



16th Sunday after Pentecost

We Are Our Brothers' Keeper

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

September 20, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

- Bathrooms are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women's bathroom.
- A worship monitor is to the right as you exit. We encourage children of all ages to participate in our worship. Please don't be afraid to bring them into the service. We have a nursery room with toys, books, and other items that you can use to help calm your child.

WORSHIP THEME

Human nature tells us to mind our own business, but God tells us we have an obligation to be our brothers' keeper. God made Ezekiel a "watchman," to point out sin and to call sinners to repentance (First Lesson). Jesus also calls his Church to be a "watchman," to lovingly and nonjudgmentally call sin, sin, so that all may repent and find forgiveness in Christ (Gospel). It is Christ's will that his people love one another enough to warn each other against sin, that we may also comfort one another with the Gospel of Christ's forgiveness. This is the ministry of the Keys, and this is being our brothers' keeper.

The Service of the Word and Sacrament

The high and holy worship of God is faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith is created and sustained by God's service to us (the German, "Gottesdienst," "God/Divine Service). In the Divine Service, the Lord comes to us in His Word and Sacrament to bless and enliven us with His gifts. The Service is not something we do for God, but His service to us received in faith. The liturgy is God's work. He gives, we receive.



HYMN

235 Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him



1 Praise the Al - might - y; my soul, a - dore him!
 2 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
 3 Trust not in princ - es, they are but mor - tal;
 4 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud him un - til death. With songs and
 Par - don and peace from him ob - tain; Ev - er the
 Earth-born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
 Of him who does such won-drous things! All that has



an - thems I'll come be - fore him As long as
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal When the dark
 be - ing, to praise him sole - ly, With hap - py



he al - lows me breath. From him my life and
 God he will re - main. He helps his chil - dren
 grave will claim its prey. Since, then, no one can
 heart its A - men sings! Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, his ho - ly
 in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther -
 help af - ford, Trust on - ly Christ, our God and
 an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



name.	Al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le - lu - ia!
less.	Al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le - lu - ia!
Lord.	Al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le - lu - ia!
Ghost!	Al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann D. Herrnschmidt, 1675–1723, abr.; tr. Alfred E. R. Brauer, 1866–1949, alt.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, O MEINE SEELE (10 8 10 8 88 8) *New-vermehrte Christliche Seelenharpf*, Ansbach, 1665, alt.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

From God's Word we know that wherever God puts His name, there He is to bless. In the Old Testament the temple was the place where God graciously caused His name to be present (1 Kings 8:27-30).

God has put His name—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—on us in Holy Baptism. The Divine Service begins with the Invocation, the words spoken over us at our baptisms. Every Divine Service is for the hallowing of the Lord's name, which the Small Catechism reminds us is done "when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it" (Matthew 28:18-20).

The shorter repeated expressions in the liturgy are excellent ways for young children to participate in the worship service. Help children watch for and join in phrases like, "Lord, have mercy," "Amen," and "Alleluia."

LORD, HAVE MERCY - Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

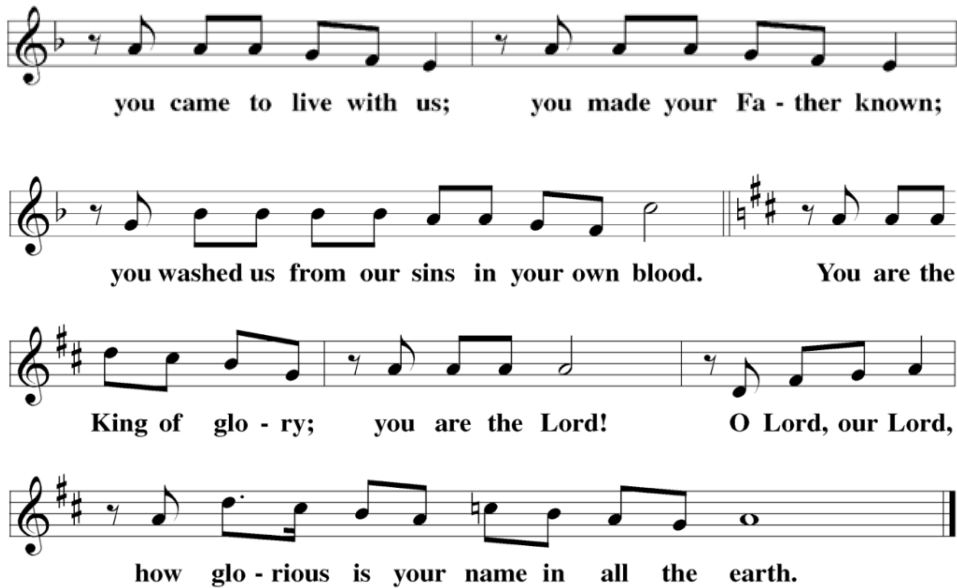


M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

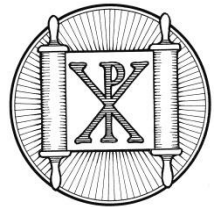
C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

The musical score is written for a single voice part in C major, 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The first seven staves are in C major (one sharp). The eighth staff changes to B-flat major (two flats). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) on the second, third, and fourth staves. The piece ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to B-flat major.



