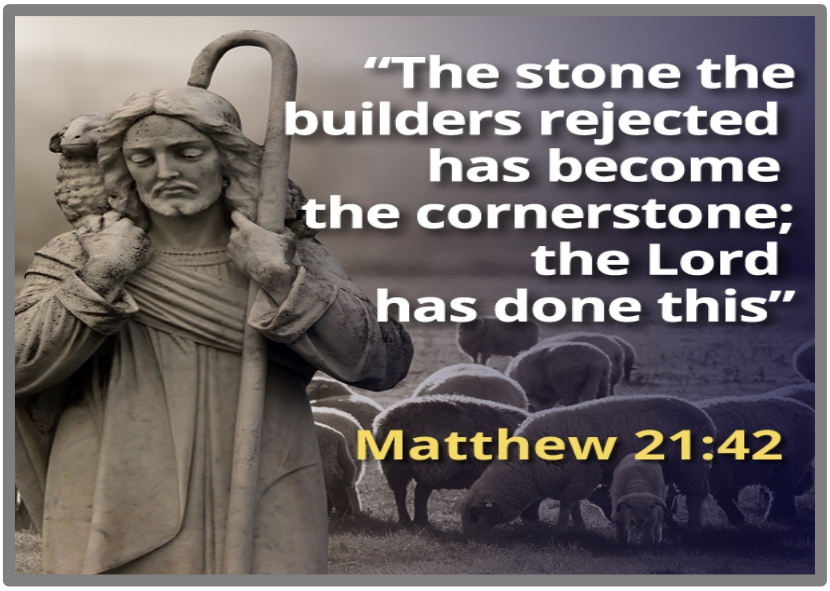
Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

The 18th Sunday After Pentecost
October 4, 2020



Pastor's Greeting

Invocation: (*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. *Matthew 28:19*

C: Amen.

Exhortation *1 John 6-10*

P: If we say we have fellowship with Jesus while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

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.

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

The Confession of Sins

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

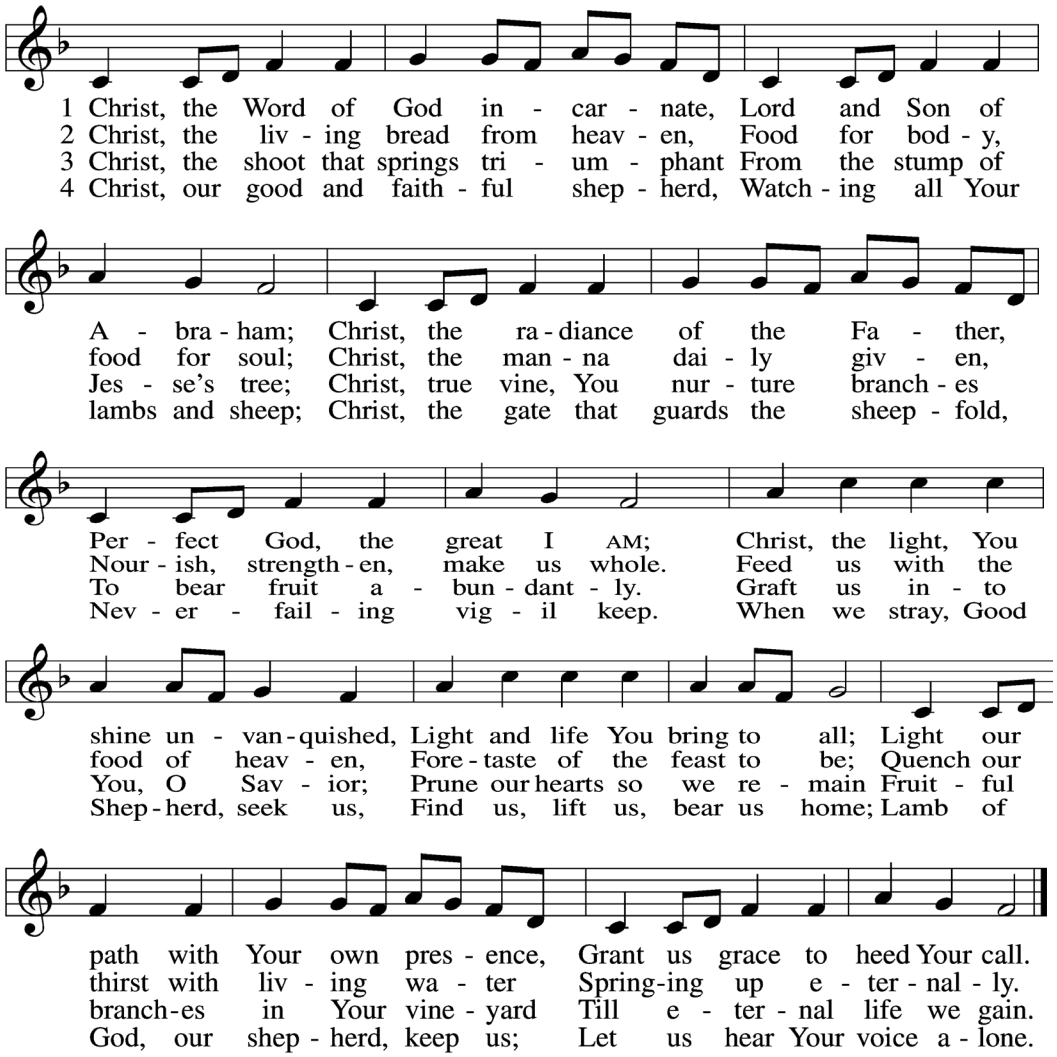
C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your

