Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

The 21st Sunday After Pentecost
October 25, 2020

"The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand."

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 1:8-10*

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.

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

The Confession of Sins

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

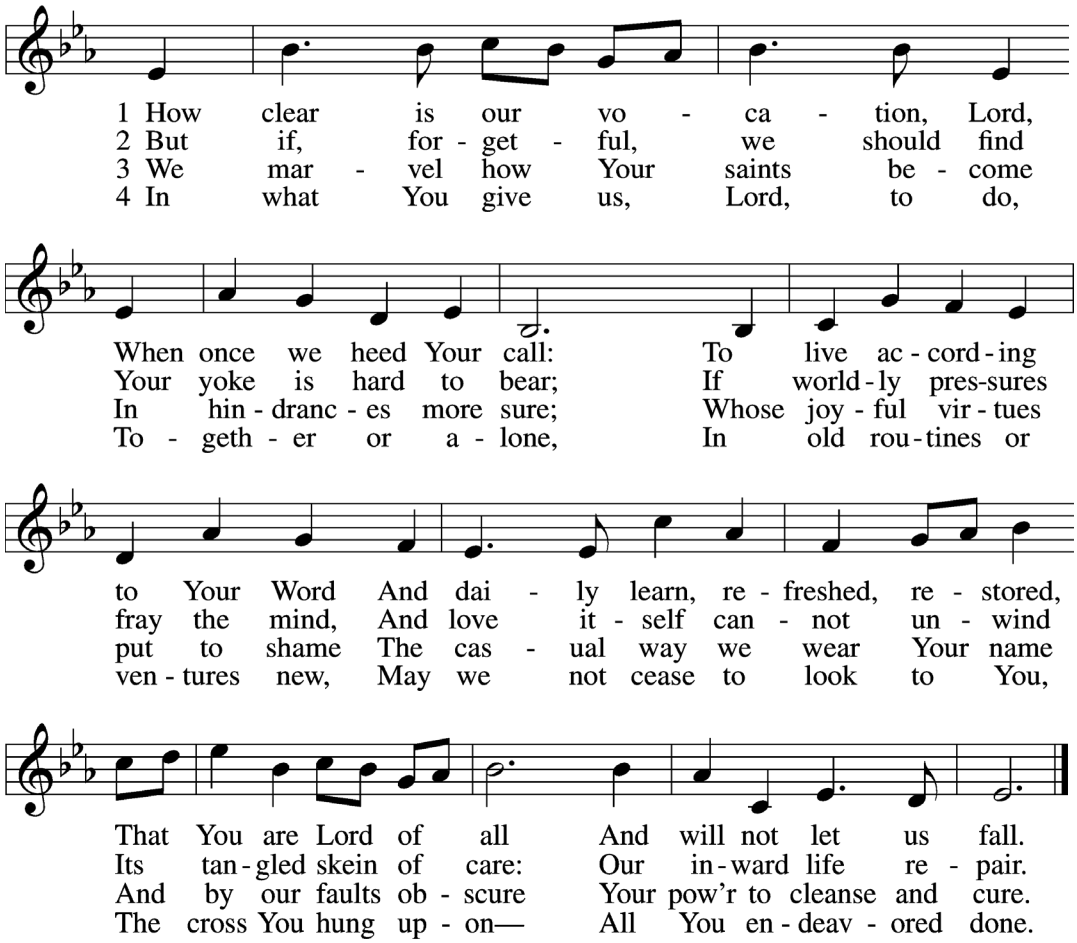
C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am

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 HOW CLEAR IS OUR VOCATION, LORD *LSB 853 STS.1-4*

Tune: Public domain
Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000188

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.

