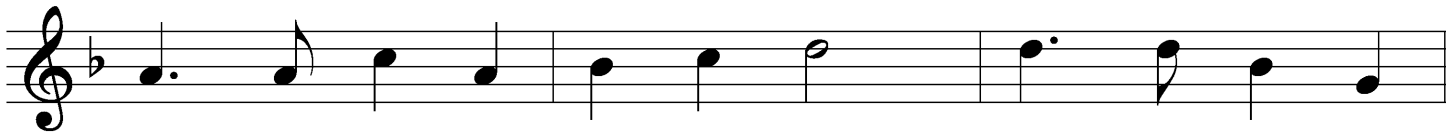
1 Ev - 'ry heart its trib - ute pays, ev - 'ry tongue its
2 Ev - er while his deeds en - dure our sal - va - tion



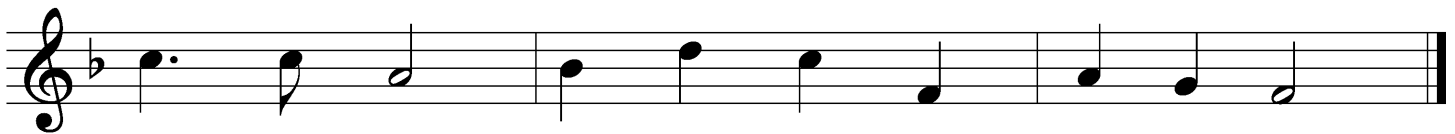
song of praise; sin and sor - row, guilt and care, brought to
stands se - cure; he whose fin - gers spun the earth, gave the



him who an - swers prayer; there by grace may hu - man - kind
seas and moun - tains birth, tamed the o - cean, formed the land,



full and free for - give - ness find; called and cho - sen,
spread the skies with might - y hand: far - off shores re -



loved and blest, in his pres - ence be at rest.
vere his name, day and night his pow'r pro - claim.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-11

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who

⁵ Martin Luther said, "Psalm 65 is a psalm of thanksgiving. The psalmist praises God for giving us his Word and worship along with temporal peace. He treats the growth and spread of the Church through the preaching and miracles of the apostles with the picture of fields producing a bountiful harvest."

plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY ⁶

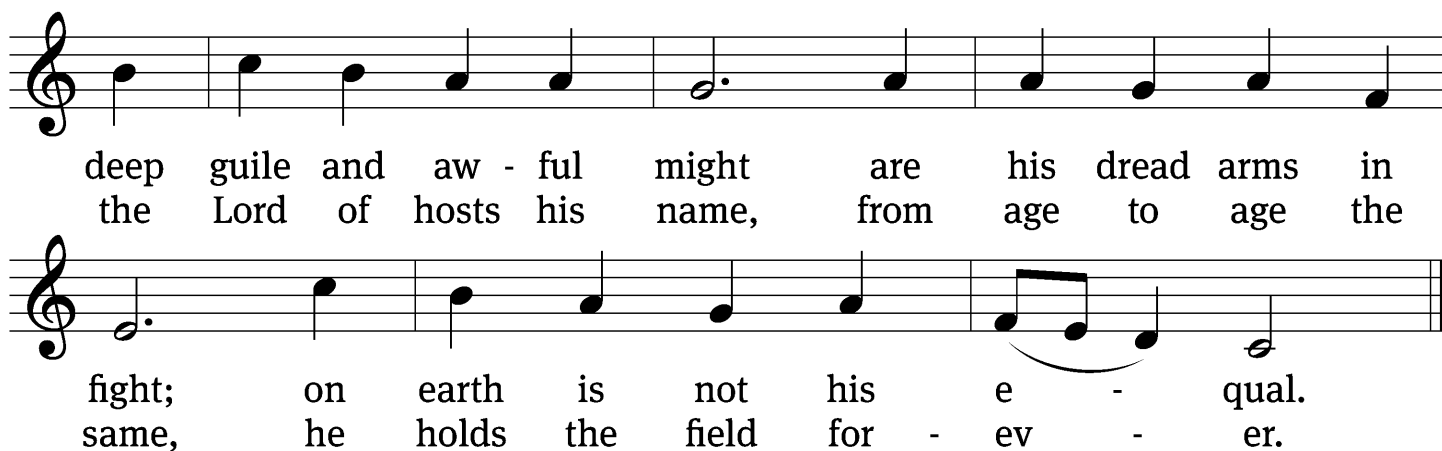
ISAIAH 55:11

P: Alleluia. My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia.

864 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our
shield and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry
loss ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant
need that has us now o'er - tak - en.
one whom God him - self e - lect - ed.
The an - cient e - vil foe now means to work us woe;
You ask who this may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he,

⁶ 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.



