

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Artwork courtesy of fullofeyes.com

A Christian family who cares for you!

*Welcome to historic Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

2901 N. Highland Ave., Tampa, FL. 33602

www.ZionLutheranTampa.com

813-228-8272 to leave message or for emergency call:

Rev. Kenneth Redmann, Pastor 941-457-7576 (cell)

revredmann@gmail.com

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2026**

In Christian Love: A Statement on the Lord's Supper

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church believes, teaches, and confesses that in the Sacrament of the Altar—also known as the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, and Communion—we receive the true body and true blood of Christ given to us under the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our union with Him and with one another. The Lord Jesus Christ invites sinners to His table, sinners who repent of their sins and trust His promises. Christ Himself makes sinners worthy of receiving His good gifts in this Sacrament.

In Christian love, we are compelled to share that Scripture does warn us that it is possible to receive this Sacrament unworthily! So, what does this mean for us? It all comes down to our Lord's own Words when He instituted the Sacrament: **"Take, eat; this is My body,"** and, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood"** (Matthew 26:26; 1 Corinthians 11:25). The Apostle Paul says that **"anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself"** (see 1 Corinthians 11:27–32). This is especially true when we ignore, redefine, or disbelieve the words of Jesus, which we, as one body, confess to be true.

Therefore, we ask, please, that those who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or who hold to a confession different from that of this congregation and of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod first speak with the Pastor.

Even if you discern not to receive the Sacrament, we invite you to approach the altar rail and receive a blessing! Everyone who comes to our Church is a blessing to us, and we wish to bless you in return. Please simply cross your arms over your chest to receive the blessing from the Lord. Thank you, in Christian love.

The Preparation of our hearts and minds:

The Glory of God Is the Passion and Cross of Christ Jesus

After St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord “*began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised*” (Matt. 16:21). Upon hearing this “theology of the cross,” Simon Peter stumbled into a satanic “theology of glory.” But the glory of God is revealed in the Passion and cross of His incarnate Son. The faithful prophets, such as Jeremiah, suffered persecution and rejection in anticipation of Jesus’ cross. Yet the Lord did not abandon them; He remembered them, and He was with them to deliver them (Jer. 15:15–20). By His cross, Jesus has redeemed the world, and in His resurrection, He has vindicated all who trust in Him. Thus, the Christian life is a discipleship of self-sacrificing love. Since Christ Jesus has reconciled us to God, we “*live peaceably with all*” (Rom. 12:18). By the certainty of His cross and resurrection, we “*rejoice in hope,*” and we are “*patient in tribulation*” and “*constant in prayer*” (Rom. 12:12).

The Preparation and Sharing the Peace

Please Stand

Hymn We’re Together Again (*located on the front inside cover of: This Far By Faith hymnal*)

Sharing the Peace

We joyfully greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph 4:1-3).

Be Seated

(Order of Worship is taken from Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting 3, pg 184)

Confession and Absolution

531 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

sts. 1–3



1 Hail, Thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, Thou Gal - i -
 2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, All our sins on
 3 Je - sus, hail! En - throned in glo - ry, There for - ev - er



le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us; Thou didst
 Thee were laid; By al - might - y love a - noint - ed, Thou hast
 to a - bide; All the heav'n - ly hosts a - dore Thee, Seat - ed



free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, Thou u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior,
 full a - tone - ment made. All Thy peo - ple are for - giv - en
 at Thy Fa - ther's side. There for sin - ners Thou art plead - ing;



Bear - er of our sin and shame! By Thy mer - it
 Through the vir - tue of Thy blood; O - pened is the
 There Thou dost our place pre - pare, Ev - er for us



we find fa - vor: Life is giv - en through Thy name.
 gate of heav - en, Rec - on - ciled are we with God.
 in - ter - ced - ing Till in glo - ry we ap - pear.

Text (sts. 1, 3): Hymns Addressed to the Holy, Holy, Holy, Triune God, 1757, London, alt.; (sts. 2–3): A Collection of Psalms and Hymns, 1760, London, alt.
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen
 Text and tune: Public domain

Please Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

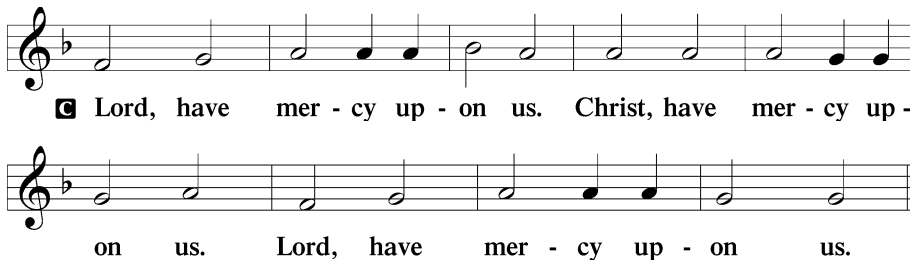
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al-mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Be Seated