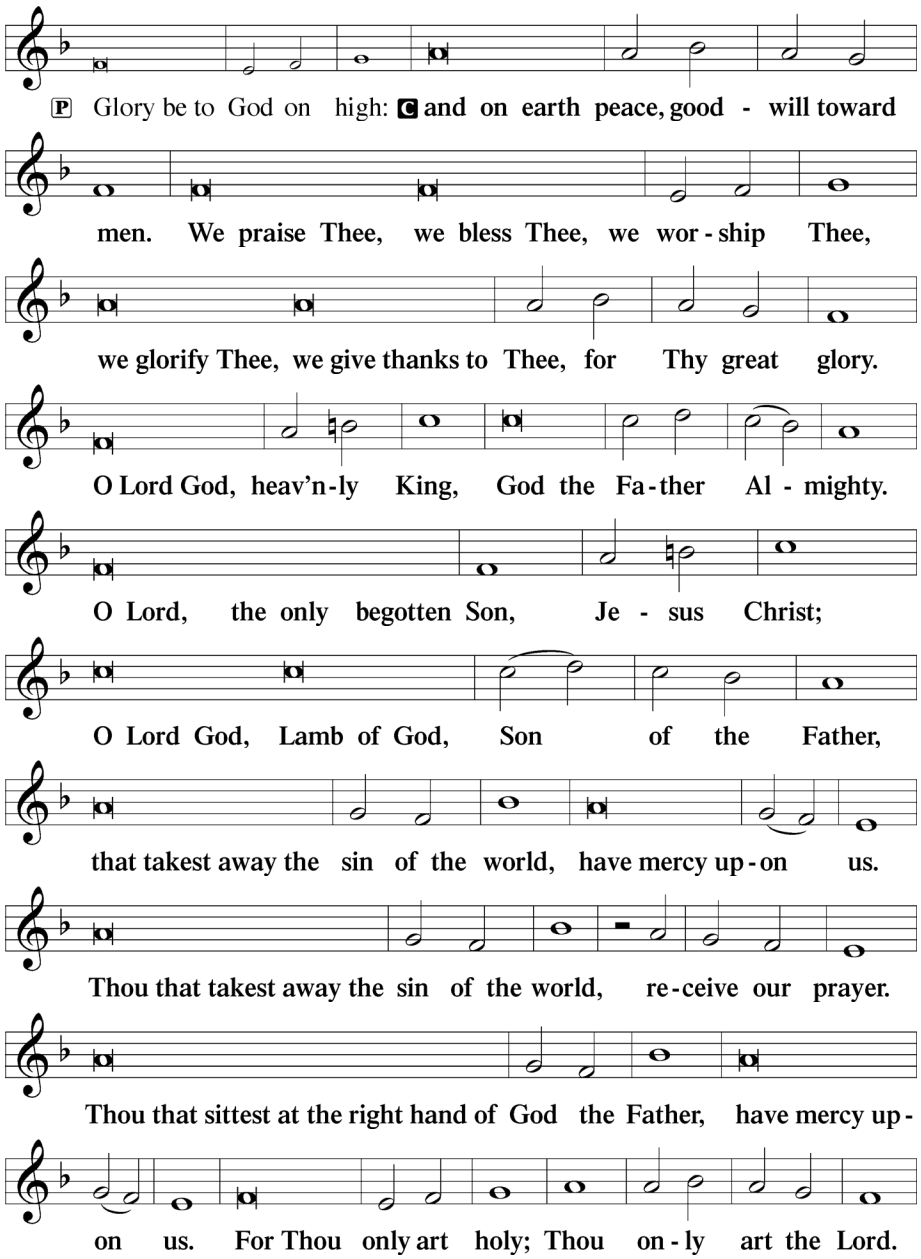
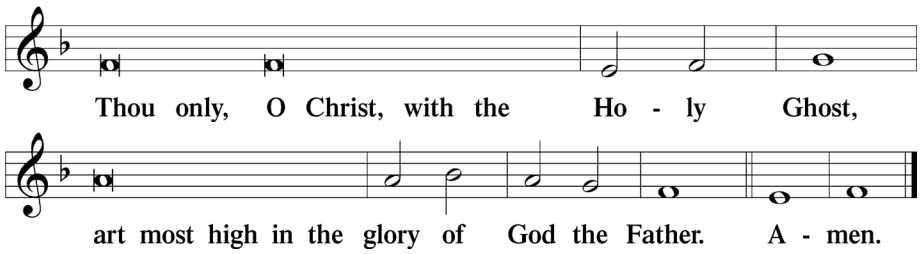
C: Lord, have mercy.

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 187* *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray:* O Lord, You have commanded us to love You above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. Grant us the Spirit to think and do what is pleasing in Your sight, that our faith in You may never waver and our love for one another may not falter; 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 Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18

Reader: And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

"You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

The Gradual *Psalm 1:1*

P: Blessèd is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

C: but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.