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.

ABSOLUTION *John 20:21*

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.

OPENING HYMN CHRIST, THE WORD OF GOD INCARNATE *LSB 540 STS.1-4*

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THE KYRIE *LSB 186*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

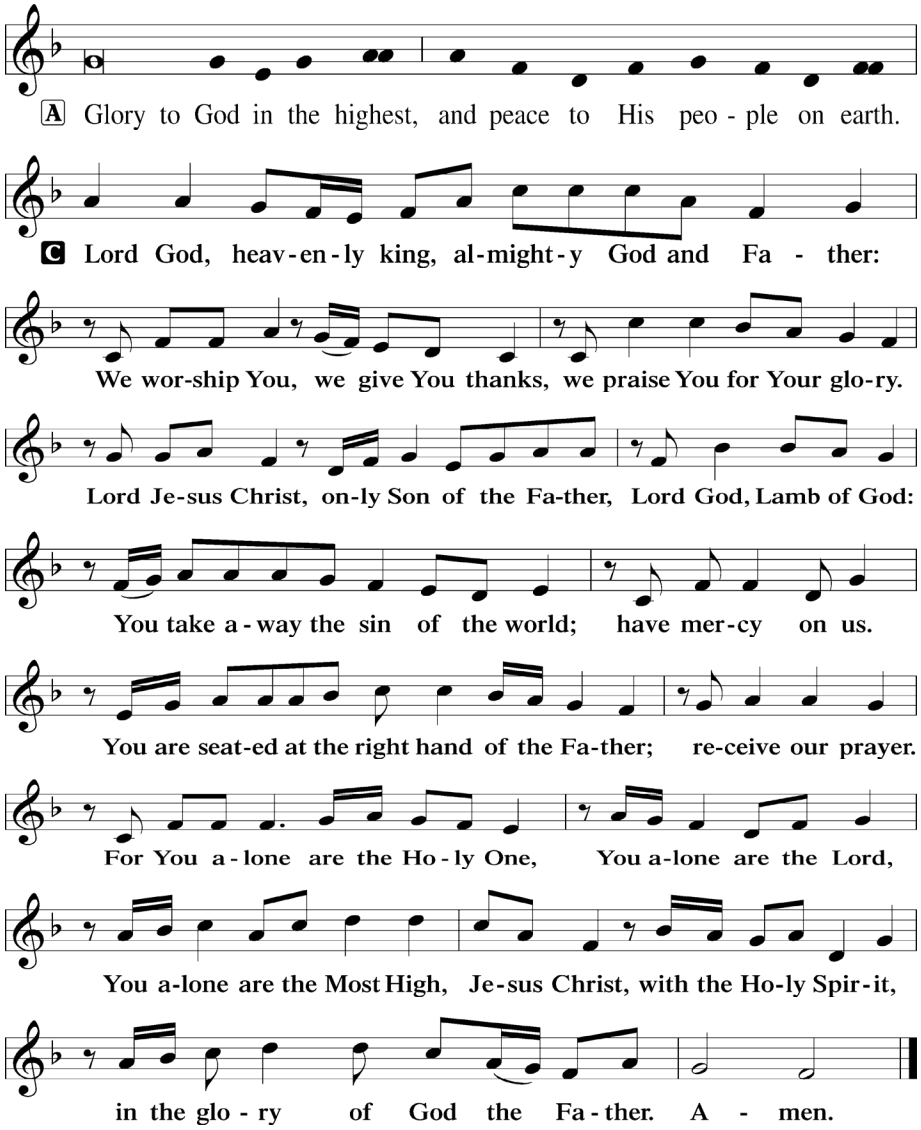
C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 154* *Luke 2, John 1:29*