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;

I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
 like waters that fail?
¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
 “If you return, I will restore you,
 and you shall stand before me.
 If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
 you shall be as my mouth.
 They shall turn to you,
 but you shall not turn to them.
²⁰And I will make you to this people
 a fortified wall of bronze;
 they will fight against you,
 but they shall not prevail over you,
 for I am with you
 to save you and deliver you,
 declares the LORD.
²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
 and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 12:9–21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Alleluia



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:21–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

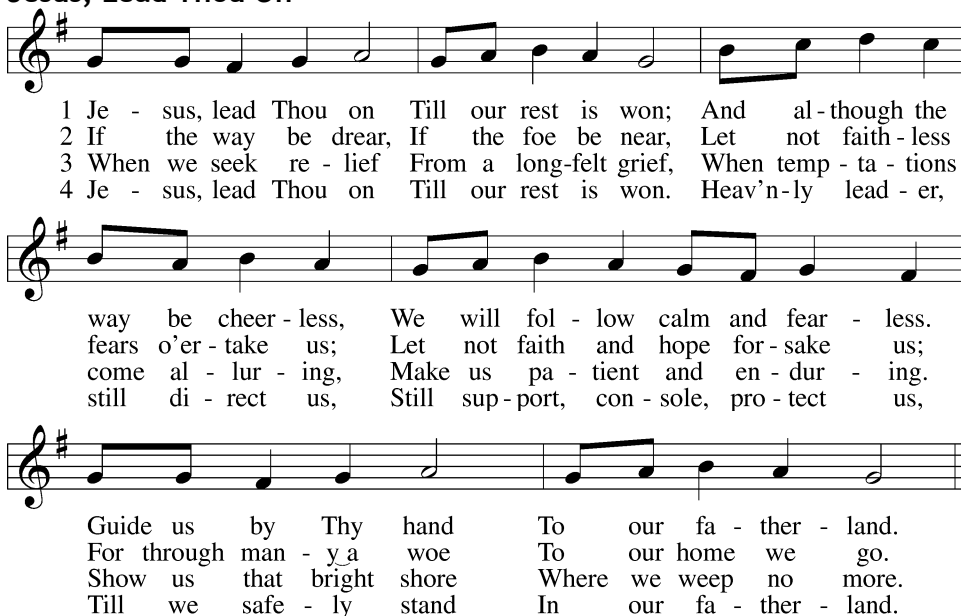
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Be Seated

718 Jesus, Lead Thou On



1 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al-though the
 2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith - less
 3 When we seek re - lief From a long-felt grief, When temp - ta - tions
 4 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n-ly lead - er,
 way be cheer - less, We will fol - low calm and fear - less.
 fears o'er - take us; Let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing, Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing.
 still di - rect us, Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,
 Guide us by Thy hand To our fa - ther - land.
 For through man - y a woe To our home we go.
 Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
 Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.
 Tune: Adam Drese, 1620–1701
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon:

Patience in Tribulation

Rev. Kenneth Redmann

Please Stand

Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Offering

When you come forward for Holy Communion, please place your tithes and gifts in the Offering plate at the front of the left pew.

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

L: Almighty God, ever righteous and faithful, all vengeance belongs to You. As our enemies rise against us, we place all things in Your hands, knowing justice will be done and that You, O Lord, will redeem us from the grasp of the wrongdoers. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious Lord, look with favor on the households of this congregation, and grant that all may live in love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Almighty Father, have mercy on all who are sick or suffering in any way, especially [_____ and] all whom we name silently in our hearts and minds. Grant that they may have relief from pain, and give them the courage to endure their crosses and tribulations. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Blessed Jesus, we are the few; we are the Remnant of Zion and we seek a rebirth. You have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ needed to be Your thriving Bride. You, O gracious God, know our every need, our weaknesses, our trials and our temptations. Visit all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ with Your abounding mercy and grace. Grant that, individually, we may stand against this world as the Body of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Loving Lord, until Your Son returns in glory, He gives us His body and blood to sustain us. Grant that all who receive this gift today may receive it in faith, trusting that it is given for the forgiveness of their sins and life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

ALL: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Be Seated

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

sts. 1, ref, 3

1 I come, O Sav-ior, to Thy ta-ble, For weak and
3 Un-wor-thy though I am, O Sav-ior, Be-cause I
wea-ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a-
have a sin-ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
lone art a-ble To sat-is-fy and make me whole:
ban-ish nev-er, For Thou my faith-ful shep-herd art:
Refrain
Lord, may Thy bod-y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000932

Tune: Public domain

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.

Please Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32


Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-


cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,


which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

- A** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.



