



IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

Live Like You'll Live Forever: confessing your faith with courage. Living life according to God's Word is going to make one appear odd in the eyes of the world, perhaps even evil. So why not just stay silent if that makes life easier? Why not keep our faith private? Answer: because we are going to live forever. Since we know we are going to live forever in the perfection of heaven...we don't worry if being a witness for Christ brings hardship or even death. Luther knew that...thanks to Christ...he would live forever. So will we. Therefore, like Luther...let us live a life of courageous witness.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. At St. Paul's, you will find a worship service designed to praise God and increase people's faith. While all styles of worship take some getting used to, we hope you will find that the main message – the unconditional love Jesus has for us – comes through clearly.

PARTICIPATE. Many parts of our worship service are interactive. Feel free to sing along with the hymns and songs. There are also times in the service when Pastor and congregation speak back and forth. Please join together as you feel comfortable.

PARAMENTS. In Lutheran churches you often see paraments. These are the colored cloths with symbols on them hanging from the altar and pulpit. They change with the church seasons and celebrations as a visual reminder of what we are celebrating in our worship. The color for Reformation is red...reminding you of the power of the Holy Spirit who creates faith in Jesus Christ through God's Word. It also reminds you of the faithful witness of many to the teachings of God's Word...some who even shed their blood in defense of the gospel...offering a perpetual encouragement to stand on those teachings and not to lose the Word of Life.

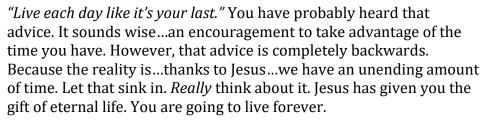
PERSONAL CONVENIENCES. For your convenience, restrooms are located in the southwest corner of the narthex across from the entrance into the sanctuary...feel free to ask for directions. Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate mode so as not to disrupt others during the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

To help you focus while you join us for worship, take the time to eliminate as many distractions around you as possible. We may be separated by in-person or livestream worship, but we can connect with each other here for Christian support and encouragement.

WORSHIP NOTES

LAST SUNDAYS OF THE CHURCH YEAR

The Church Year comes to a close in October and November. On these Sundays, we talk about the end of time. Scripture makes it clear that when Jesus comes again he will not be bringing salvation like the first time. He will be bringing the angels and fire to destroy the universe. These Sundays allow you the opportunity to focus on the fact that life on earth doesn't go on and on. It comes to an end...either in death or on Judgment Day. And yet...this need not scare Christian believers. For a believer the end of his life or the end of this world is a wonderful thing! It means the beginning of a new and better existence...in a much more glorious world than this one.





If you really thought it was your last day...that belief would shape how you lived that day. In this series...let us consider how the gift of eternal life shapes how we live each day. Live like you'll live forever! Our worship will follow this pattern:

LIVE LIKE YOU'LL LIVE FOREVER	
The Festival of the Reformation	Live Confessing Your Faith with Courage
All Saints' Day	Live Knowing Life Only Gets Better
25 th Sunday after Pentecost	Live Offering Everything to the Lord
26 th Sunday after Pentecost	Live Free from the Fear of Judgment
Last Sunday of the Church Year	Live with Your Eyes on the Skies

THE REFORMATION

Today we celebrate the Festival of the Reformation. What does that mean? It means that today we remember why we are called Lutherans. The effect of the Lutheran Reformation of the Church on the history of the world can hardly be overstated. Quite simply...it caused one of the most profound sea-changes in history. In fact, when *US News and World Report* ranked the most important events of the last 1,000 years...the Lutheran Reformation placed second, right behind Gutenberg's moveable type printing press.



Now consider that for a minute. That means that they considered the Lutheran Reformation to be of greater significance than the discovery of the New World (number 3 on the list). But why? And who was this Luther guy? He was a monk, a priest, a professor at a little university in Wittenberg, Germany. Why would a guy like that be listed as the third most influential person of the last 1,000 years? More important than Einstein, Edison, or George Washington? Really? Why?