A Reading of Psalm 1

Reader: Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

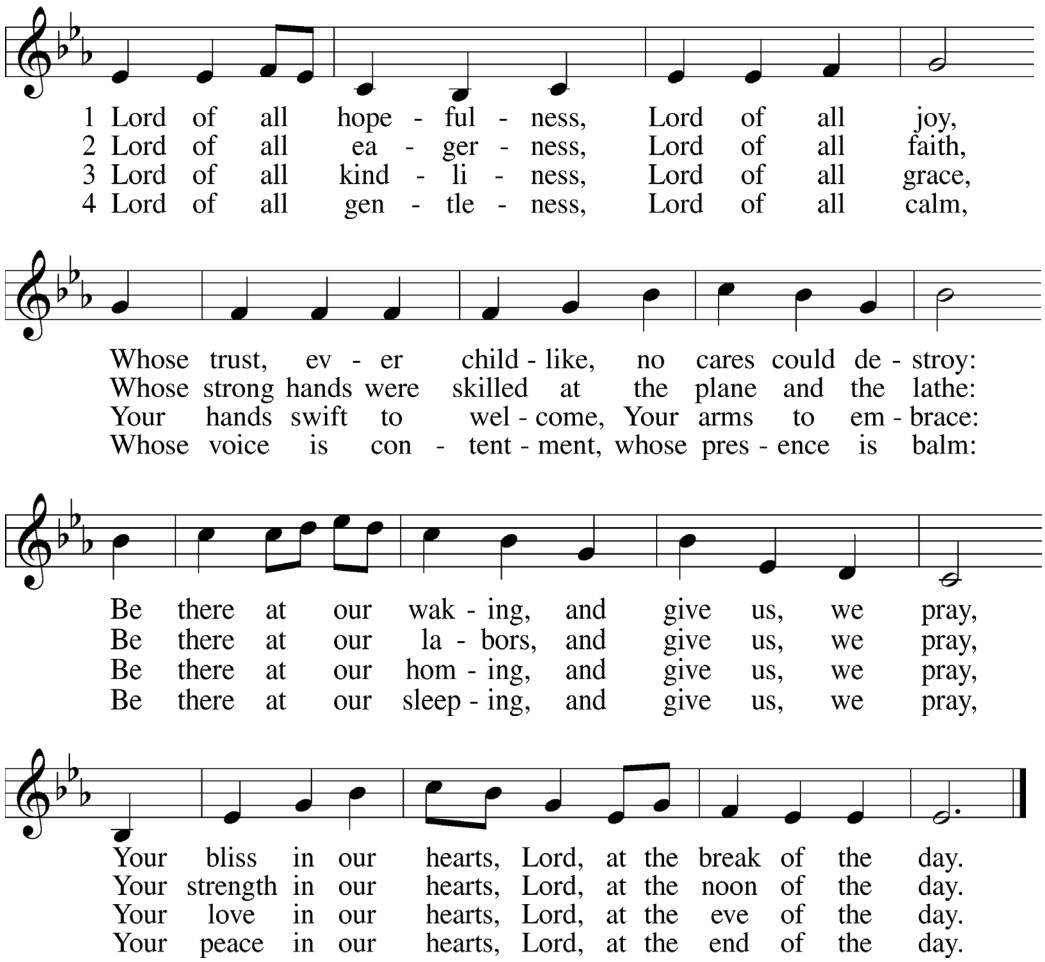
He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN **LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS** ***LSB 738 STS.1-4***



Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000188
Tune: Public domain

THE EPISTLE READING IS FROM 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1–13

Reader: For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please

God who tests our hearts. For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

THE ALLELUIA VERSE *LSB 156* *Matthew 22:37*

All: Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Reading of the Holy Gospel according Matthew 22:34–46

C: Glory to You O Lord!

P: When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question to test Him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to Him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