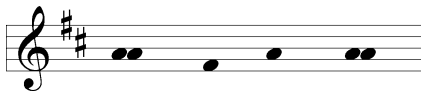
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



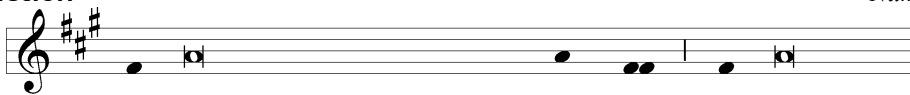
A Bless we the Lord.



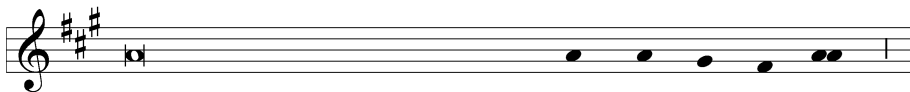
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

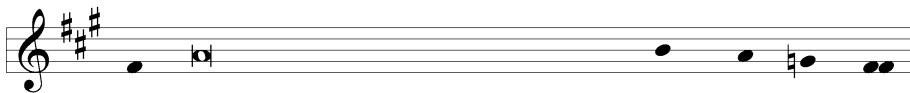
Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Be Seated

729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
 2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
 3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
 4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
 For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
 Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
 Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
 Thine can never fail.
 Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
 Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
 Never let me fall.
 I am trusting Thee forever
 And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79
 Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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The Promise of our Lord:

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, (or imagine) according to the power that worketh in us, ²¹ Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen (Eph 3:20-21 KJV).

Thank you!

We are so blessed to have you worship with us!

CALENDAR of MINISTRY EVENTS:

Aug	Sun	30	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	31	1:00-6:30pm Office hours*** 7:00pm Bible Study, verse by verse in Matthew with James Halfacer
Sept	Thur	3	10:00am Have whiteboard, will be with James and Leona 2-6:30pm Office hours***
	Fri	4	11:00am Have whiteboard will travel to Homosassa Springs for AIC*

*AIC = Adult Information Class

***Please call or text Pastor to let you in the building

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS:

Sept	Sun	6	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	7	LABOR DAY
	Thur	10	10:00am Have whiteboard, will be with James and Leona 2-6:30pm Office hours***
	Fri	11	11:00am Have whiteboard will travel to Homosassa Springs for AIC*

*AIC = Adult Information Class

***Please call or text Pastor to let you in the building

SERVANTS of THE LORD for TODAY:

Organist: Linda Redmann
Altar Guild: Sarah Brown
Counter: Sarah Brown
Communion Asst.: Don Campbell

Lector: James Halfacer
Greeter/Usher: Don Campbell
Asst. Counter: Paula Lewis
Tambourine: Paula Lewis

We're Together Again

We're together again...

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Praising the Lord...

¹⁸ Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord (Psalm 102:18).

in one accord...

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ (I Corinthians 12:12).

Something good is gonna happen...

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

Something good is in store...

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (I Corinthians 10:16).

Lutherans for Life

August 30 – Pentecost 14 – At the end of earthly life, we might cry out: “Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?” (Jeremiah 15:18). Don’t take your life, or anyone else’s, into your own hands. Receive St. Paul’s encouragement for all your for-life conversations: “Love one another with brotherly affection ... associate with the lowly ... live peaceably with all ... do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:9-21). Even though many of us may “taste death” before the Son of Man returns, we set our minds on the things of God—life! —and not the things of man (Matthew 16:23, 28).

The RICHES of our Liturgy • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

What do the parts of the liturgy mean? This is a frequently asked question; maybe you have asked that question yourself. The following descriptions of worship and the parts of liturgy were first published in an article by the former Commission on Worship for the Reporter Insert entitled “Taking a Tour of Heaven.”

*Worship is like no place else in this world.
But there is one place that it does resemble, and that is heaven*

Words of Our Lord

Among many Christians, the words of Jesus that we often refer to as the Words of Institution are nothing more than an historical report: this is what Jesus did and what he said. Period.

We have been blessed to know, however, that these words mean much more. They do what they say.

According to the command of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper not as a mere meal of remembrance but as a Sacrament by which Jesus himself comes to us. We don't transport ourselves back in time; rather, he comes to us and brings heaven down to earth for our benefit.

Of course, in heaven we won't receive the Lord's Supper. There we will have Jesus — the Bread of heaven — in all his fullness. But for now, as we wait for his return, he establishes his own beachhead in our sin-infested world, coming as our defender and deliverer, offering his own body and blood as the medicine of immortality.

Here we find strength for the journey as Christ dwells in us and we in him. And the more we partake of this sacred food, the greater our desire becomes to be with Christ forever.

In the words of Thomas Aquinas' great eucharistic hymn:

O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see:
May what we thirst for soon our portion be:
To gaze on Thee unveiled, and see Thy face,
The vision of Thy glory, and Thy grace.
(*Lutheran Service Book*, 640)