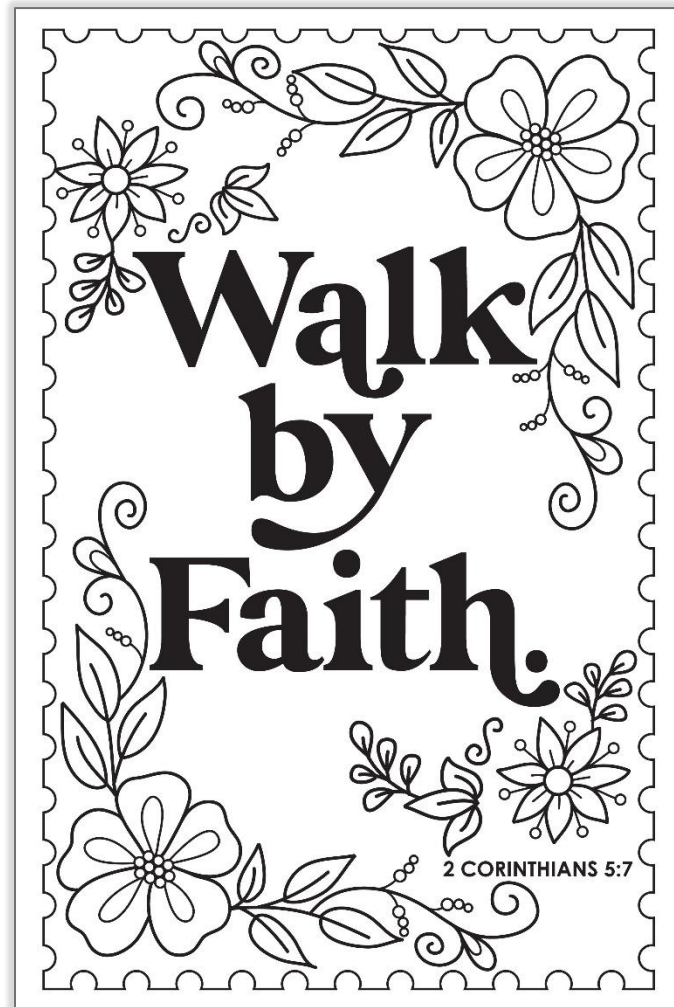


NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 10, 2025



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

*Welcoming all to walk together
toward abundant life in Christ.*

THEME: BE HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD

⁴⁷ *Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:*
⁴⁸ *he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.*
And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. Luke 6:47–48 (ESV)

THE PREPARATION

We prepare our hearts and minds by confessing our sins and humbly turning to our God who alone is able to forgive our sins. “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”
(II Corinthians 5:17)

A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY: We desire to remain a warm and friendly congregation while providing a safe and secure place to worship. To that end, we have a few tips for your participation with us today.

- If you see something, say something. If you happen to notice something out of the ordinary, please mention it to our safety team (yellow badges) or elder (golden badges).
- In a safety emergency, please keep calm and do not leave the secured building unless instructed by a safety team member or elder.

A REMINDER: Please turn your cell phone to mute or to vibrate during the worship service. Thank you.

AS WE GATHER

In His earthly life, Jesus chose to be a wandering teacher. Rather than staying in one place and having His learners come to Him, He went from place to place with disciples or followers who listened to the truths He taught as they went along. Walking with Jesus was the greatest of blessings! Whether we hear the Gospel teachings of our Lord in the same setting week by week and year by year or find ourselves in a variety of worship locations and settings, we, too, find blessing in hearing Him as did His first followers.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME, & The TOLLING OF THE BELLS

(The tolling of the bells is an ancient custom that according to some is said to call upon the name of the Lord and alert the community to our call to worship. As the bells toll, we reverently prepare our hearts and minds to receive the blessings God has promised in His Word and Sacraments.)



† Confession and Absolution †

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN

Come, We That Love the Lord

LSB 669 sts. 1, ref, 2, 4



1 Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be
2 Let those re - fuse to sing Who nev - er knew our
4 Then let our songs a - bound, And ev - 'ry tear be



known; Join in a song with sweet ac - cord,
God; But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King,
dry; We're march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground,



Join in a song with sweet ac - cord And thus sur -
But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King May speak their
We're march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground To fair - er



round the throne, And thus sur-round the throne.
joys a - broad, May speak their joys a - broad.
worlds on high, To fair - er worlds on high.