It is because...through his teaching...Luther changed religion. During the dark days of the Middle Ages, the truth of God's word was all but lost. The church of that day was not teaching that you are saved by Jesus' death and resurrection. Instead, people were told that they needed to try and earn their way to heaven...or worse, that they had to buy their way to heaven by purchasing indulgences. The truth of God's word was rejected...and the traditions of men put in its place. Dr. Luther changed all that on October 31, 1517...when he nailed 95 Theses — statements for debate — on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. He said that the Bible should be the only thing that binds your conscience...not man-made traditions. He showed that God saved you by grace alone, by faith alone. He returned the Bible into the hands of the people...and that quite literally changed the world. The Gospel exploded in a way it had not in over 1,000 years. It not only created a new church — Lutheranism — it forced every church to examine what it taught. Most modern-day Christian church bodies were born out of the Reformation. This reminds you that the impact of the Reformers work was not limited to Germany or Lutheranism. It was worldwide. For this...we praise God. As the rediscovered Gospel swept through Europe and the New World...it shaped nations and history. That is why Martin Luther is considered such an influential man.

However, you are not here today to celebrate a man. In fact...we will not talk about Martin Luther much at all this morning. Instead, we will do exactly what Dr. Luther would want us to do...to celebrate the grace of God who reformed his Church and brought back the pure and simple teaching that had been lost: Jesus Christ died and rose for me, so I will be in heaven forever. Period. Today we don't talk about Martin Luther. Today, we talk about what Luther rediscovered: Gospel truth and the freedom it offers.

By Grace Alone. By Faith Alone. By Scripture Alone.

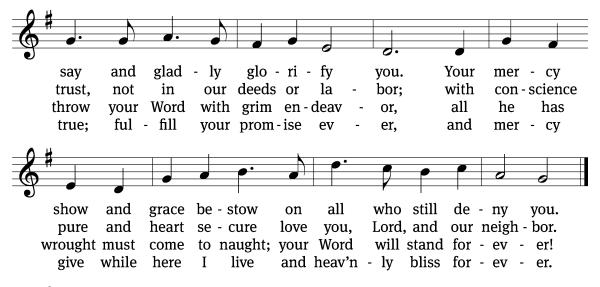
^{11,000} Years and 1,000 People, Gottlieb and Bowers

THE

ORDER of WORSHIP for THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

What sets this day apart is not just what the Lord accomplished through Martin Luther over 500 years ago, but also the emphasis on the need for the Church to remain faithful to the Word in the last times...always reforming through the Word. In every generation...including your own...God calls his people to renewal. Today you give thanks for heritage of the Reformation...standing simply on God's Word alone...and remember that a heritage is no substitute for the ongoing work of reformation and renewal in your own time. You continue in Christ's gift of freedom only as long as you continue faithful in his Word...alone.





Stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING RESPONSES

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

We gather today to celebrate the Reformation, remembering God's Word as the light that guides our faith.

His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

LITANY FOR REFORMATION

Lord, we thank you for the gift of your Word, **For it teaches us, guides us, and transforms us.**

Lord, we confess that we have sometimes neglected your Scriptures, Forgive us, and inspire us to read, study, and meditate upon your Word daily.

Lord, we thank you for the Reformers who brought your Word to the forefront,

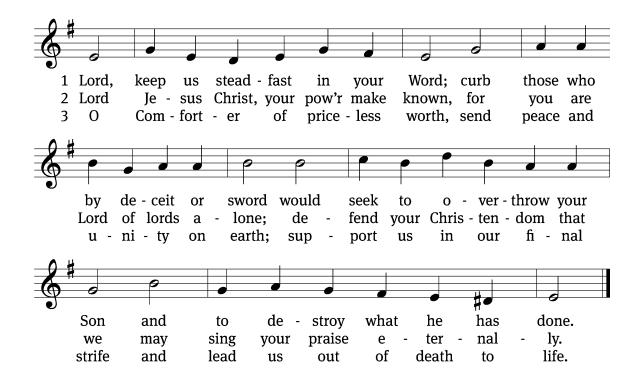
Grant us the courage and conviction to uphold your truth in our lives.