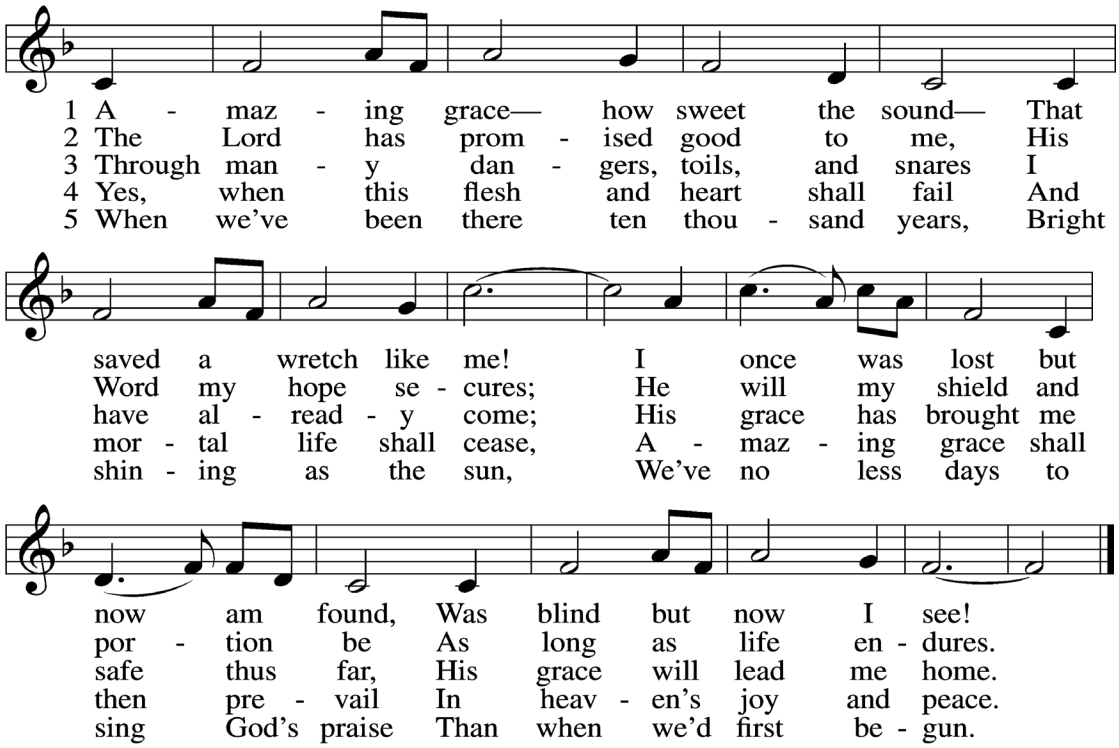
“‘The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet’”?

If then David calls Him Lord, how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask Him any more questions.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ!

SERMON HYMN AMAZING GRACE *LSB 744 STS.1–5*



Tune and text: Public domain

SERMON

THE 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.

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: Having confidence in our justification by grace through faith and having access to the Father in Jesus' name, let us turn our hearts in prayer on behalf of ourselves, the Church and all people according to their needs.

P: *O almighty God*, You have shown Your faithfulness by raising up those in every generation who call Your Church to repentance and renewal. Continue to raise up voices in our own day who herald the truth of Your Word and proclaim the faith in purity and truth against all enemies. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: *Everlasting Father*, You do not desire the death of the sinner but want all to come to faith and life in Christ. Raise up faithful pastors who will preach Your Word without fail and teach the doctrine delivered to the saints, that many may hear and believe. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: *God of power and might*, You have established governments and the order of law for the protection of all people and to preserve the freedom to worship You in spirit and in truth. Grant to our president; our governor; the Congress of these United States; and the legislature of our state wisdom, humility and integrity, that all may enjoy true justice and the protection of life from its conception to its natural end. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: *Holy and gracious God*, Your power is revealed chiefly in showing mercy to those in need. Give to the sick healing, to the troubled peace, to the grieving comfort and to the dying peace. Hear

us first on behalf **of Gerri, Inge, Victoria**, **Lori, Norma, Ed, and Pastor Wirtz,** and those we name in our hearts before You. According to Your gracious promise, grant patience to those in tribulation and trial. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: *Heavenly Father*, You have given great gifts to Your people and provided resources to provide for their own needs and for the poor. Bless the agencies and programs of Your Church by which Your people give aid and support to those in need. Help us to provide gainful employment to all people, that they may enjoy the fruits of their labors and honor You with the works of their hands. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O faithful Lord, throughout the ages You spoke hope through the prophets until that day when You delivered up Your own Son to be our Savior and Redeemer. Bless those who are just learning the Gospel and bless us with the desire to know and keep Your Word. Encourage Your people to avail themselves of the grace of confession and absolution so that they may forgive one another and live in the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God and Father, we pray You to grant us all good things that will benefit us in body and soul and to prevent anything harmful to us or to our salvation. Teach us to live in contentment with Your will and purpose and in the freedom You alone supply to serve You with all our heart, mind, body and soul; all these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Taught by our Savior we are bold 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:* For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return without watering the earth, making it bud and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, so Your Word proceeds will not return to You empty, but it will accomplish what You purposed it for, and it will prosper. Grant that Your word would strengthen our faith and enliven our love for You and our neighbor, producing the fruits of faith according to Your will.