We're march - ing to Zi - on, Beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on;



We're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, The beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Text (ref) and tune: Robert Lowry, 1826–99
Text and tune: Public domain

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

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. *LSB 184*

C **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b [18:20]*

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 34:1–4, 8, 22

P I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

P Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

C **I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**

P Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

C **The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

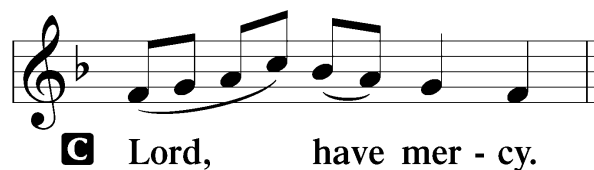
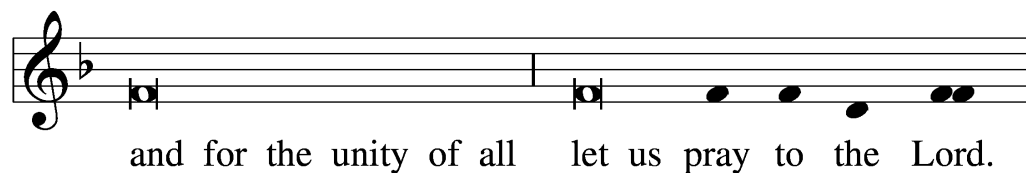
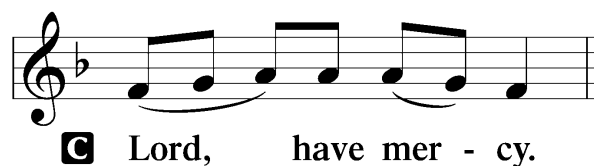
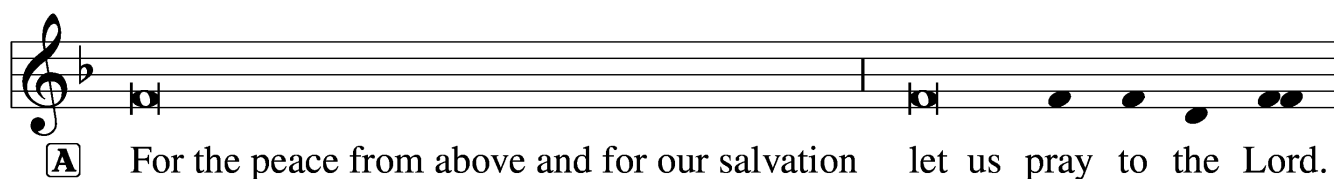
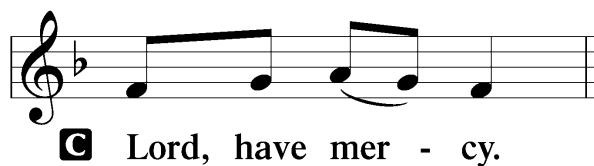
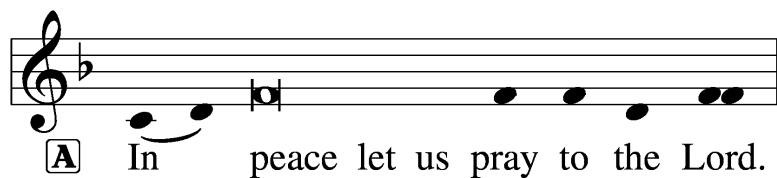
C **Amen.**