Lord, we pray for those who have yet to know the peace of your Word, **Lead us to share your love with all people.**

Lord, help us to hear your voice above all the noise of the world, **May we always be guided by your truth.**

HYMN Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word | **862**

Hymn Appreciation: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast was written by Dr. Martin Luther in 1541 because of a grave and growing threat. Militant Islam was on the move. Seeking to conquer the West and force conversion...the armies of Islam conquered much of the Mediterranean world. They conquered right up to Vienna...the gateway of Europe. A service of prayer for the safety of Christendom was held in 1541...and Luther wrote this hymn for the boys choir. It is a prayer that God preserve his people regardless of the evil aims of this world. The prayer is not that God would prevent the overthrow of his country...rather he prays for what is most important. "Curb those who be deceit or sword would seek to overthrow your Son and to destroy what he has done."



CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Beloved in Christ, as we gather to celebrate the miracle of God's grace, we recognize our need for his mercy. We come together to confess our sins and seek his forgiveness, confident in the truth of his Word.

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that we have not stood on the solid ground of your truth. We have wandered from your ways and allowed doubt to creep into our hearts. Forgive us for turning away from your Word and failing to trust in the promises you have given.

Indeed, Lord, help us to remember that it is through faith alone that we come to you. We often rely on our own understanding instead of placing our hope firmly in you. We seek your forgiveness for our self-reliance and for ignoring your grace in our lives.

Lord, we confess that we have tried to earn your love and approval. We have forgotten that we have no merit of our own and that it is only by your grace that we are accepted.

Friends, our assurance comes from the truth that in Christ alone, we are justified. His righteousness is our peace, and through him, we are freed from the demands of the law.

We thank you, Lord, that your perfect work in Christ sets us free from the burden of sin. May we find our strength in you alone.

Let us also remember that it is by grace alone that we have been saved. Every good gift we have comes from you, and our hearts, once enslaved by sin, have been transformed by your power.

We rejoice in the new life you have given us through your grace. Help us to live in a way that reflects your love and mercy to others.

Friends, in light of our confession, hear the good news: Through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven! We are redeemed and renewed, called to walk in his light and share his grace with those around us.

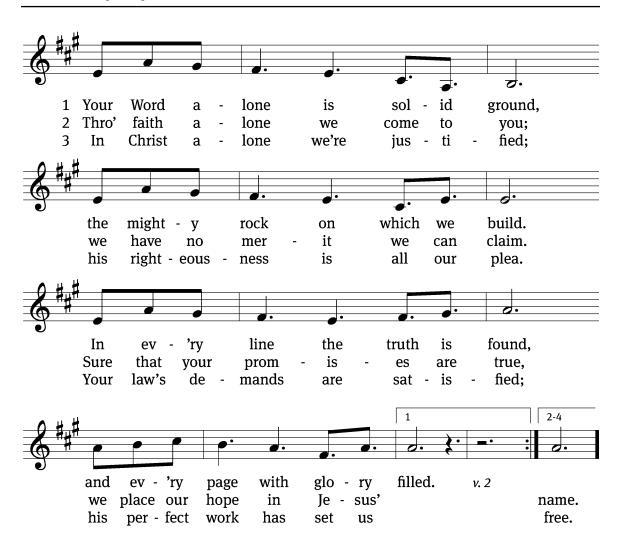
We give you thanks, Lord, for your unfailing love and the gift of forgiveness. We will stand firm in the truth of your Word and proclaim your glory, for you are our great hope.

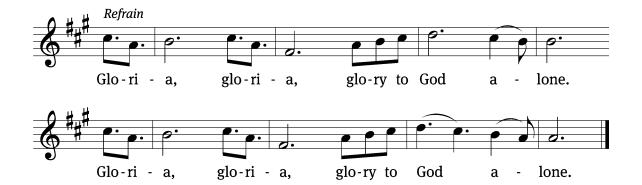
Go forth, beloved, knowing that you are forgiven and empowered to live as his children by his grace.

Amen.

Soloist will sing verse 1...please join as directed

Hymn Appreciation: This song was written for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. The *Reformation Song* is based on this passage of Scripture: "*But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known…*" - Romans 3:21. Each verse highlights one of the "*solas*" (alone) principles central to the reformation of the church.