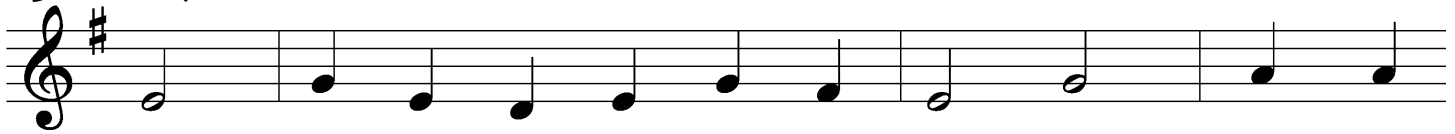
GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23 ⁷

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear..."

¹⁸"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

⁷ Jesus pictures ministry as a planter scattering seed.

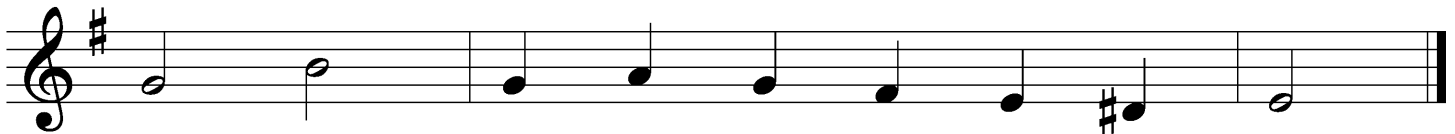
632 LORD, OPEN NOW MY HEART TO HEAR



1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, and through your
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; your Word grants
3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the



Word to me draw near. Let me your Word e'er pure re -
heal - ing from my sin. Your Word has pow'r to guide and
Spir - it, Three in One, shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or



tain; let me your child and heir re - main.
bless; your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
be now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

SERMON ⁸

1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-11

God Grows His Church!

- I. He doesn't need us
- II. He uses us

⁸The 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 ⁹

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

⁹ 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).

767 LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US

3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious
sen - tence, "You have done it all for me."
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
need what we can do, say - ing by your
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff has a '3' above the first measure, indicating a triplet. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some measures containing rests. The final measure of the sixth staff ends with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH ¹⁰

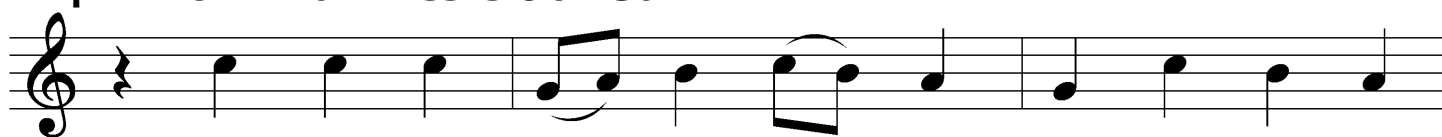
LORD'S PRAYER ¹¹

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.

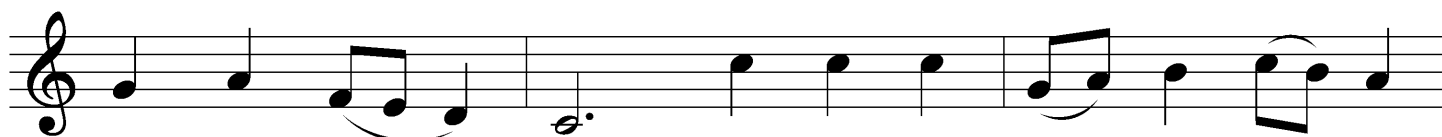
¹⁰ Through the Prayer of the Church we heed Christ's command to "love one another." One of the greatest forms of love we can show for our neighbor is to pray for them.

¹¹ 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.

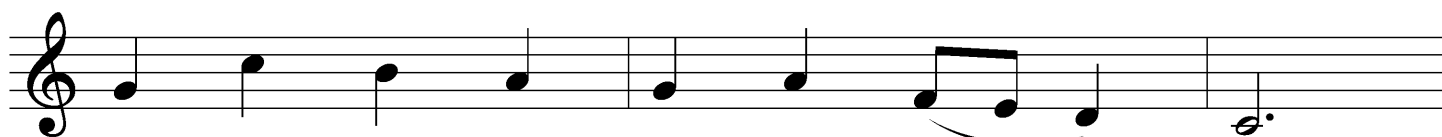
864 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD



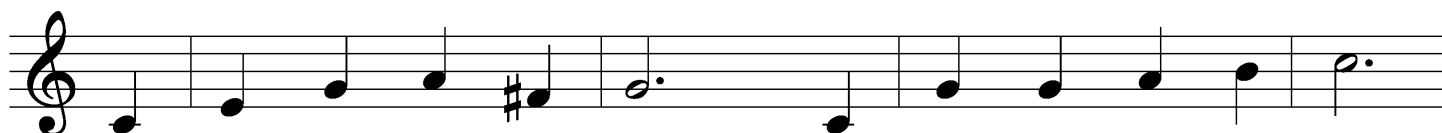
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger
4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y



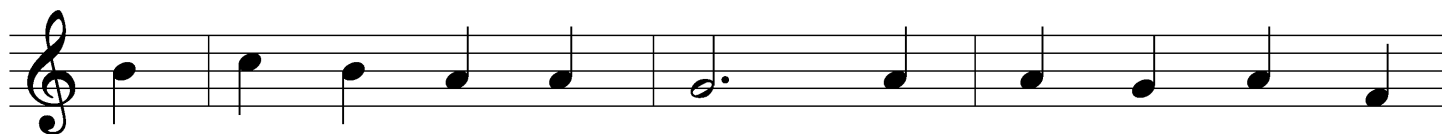
to de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no
thanks have for it; he's by our side up - on the



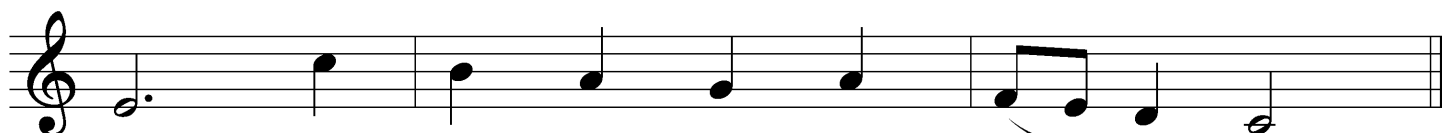
ill; they shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
plain with his good gifts and Spir - it.



The prince of dark - ness still may scowl fierce as he will,
And should they take our life, goods, hon - or, child, and wife,



his rag - ing harms us none. He's judged; the deed is
though all of these be gone, our vic - to - ry is



done; one lit - tle word can fell him.
won; the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

THE LORD'S BLESSING ¹²

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.

640 GOD'S WORD IS OUR GREAT HERITAGE

God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -

ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our

chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it

is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its

teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

¹² 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS:

The altar flowers are given by Trish and Mike Stautner in thanks to God for the blessings of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Isaiah 44:6-11

Romans 1:18-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

SERVING THEIR SAVIOR AT CHRIST OUR SAVIOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19:

Flowers: Thiele

Nursery: 8:30am—Jamie and Sawyer Davis

11:00am—Shelle and Ava Jones

Ushers: 8:30am—Daniel Davis and Aaron Jacobs

11:00am—Duane Smith and Bob Betzelberger

Landscaping: Duane Smith (7/18-7/31)

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

Thursday Night Worship 7:00 PM

Lord's Supper 8/2

Bible 101 Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

Canvassing Wednesdays, 6:00 PM

Ladies Bible Study July 22, 10:00 AM

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

WELS Youth Rally July 14-17

Camp South July 20-24

Pastor Westra Farewell August 2



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

Pastor Westra farewell: Pastor and Deb Westra's final Sunday at Christ Our Savior will be August 2nd. Please join us at either service as we thank both of them for their many years of service. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

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.

Steel Drum Band: The Steel Drum Band from Wisconsin Lutheran High School in Milwaukee will join us for worship on 7/19. The band will perform during both services and give a concert between services. **Please note there will be no Adult Bible Class or Sunday School on 7/19.**

Communion: Please note there will be no communion on 7/16 or 7/19. The normal schedule will resume in August.

Parking Lot Sealing/Striping: Weather-permitting, the church parking lot will be resealed, and new lines will be painted this Friday, July 17th. This new paint will include arrows and stop bars to indicate the direction of traffic following the addition of the new parking lot entrance. Please see the church bulletin board for what this will look like.

Canvassing: Canvassing efforts continue this week. We would love to have many involved in our attempts to reach those who don't know Christ with the life-saving message of the gospel. We will meet at church at 6:00 pm each Wednesday night. If you are unsure, please note you will partner with an experienced canvasser and

receive “on the job” training. Please consider giving canvassing a try! We would love for you to join the canvassing team this summer on Wednesday nights.

Harvest Share: We are partnering with Harvest Share food pantry this Wednesday, July 15th, from 10:30am-12:30pm. Opportunities are available to donate time (10 volunteer spots) and make donations (condiments, hygiene products, and non-perishable food items). Please see the sign-up sheet in the gathering area of the church for more information and to sign up.

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