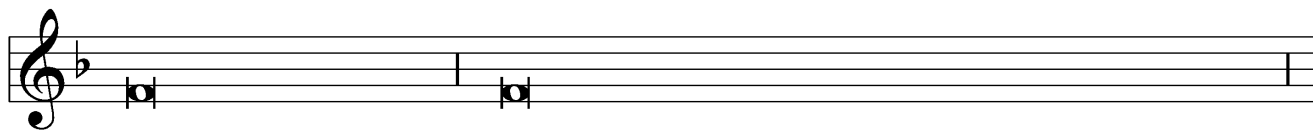
ⴒ Service of the Word ⴒ

KYRIE

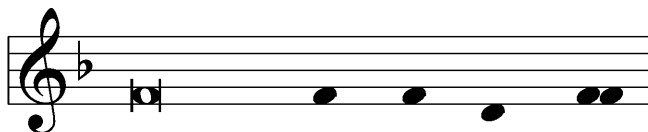
Mark 10:47

LSB 152





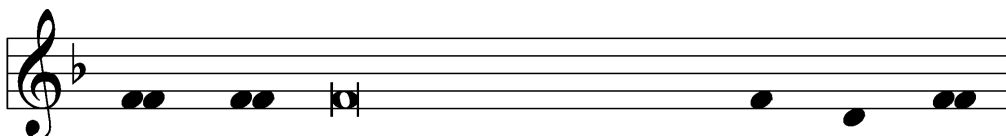
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

LSB 154

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:

We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

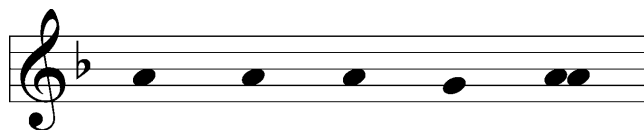
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 15:1–6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 11:1–16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.



Faith is the assurance
of things hoped for,
the conviction
of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1, NRSV



L This is the Word of the Lord.

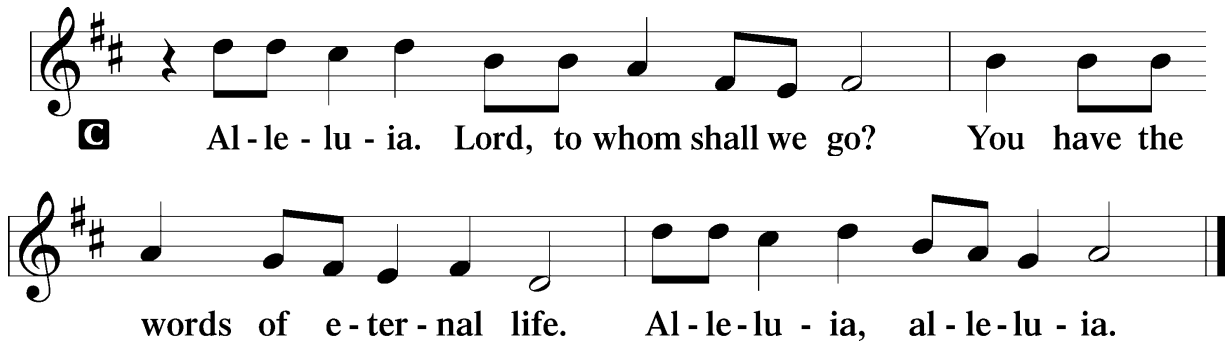
C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 6:68

LSB 156



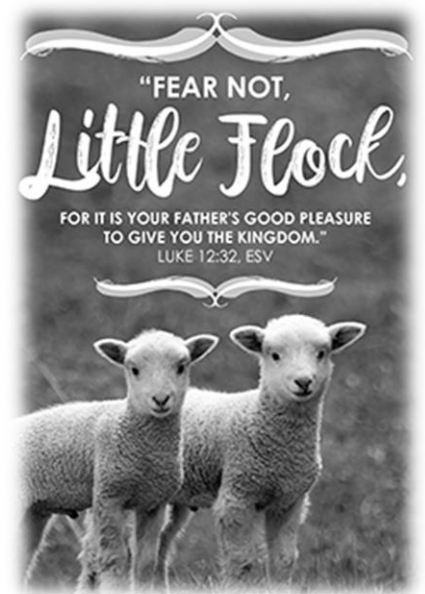
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

Luke 12:22–40



²²[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



³⁵“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

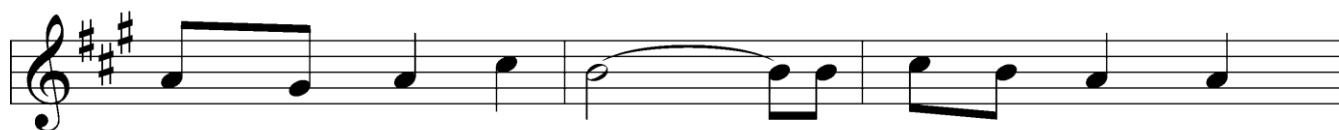
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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 T everlasting.
Amen.