The Service of the Word

Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, your humble servants, your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, you Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 33:7-9

God desires to save the wicked. That's why God set Ezekiel and all of his children to watch over each other's souls. We must preach the law to those who are disobedient and the gospel to those who despair.

⁷ “As for you, son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, give them a warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, ‘Wicked one, you will surely die,’ but you do not speak out to warn him about his way, that wicked person will die for his iniquity, yet I will hold you responsible for his blood. ⁹ But if you warn a wicked person to turn from his way and he doesn’t turn from it, he will die for his iniquity, but you will have rescued yourself.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 51a

Refrain



Psalms tone



Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love.
Wash away all my iniquity,
and cleanse me from all sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:1-10

Because of God's unconditional love for us, we who believe in Christ have a joyful debt of love to our neighbor. This includes our government authorities. We owe them taxes, revenues, honor, and respect because they are established by God and serve as God's agents by punishing evildoers and protecting law-abiding citizens.

Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God. ² So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. ⁴ For it is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For it is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong. ⁵ Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath but also because of your conscience. ⁶ And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are God's servants, continually attending to these tasks.^[a] ⁷ Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.

⁸ Do not owe anyone anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, **Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal;**^[b] **do not covet;**^[c] and any other commandment, are summed up by this commandment: **Love your neighbor as yourself.**^[d] ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Philippians 4:4

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1-20

Jesus spared no pain to find the lost. The church makes diligent use of God's law and gospel in calling sinners to repentance. The church speaks with Christ's full authority when it declares God's judgment upon the impenitent sinner and pronounces full forgiveness to the penitent sinner.

At that time^[a] the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “So who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² He called a small child and had him stand among them.³ “Truly I tell you,” he said, “unless you turn and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child—this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.⁵ And whoever welcomes^[b] one child like this in my name welcomes me.

⁶ “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to fall away—it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea.⁷ Woe to the world because of offenses. For offenses will inevitably come, but woe to that person by whom the offense comes.⁸ If your hand or your foot causes you to fall away, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into the eternal fire.⁹ And if your eye causes you to fall away, gouge it out and throw it away. It is

better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hellfire.^[§]

¹⁰ “See to it that you don’t despise one of these little ones, because I tell you that in heaven their angels continually view the face of my Father in heaven.^[§] ¹² What do you think? If someone has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, won’t he leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go and search for the stray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over that sheep^[§] more than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. ¹⁴ In the same way, it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you,^[§] go tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ But if he won’t listen, take one or two others with you, so that **by the testimony^[§] of two or three witnesses every fact may be established.**^[§] ¹⁷ If he doesn’t pay attention to them, tell the church.^[§] If he doesn’t pay attention even to the church, let him be like a Gentile and a tax collector to you. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will have been bound^[§] in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed^[§] in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you on earth agree about any matter that you^[§] pray for, it will be done for you^[m] by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.”

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY

304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive

304

Jesus Sinners Does Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the
 4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his
 5 I, a sin - ner, come to you With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way
 in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope
 Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -
 Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms
 Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words



for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 my soul re - ceive— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

6 Oh, how blest it is to know,
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By your blood and bitter passion,
 For these words I do believe—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.
 Even I have been forgiven.
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to him I cleave—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

SERMON

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.

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 fully 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,

Dt. 6:4

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

Col. 1:16

1 Cor 8:6

Jn. 3:16

Heb. 1:2,5

Jn. 1

Jn. 10:30

Jn. 1:3

1 Th. 5:9

Jn. 6:38

Lk. 1:35

Gal. 4:4

Mk. 15:15

1 Cor. 15:3-4a

1 Cor. 15:4b

Ac. 2:33-34

Heb. 1:13

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

Lk. 1:33

Job 33:4

Jn. 15:26

Jn. 4:24

*The Nicene Creed
is the great
Confession of the
Christian faith
professed by
all Christians.
The Creed
originated at the
First Council of
Nicaea (c. AD.
325)*

*The Creed itself
was crafted as a
confession of
Scripture in
opposition to the
Arian heresy,
which denied
that the Lord
Jesus and the
Holy Spirit are
God.*

who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian
and apostolic Church.