All: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

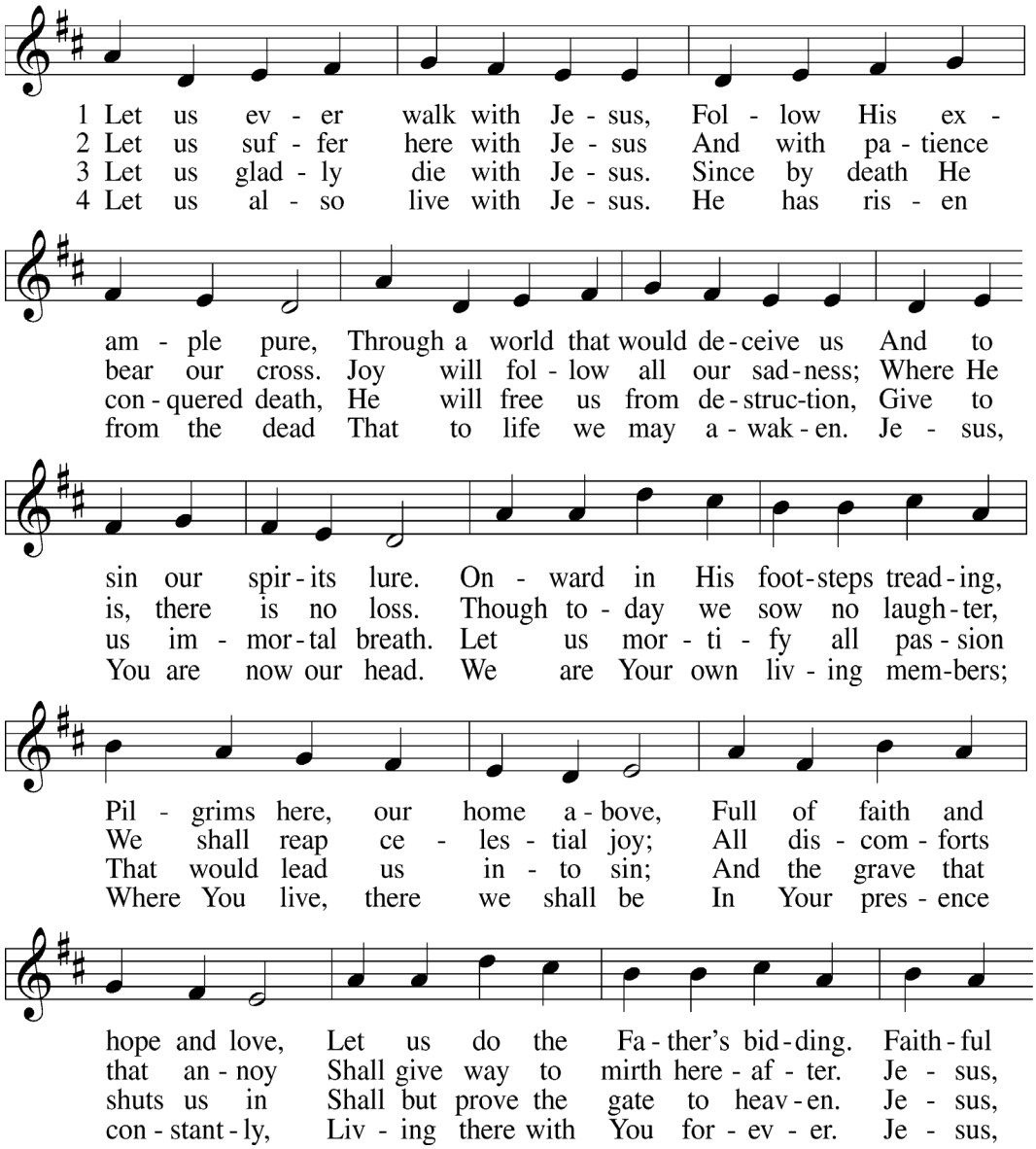
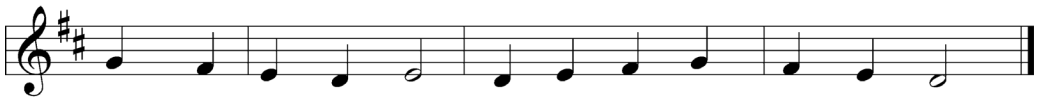
P: Let us bless the Lord.

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 **LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS** ***LSB 685***

Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000188
Tune: Public domain

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 480-759-4047.

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 on the book of Leviticus, chapters 4 and 5, on Friday morning at 6:30 AM, available in person at the Church and also available via Zoom. Email pastor for Zoom link.

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

Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center
Pastor Fred H. Gerlach
3501 E Chandler Blvd
Phoenix, AZ 85048
480-759-4047
Fred_Gerlach@hotmail.com