(Be seated)



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No
 2 We may not touch His hands and side, Nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
 4 For You, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, Are
 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as
 fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound To call on You when
 found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.
 we re - joice And cry "My Lord and God!"
 You are near And seek where You are found.
 and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.
 as You are, With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

Rev. David Barber

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend *[the family of John Albers (cousin of Mark Polzin), Sam Jackson]* and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

OFFERING

For those worshiping online, please visit www.lccross.org to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6>



For those worshiping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.

OFFERING HYMN

Consider How the Birds Above

LSB 736 sts. 1–3, 6

(Sung to God Loved The World So That He Gave - LSB 571)

1. Consider how the birds above
Feed day by day with carefree ease
Does God not keep them in His love?
Are we not worth much more than these?
2. The lilies grow, they do not toil;
How fair is their fragility
If God clothes these, which quickly spoil,
Will He not clothe both you and me?
3. Set not your heart on food or drink,
Nor be weighed down by worldly care;
About such things the godless think,
Yet never thank the Lord in prayer.
6. Seek first God's reign, His boundless grace,
His holy name in all you do:
Christ first and last in ev'ry place;
All else will then be given you.



Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

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SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Lord’s Prayer”

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

I'm But a Stranger Here

LSB 748



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;
2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



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



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;
And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–35

Text: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER & CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



Acknowledgments

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk

Guest Pastor: Rev. David Barber

Guest Organist: Sarah Stolarczyk

Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk ~ Trumpet: Luke Stolarczyk

Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman ~ Vocal Choir Director: Arnie Piering

Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman

Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

August 10, 2025

Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by
Chuck Anderson & Barb Powell for family & friends.

The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God by
Nancy Carter in honor of her grandsons' birthdays: Isaac (08/13) & Jonathan (08/14).

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Bell Tollers

Elders on Duty

Lay Readers

Usher/Greeters

Altar Servers

Safety Team

Streaming Team

Marita Noe, Luke Stolarczyk

Richard Fasnacht, Mark Keck, Fred Spier

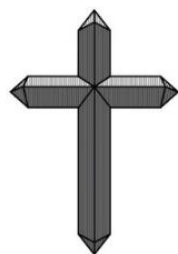
Brian Daily, Jeff Geltz

Gary Fleming, Eric McDonald, Kay Helgersen

Cathy McCabe, Pam Specht, Joyce Spier

David Aiken, Mark Keck

Gloria Cvelbar, Marita Noe, Alex Scherer, Luke Stolarczyk



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES:

7:30AM & 10:30AM

OFFICE HOURS:

By Phone: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

(941) 627-6060 ~ Fax: (941) 627-5467

By email: secretary@lccross.org

Find us on the Web: www.lccross.org

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or Like us on Facebook.

IF YOU HAVE any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact:

Parish Administrator

Head Elder

Jennifer Streffling:

Jim McCabe:

941-627-6060

847-471-1421

In case of Emergency you may reach

Pastor Stolarczyk:

Pastor Menk:

Cell: 941-979-7490

Cell: 941-327-9453

IN OUR PRAYERS

Homebound Care:

Bob Bartelson, Fran Boatwright, George & Dee Buono, Laura Cox, Millie Cox, Dave & Gayle DeBraccio, Marv & Lil Fitzwater, Aida Florit, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Betty Golembieski, Hedi Heinrich, Janet Jackson, Cris & Linda Kelly, Val Korman, Millie Tyczka, Ken & Mary Werring

Strength, Healing, Guidance: *

Dylan	Grandson of Pastor & Mary Menk; healing & recovery
John & Roxanne	Friends of LCC; guidance & strength
Pam	Sister of Sue Richard; God's healing & peace
The family of John Albers	Cousin of Mark Polzin; peace & understanding
Chuck Anderson	Healing & recovery
Dylan Clark	Strength & courage
Sam Jackson	Healing & recovery
Carol Meyer	Friend of LCC; strength, God's Care
Jan Reichert	Friend of LCC; pending surgery
Chris Sabin	Recovery & healing
Marcia Strefling	Undergoing testing
Samuel Vazquez & children	Son Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; healing & guidance

