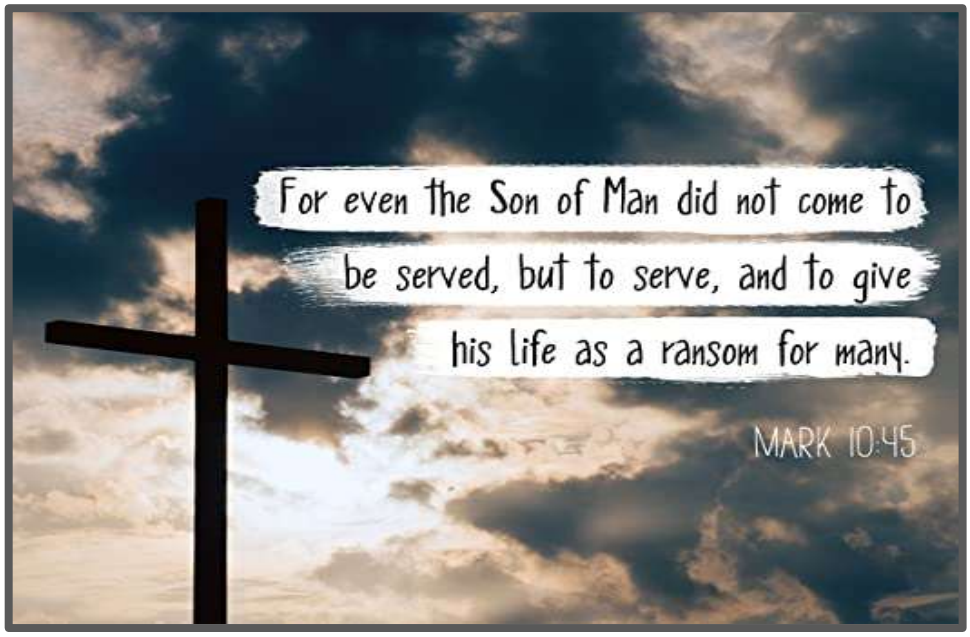
Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!



We Have Been Chosen to Serve

March 21, 2021—The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Pastor's Greeting

✝ Confession and Absolution ✝

(Congregation stands)

Invocation *Matthew 28:19b*

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.

Lenten Reflection on the Commandments

P: *The Seventh Commandment*: You shall not steal.

P: *What does this mean?*

C: We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

P: *The Eighth Commandment*: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

P: *What does this mean?*

C: We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

EXHORTATION

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

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: said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Moment of 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

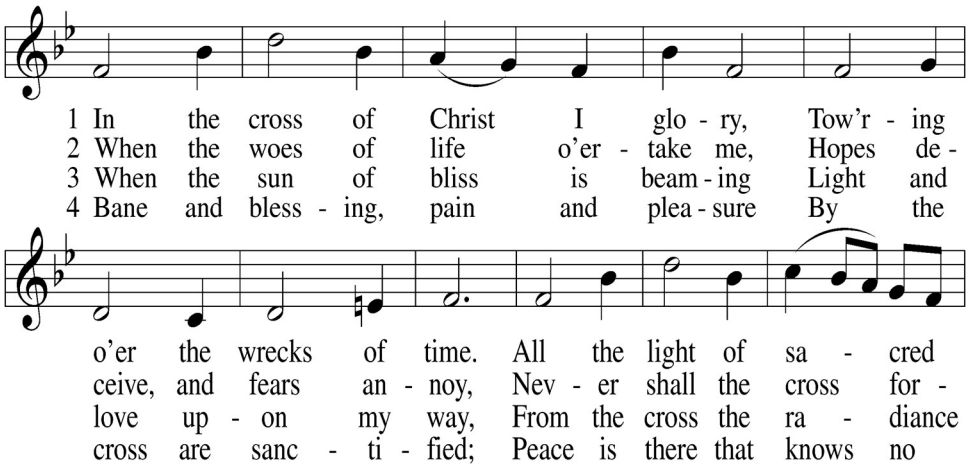
John 20:19-23

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.

(Congregation Remains Standing)

ENTRANCE HYMN "IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY" *LSB 427*



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✝ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✝

INTROIT

Psalm 116:1–4, 8; antiphon: Psalm 43:1

P: Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!

C: I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

P: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

C: Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

All: 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.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray*: Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Congregation sits)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

P: The Old Testament reading is from the book of Jeremiah 31:31–34

P: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

P: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY "LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS" *LSB 685*

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THE GRADUAL *Hebrews 12:2*

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C: The founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Epistle Reading

P: The Epistle Reading is from Hebrews 5:1–10

P: Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as He says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.

Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

P: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

(Congregation stands)

The Verse

Mark 10:45

All: Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

The Holy Gospel

P: A Reading of The Holy Gospel according to Mark 10:32-45

C: Glory to You O Lord!

P: And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, Jesus began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him and spit on Him and flog Him and kill Him. And after three days He will rise."

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to Him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And Jesus said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Your right hand and one at Your left,

in Your glory." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to You O Christ!