- By grace alone we have been saved;
 all that we are has come from you.
 Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
 now by your pow'r have been made new. (Refrain)
- 5 And on this Reformation Day
 we join with saints of old to sing;
 we lift our hearts as one in praise:
 glory to Christ our gracious King. (Refrain)

THE WORD

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

This prayer was composed by the Lutheran Duke of Saxony, Henry IV (1473-1541)...who established the Lutheran church as the state church in his domains. This prayer recalls Psalm 46 and the hymn "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word". The Word defends us as we defend the Word.

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING Daniel 3:16-28

We may never find ourselves in a situation where we must choose between remaining faithful to the Lord and keeping our lives. Then again...we may. Regardless of the intensity of the persecution, the same God who was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego throughout their ordeal will be with us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit...he will strengthen our faith so that we will remain faithful to him.

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound

and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²²The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

²⁵He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.

Though the earth should change, though the earth should crumble into the sea, let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city. It shall not be moved. God will help when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar. The kingdoms of men have tottered. God thunders; the earth melts. The God of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our fortress.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

SECOND READING

Revelation 14:6-7

John sees the fulfillment of what Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:14 (verse 6). The message this angel proclaims to all nations is this: "Fear God and give him glory" (verse 7). It is a message that some in this world will love to hear. It's also one that some will hate. Our call as midair angels is to proclaim it in spite of any opposition...because this message means the glory of God and salvation of mankind.

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL *Mark* 13:5-11

Jesus describes life in these end times: false Christs, wars, earthquakes, famines. He calls them the beginning of birth pains...necessary suffering endured for a wonderful result. Then Jesus makes it personal: watch yourselves. You will be part of this. You will be handed over to governors and kings on account of me (verse 9). It's because of your relationship with Christ that you'll go through this. But there is a purpose: to be a witness. The gospel must be proclaimed to all nations.

⁵Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹"You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. ¹⁰And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. ¹¹Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

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

Be seated

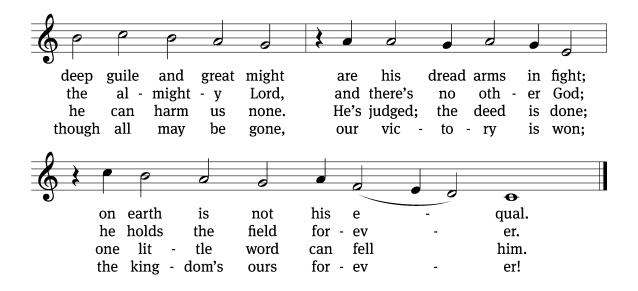
HYMN OF THE DAY

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God | 863

Hymn Appreciation: Jesus Christ and God's Word serve as a *fortress* by protecting you from the devil (the old evil foe)...saving you from eternal death...overcoming the world. This *fortress* hymn of the 16th century Reformation is still a favorite of Lutherans. Based on Psalm 46...it was a source of great comfort and a battle-cry for persecuted Christians through the centuries. Luther himself would ask friends to sing it with him while hiding for his life at the castle of Coburg.

Philipp Melancthon, Justus Jonas and Caspar Cruciger were sent into banishment in 1547...they were moved to tears as a little girl sung this for them in Weimar. The pastors and German princes sung a lively edition of it at the Diet of Augsburg in 1530. Gustavus Adolphus and his army sang this hymn before the Battle of Leipzig in 1631...and the Salzburg emigrants adopted it as their traveling hymn in 1732. Thus, the hymn served as a faithful reminder that if we have Christ, then we have everything...no matter what else we lose. But if we lack Christ, we have nothing...no matter what else we gain. Jesus Christ alone is the one in whom we find peace and safety.





SERMON

Revelation 14:6-7

"We are Beggars, It is True"

NICENE CREED

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 truly 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.

CONNECT

We would kindly ask everyone to fill out a <u>Connect Card</u> now. If you are worshipping with us virtually, we kindly ask that you also fill out a digital Connect Card. What will be the "next steps" you can take as a response to the message you have heard today? You can also let us know how we can pray for you or ask for more information on one of the ministries or programs we are offering. Thank you!