**Prayers will run for four consecutive weeks unless otherwise notified.*

Battling Cancer:

Adriana	Family Noel & Linda Hyde; diagnosed lymphoma
April	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Ivana	Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer
Jeanette	Sister of Augusto Vazquez; battling cancer
Kevin	Friend of Rene & Sue Richard; cancer
Mike	Son of Phil Woodruff; battling cancer
Bill Docherty	Brother-in-law Joy Hougan; battling cancer, surgery
Matt Doctor	Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; strength & peace
Lisa Anne Denofrio	Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; battling cancer
Rev. Ron & Carolyn Fletcher	Cousins of Mark Polzin; battling cancer
Randy Hornby	Friend of Dorothy Christman; battling cancer
John Kewn	Son-in-law Davis & Del Rozak; battling cancer
Emily Reidel	Friend of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; battling cancer
Patricia Ruiz	Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer
Tyra Strelesky	Neice of Bert & Marcia Strefling; battling cancer
Carmen Torres	Sister-in-law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer
Lori Truelove	Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace
Arthy Turtotte	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Jim & Ellen Vance	Cousins of Mark Polzin; battling cancer

Connie Warner
Michael Woodruff

Friend of Mary Woodruff; diagnosed lymphoma
Son of Phil & Mary Woodruff; battling cancer

Military:

US Army SSG. Paul Behling
USAF TSGT David Cope Jr.
US Army CSM Matt Hopkins
USAF Sr. Airman

Shawn Golembieski

US Navy ENS Joe Golembieski
US Navy Seaman Nick Golembieski
USCG SCPO Robert Kecken
USAF SrA Riley Latarski
Marines Sgt. Jonathan Metz
US Army LT Anastasia Osborne-Black
Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker
USAF TSGT Kalin McDonnell
US Army PFC Parker Woodruff

Son of Ron & Cohleen Nottingham; stationed FL
Son of David and Shelly Cope stationed in NM
Grandson of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; in Kuwait
Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in FL

Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA
Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound
Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA
Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND
Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD
Granddaughter Pat Gilreath; in HI
Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in Japan
Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in MA
Grandson of Larry & Delila Woodruff; Fort Bragg

Family Prayer: We remember all our **families** during times of personal and family **trial and tribulation.**

If you know of someone needing church prayers, please contact the church office at 941-627-6060. Be sure to have the name, relationship to the church family and what is the need for the prayer.

LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT & WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2025

Week Of: 08/03/2025			
On-Site Attendance		Weekly Contributions	
41 / 78		Income:	\$ 6,791
		Expense:	\$ 11,170

CHURCH OFFICE CHANGES COMING...

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...[God] has made everything beautiful in its time." (Ecc 3:1,11a)

Our church financial officer, Mike Barzona, has begun the process of listing his Port Charlotte home with the hopes of relocating to the middle of the state. While you won't notice many changes immediately, we are encouraging you to keep Mike and Jeannie in your prayers and ask God for wisdom as the church council seeks God's guidance as they discern the next steps for the church office.



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

Tues-Aug 12 LCC Youth Confirmation Class begins @ 6:00pm (Pastor's Study)
Wed-Aug 13 Board of Elder's Meeting @ 3:30pm (OFH)
Thurs-Aug 14 ~ **NO THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS TODAY** ~
Altar Guild Communion Set Up @ 9:00am (Sacristy/Sanctuary)
Shepherding Leaders Meeting @ 9:00am (FMC)
Tues-Aug 19 Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm (OFH)

To my Christian Family at Lutheran Church of the Cross

As many of you know Dylan Clark is my Great-Great Nephew. He has attended Sunday School at LCC faithfully and on occasion has attended church with me. Sadly, Dylan has recently been given up by his guardians and is now a ward of the State of Florida. I want him to know that his Christian Family has not given up on him and he is still being cared for in Christian Love despite his absence, so I am asking personally that you let him know how important he is by sending him a letter, a card, a post card or at a minimum request that you continue keeping him in your prayers. For those wanting to send him something—his current mailing address is:

Dylan J. Clark
c/o Francisca St. Germain
Guardian ad Litem
19621 Cochran Blvd. Unit #4
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

In Christian Love, Rosemary Kraning



After a few years of operating very successfully the time has come to pause the Today I Pray For... card ministry. Lori Nelson will be taking the cards, doing a complete and thorough review of all of the cards and returning them back for use.