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH 5:1–7

Reader: Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning His vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; He built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded worthless grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield worthless grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up;

I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant planting; and He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

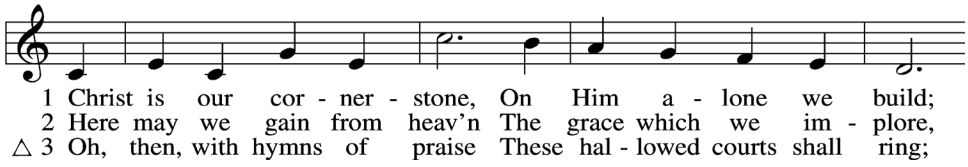
C: Thanks be to God!

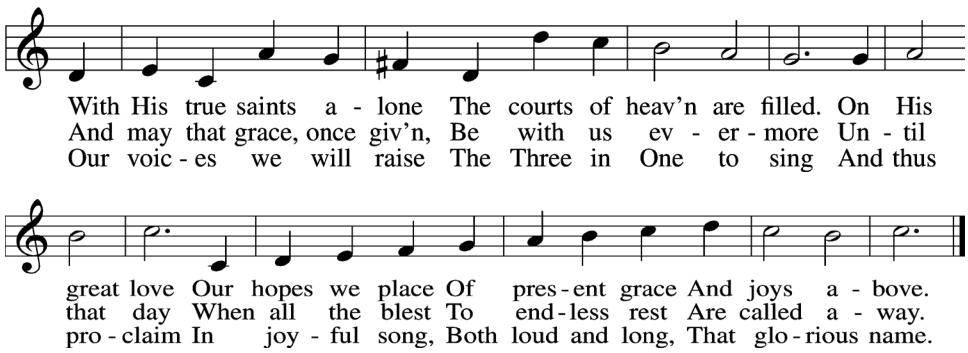
THE GRADUAL

P: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

C: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE *LSB 912 STS.1-3*





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THE EPISTLE READING FROM PHILIPPIANS 3:4B–14