OFFERING

If you're visiting today...we're glad to have you as our guest. Please don't feel any obligation to participate in this part of the service. In fact...we hope you'll consider this service our gift to you! This offering is an opportunity for those of us who are regular attenders to invest tangibly in what God is doing here. If you do wish to give an offering...please feel free to do so.

Giving Options:

- Scan the QR code to the right.
- give your gift online.
- via text message: text "GIVE" to 877.492.5452 and follow the text instructions.



Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us come together in prayer, lifting our hearts to the Lord, who speaks to us through his Word.

For the Church, that we may always proclaim the truth of God's Word with boldness and courage,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who preach and teach the Word, that they may do so with wisdom, clarity, and strength,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are searching for meaning and truth, that they may find hope and guidance in the Scriptures,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our leaders and those in authority, that they may make decisions that uphold justice and righteousness,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are suffering or in need, that they may be comforted by the promises found in your Word,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world, that they may be drawn to your truth and led by Your light,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our community, that our lives may reflect your love and grace, drawing others to your Word,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our families and friends, that they may grow in faith and knowledge of you through the study of your Word,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the Reformers and all who have passed down the treasure of God's Word to us,

May we honor their legacy by living in the truth of your Word.

Special intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Trusting in your goodness and mercy, we lift our prayers to you, O Lord. May your Word continue to guide us and transform our hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 SACRAMENT

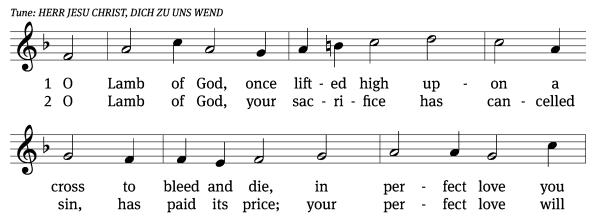
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

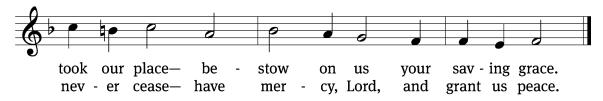
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

O LAMB OF GOD

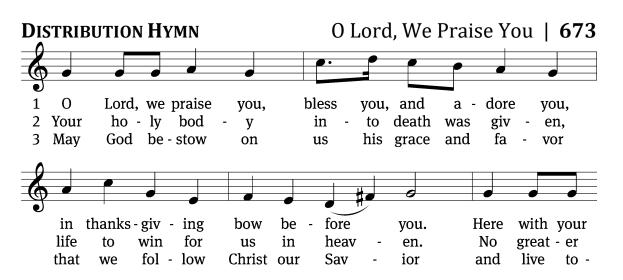




Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Through the Apostle Paul Jesus tells us that celebrating the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity with him and with the others who partake in this meal (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). He also says, "So, then whoever eats of the bread and drinks of the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves" (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). For these reasons, St. Paul's practices close communion with those united to us in beliefs and church membership. We welcome confirmed members of the WELS and ELS to the Lord's Table. We ask that you speak with one of our pastors before taking the Lord's Supper. They are eager to meet with you. We thank you kindly. And greatly look forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper with you. In preparation for communing today...you may use the questions found on pp.295-296 in the blue hymnal.





Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE God's Word Is Our Great Heritage | **640**





SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER: Pastor Brian Pechman **SERVICE ACCOMPANISTS:** Deb Doletzky and Gillian Curia

MUSICIANS: Pastor Adam, Asher, and Aurora Bode; Paschal Curia; Tori Engel; Stan Grzonka; Nikki Leahy; Nick & Tanya Schmidt; Jim Van Alstine; and Sue Vant Hul

ALTAR GUILD: Bonnie Baumann, Jean Porter, Julie Brunner, Lisa Specht

USHERS: 8:00a – Randy Wehrmann, Craig Thiel, Neil Pahl, Zach Prem, Matthew Prem

10:30a - Brian Grimm, Travis Krell, Nick Schmidt, Zach Theobald

Offerings: 10.20 & 10.21 - \$30,400 (Needed each week \$19,200) | \$580 - Faith for

THE FUTURE | \$5,100 – GROWING FORWARD

ATTENDANCE: 10.20 & 10.21 - 8:00A - 201 | 10:30A - 127 | 6:00P - 28

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