Therefore effective August 1st the cards have been removed from the Narthex. Please bring any and all cards that you may have back to the church by no later than August 17th! The full set of cards will be returned to the Narthex for Sunday—September 1st! You may resume taking prayer cards with you at that time.

FOCUS GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Council has announced the formation of three focus groups to develop specific action plans in each of these areas in line with our mission statement and objectives. Further Council is opening these groups to the Congregation to participate in that process.

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM led by Head Elder Jim McCabe

PROPERTY/CAMPUS USE led by Vice-President/Treasurer Mark Polzin

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION led by Council member & Committee Co-chair Abby Duwe

If you have a passion for any or all of these areas, please contact the chair, me, or the office to express your interest. These focus groups will begin holding meetings in the near future. Now is your chance to have direct and vital input into the future direction of these three important aspects in our Congregational life. Please prayerfully consider supporting them with both your prayers and participation.

Bill Heffernan, Council President



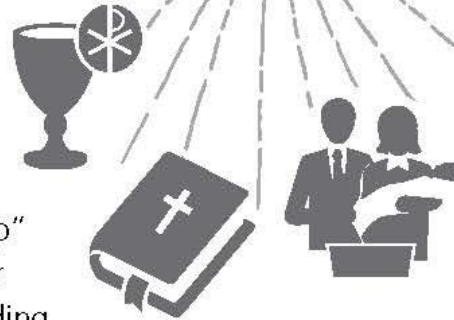
The Chosen

Season 5

Thursdays - 10:00am

Date	Topic
Aug 28	Episode 1 - Entry <i>(1hr 2 min)</i> Jesus rides into the holy city as king, but finds that the rulers have turned His Father's house from a place of prayer to a corrupt market.
Sept 4	Episode 2 - House of Cards <i>(52 min)</i> Why kill Jesus when Rome can do it for you? As the Jewish High Priest schemes to bring Him down, Jesus strikes first: turning the tables.
Sept 11	Episode 3 - Woes <i>(59 min)</i> Why kill Jesus when Rome can do it for you? As the Jewish High Priest schemes to bring Him down, Jesus strikes first: turning the tables.
Sept 18	Episode 4 - The Same Coin <i>(55 min)</i> Afraid of public outcry—and further embarrassment—Caiaphas resolves to arrest Jesus quietly at night. Only one problem: no one knows how to find Him.
Sept 25	Episode 5 - Because of Me <i>(1hr 13 min)</i> The decision to arrest Jesus leads to a fiery debate. Roman soldiers track down a troublemaking crowd. Shmuel finds help from an unexpected source.
Oct 2	Episode 6 - Reunions <i>(60 min)</i> As Jesus' followers gather for the Passover meal, His enemies assemble for a man hunt. Judas holds a secret meeting.
Oct 9	Episode 7 - The Upper Room Part 1 <i>(1hr 2min)</i> Jesus arrives at the Last Supper. The disciples fear for their safety as Jesus' enemies close ranks around them.
Oct 16	Episode 8 - The Upper Room Part II <i>(1hr 6 min)</i> Pilate summons Atticus to read him the riot act. The Sanhedrin boils over. The Last Supper ends.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What does “worship” really mean?

Most people use the word “worship” to mean something we do to honor God. Because of this misunderstanding, many people believe that a church service is what we do for God. The word “worship” comes from the root words “worth” and “ship.” These two words describe God rather than the ones praising Him. These words describe a God who is *worthy* of being honored and adored because of His love for us. God gives us His love through His Word and Sacraments. Worship is not something we do, but rather something that God does for us!

What makes the Divine Service so important?

The Divine Service is not about what we are doing for God, but who God is and what He does for us in the ways He has promised: His Word and Sacraments. That’s why Lutherans call it *Divine Service*. God is serving us! What a wonderful God we have!



Parents: The Divine Service is like listening to one long reading from the Bible. Everything in the Divine Service has been given to us through God’s Word. Explain this to your children, reminding them that it is God’s Word that delivers God’s salvation to us!



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