Reader: If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

THE ALLELUIA VERSE *LSB 156*

All: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

P: The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 21:33–46

C: Glory to You O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants

and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

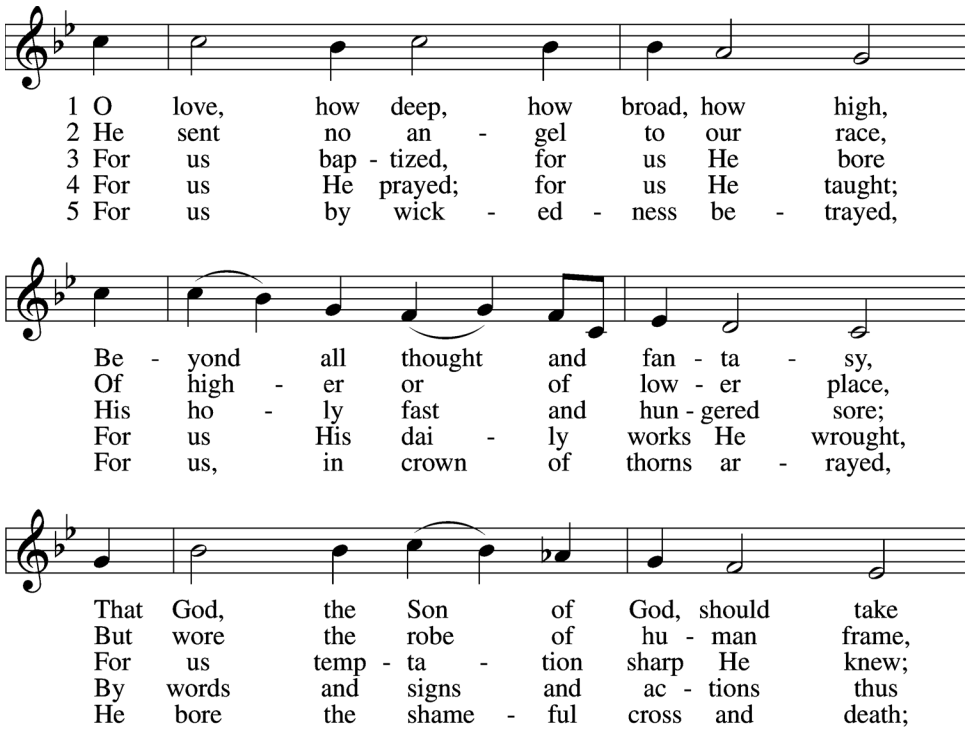
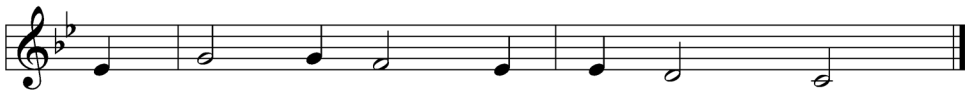
Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ!

SERMON HYMN **O LOVE, HOW DEEP** **LSB 544 *STS. 1-5***



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
And to this world Him - self He came.
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.
For us He gave His dy - ing breath.

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SERMON ***JESUS OUR CORNERSTONE IN LIFE AND FAITH***

THE APOSTLES CREED

All: 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 † everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY

As we celebrate the holy gifts and blessings God has given to us, please pray concerning your first fruits offering of thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(please email either Pastor or Betty with prayer requests)*

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

Merciful Lord, You have planted us in Your vineyard, that we might bear good fruit for Your glory. Grant to us grace, that we may be faithful by showing forth in our lives the good works that glorify You and serve Your purpose. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Lord, rescue us from all enemies of Your Church, and bless us with church leaders whose voices will not waver in the face of threat. Bless Rev Matthew Harrison, president of the Synod; Rev. Jamison Hardy, our district president; and Rev. Nick Wirtz, our circuit visitor. Inspire men and women to enter church-work vocations and bless those preparing for church work. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Mighty Lord, give to the nations both the desire for and the blessing of peace. Thwart the actions of terrorists, rebels and those who would oppress with the power of fear. Bless our president; our governor; and all who pass, enforce, and judge our laws. Spare us from disease and fear. Deliver the poor from want and help us to provide jobs and worthy employment for all. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Everlasting Father, guide husbands and wives to love and forgive each other and strengthen them in their life together. Bless the homes in which Your people dwell. Help parents to be faithful examples for their children and give room in their hearts and homes so that orphans may know the joy of a place and a home to call their own. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of love, deliver the sick from their illnesses, give relief to the suffering, help the troubled to know peace of mind, and be with the grieving and those in their final days. Guide all health care professionals to serve those in need, and give patience to those who must bear with their infirmities, disabilities and infertility. Hear us especially for ***John, Inge, Gerri, Victoria, Carl*** _____. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Lord, keep us from resentful hearts that would begrudge Your mercy or live selfishly for ourselves and teach us to live for You the life that You have given us, treasuring in our hearts all that is good and wise and seeking after these things. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Hear us, O Lord, and give answer to the prayers of Your people prayed in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom with the Father and the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, forevermore.

C: Amen.

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.