2 Pet. 1:25
Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

1 Cor. 15:21-22
Rev. 22

OFFERING

In response to God's love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: Almighty God, You invite us to die to sin each day through Baptism and to rise to life with You, through Your life-giving Son and Spirit.
- C: Knowing that You desire the repentance and conversion of all, cause us to rejoice in Your gifts and be witnesses of Your goodness, which welcomes every outcast and sinner into Your kingdom for the sake of Jesus.**
- M: Almighty God, as You watch over Your Church and all Christians with Your angels, guard us from all evil.
- C: Grant that no temptation would cause us to leave the places where You deliver Your gifts of forgiveness: the altars, font, and pulpit where You make and keep us Your own.**
- M: Almighty God, all authority that exists derives from You.
- C: Bless those whom You have placed into positions of authority, that by their work they might bring about justice, defend the helpless, punish evildoers and provide for the welfare of all people.**
- M: Help us to see Your Word as a gift, so that when our family in Christ confronts us in our sin and calls us to repentance, we remember that they are being faithful to the great treasure you have given us.
- C: May we never take Your Word, the Church, or our brothers and sisters for granted. Keep us humble so that we are ready to listen to discipline and thankful for the forgiveness we have in Jesus.**
- M: Almighty God, You have mercifully made us Your children through Baptism.

- C:** Because You desire to draw all people to Yourself through Your Word and Sacraments, use us, Your children, as lights to the world so that others may see our hope and desire to know You, our merciful Father.
- M:** Almighty God, Your Son humbled Himself to the point of shameful death on the cross for our eternal good. Until the day of His return, You provide for all our needs of body and soul.
- C:** In mercy, abide with those who suffer afflictions of mind or body, who suffer pain, sorrow, depression, anxiety, or other maladies.
- Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*
- M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
- Silent prayer.*
- M:** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C:** Amen.

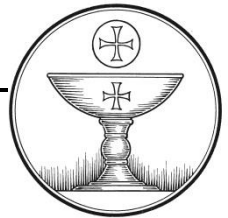
LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

- 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 Service of the Sacrament

This greeting marks a new service, so to speak. These ancient introductory words & phrases help to highlight, celebrate, and bring attention to the Sacrament.



M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. *In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.* Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - *Sanctus*



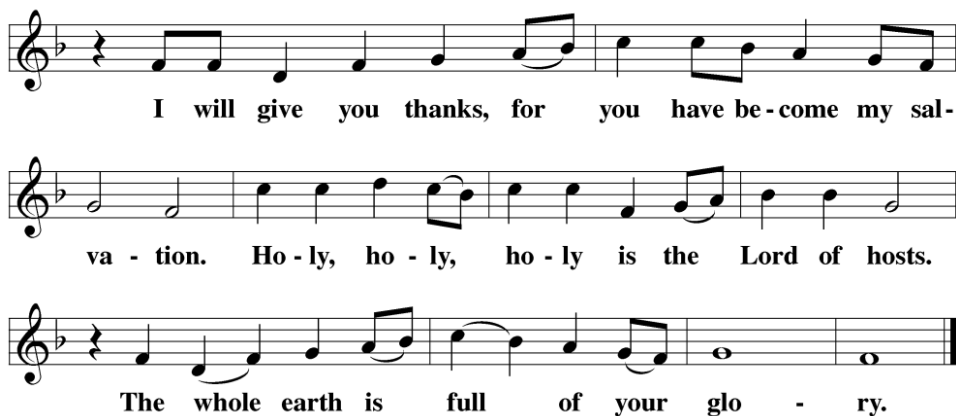
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22

M: 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 Words of institution both proclaim the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper.

PEACE OF THE LORD – *Pax Domini*

John 20:19

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD – *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: “*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*” (1 Corinthians 11:28)

*Christ Lutheran Church confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Close Communion**. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord’s Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.*

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

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As Surely As I Live, God Said



1 "As sure - ly as I live," God said, "I
 2 To us, there - fore, Christ gave com - mand: "Go
 3 "All those whose sins you thus re - mit I
 4 "What you will bind, that bound shall be; What
 5 The words which ab - so - lu - tion give Are



would not have the sin - ner dead, But
 forth and preach in ev - 'ry land; Be -
 tru - ly par - don and ac - quit, And
 you will loose, that shall be free; Un -
 his who died that we might live; The



that he turn from er - ror's ways, Re -
 stow on all my par - d'ning grace Who
 those whose sins you do re - tain Con -
 to my Church the keys are giv'n To
 min - is - ter whom Christ has sent Is



pent, and live through end - less days."
 will re - pent of sin - ful ways.
 demned and guilt - y shall re - main.
 op'n and close the gates of heav'n."
 but his hum - ble in - stru - ment.

6 When ministers lay on their hands,
 Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
 He who by grace the Word believes
 Forgiveness, sure and sweet, receives.

7 Praise God the Father and the Son
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
 As was, is now, and so shall be
 Forever and eternally!



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