CLOSING COLLECT

P: *Let us pray*: Holy and most merciful God, You have reveal Your Will to us through the preaching of the Gospel and the teaching of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that the Word sown into us would bear fruit, that being ever mindful of Your mercies. May we always be directed to Your will and daily increase in

love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

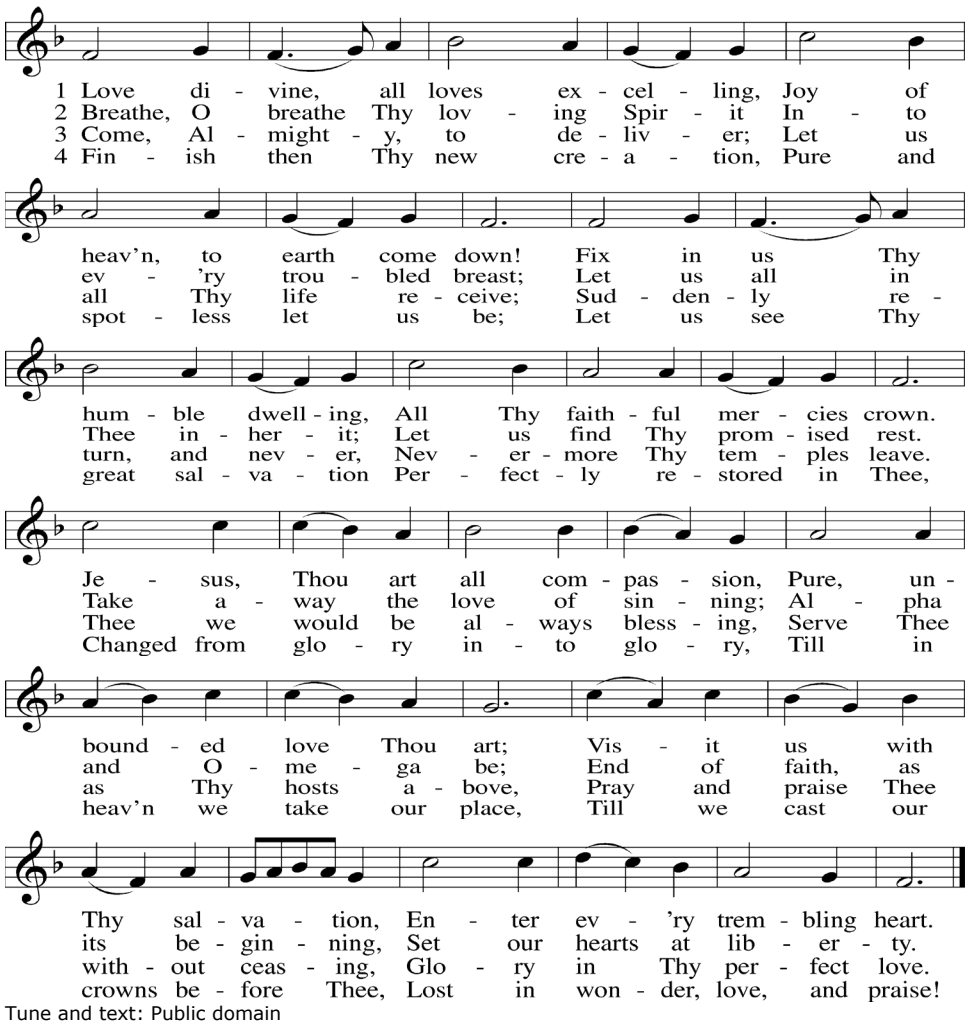
C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 228*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING LSB 700 *STS. 1-4*



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Anyone desiring to contact Rev. Fred H. Gerlach may do so by **Cell Phone** at 609-751-2546 or by **E-mail** at fred_gerlach@hotmail.com.
You may also contact the Church at 480-759-4898

Pastor is available upon request for:

- Individual Confession and Absolution.
- A home visit with the Pastor (if someone is ill or in the hospital, call to arrange a visit).
- For communion or a prayer.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Friday mornings at 6:30 AM – completing the book of Exodus and beginning Leviticus

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to familyofchristaz@gmail.com

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