(Congregation sits)

SERMON HYMN "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS" *LSB 425*

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SERMON *"WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO SERVE"*

THE NICENE CREED

All: 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

(Prayer requests may be submitted online at www.FamilyofChristLutheranAZ.org or emailed to Pastor@familyofchristlutheranaz.org or Prayer@familyofchristlutheranaz.org)

P: Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness. We bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to Your service. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Save and defend Your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Strengthen Your faithful people through the Word and the holy Sacraments, making them perfect in love and in all good works, and establishing in them the faith once delivered to the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially Help them to serve this people according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and order our days in Your peace. Prosper the labor of those who work to bring peace and justice to the nations of the world that mutual understanding and common endeavor may be increased among all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Sanctify our homes with Your presence and bless them with joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism and enable their parents to bring them up in lives of faith and devotion. Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show Your praise in our land and in all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity especially Gerir, for healthy test results; for the family Baker; safe travels for Melanie, Pastor's friend Phil recovering from bypass surgery; for Tony Spano and for all those we name in our hearts _____.
Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

✝ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✝

(Congregation stands)

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

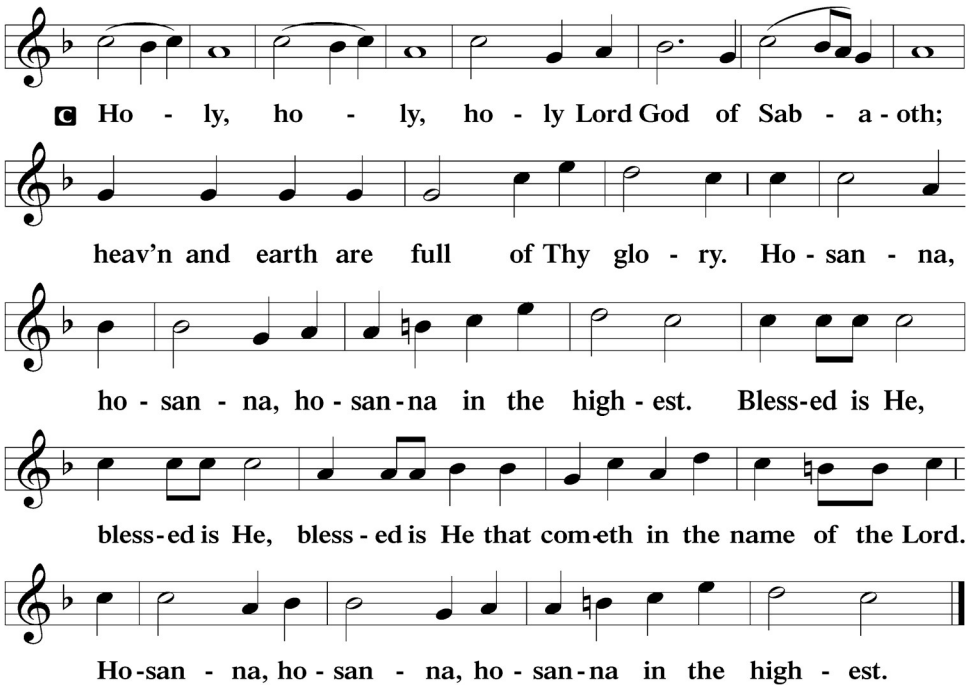
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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 overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *LSB 158*



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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."

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

PAX DOMINI

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

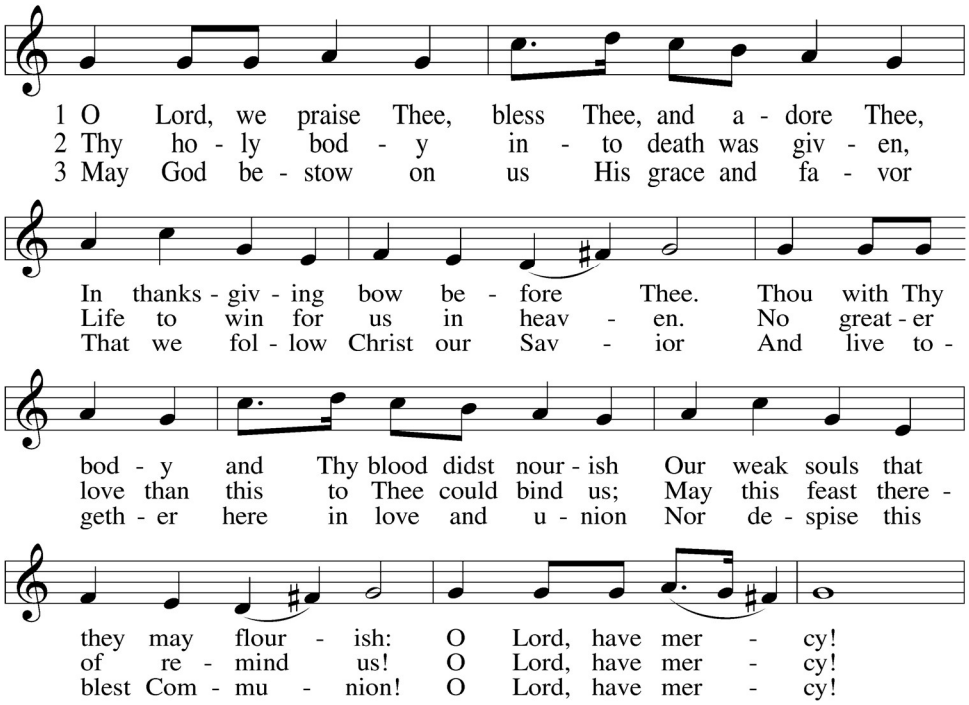
C: And with your spirit.

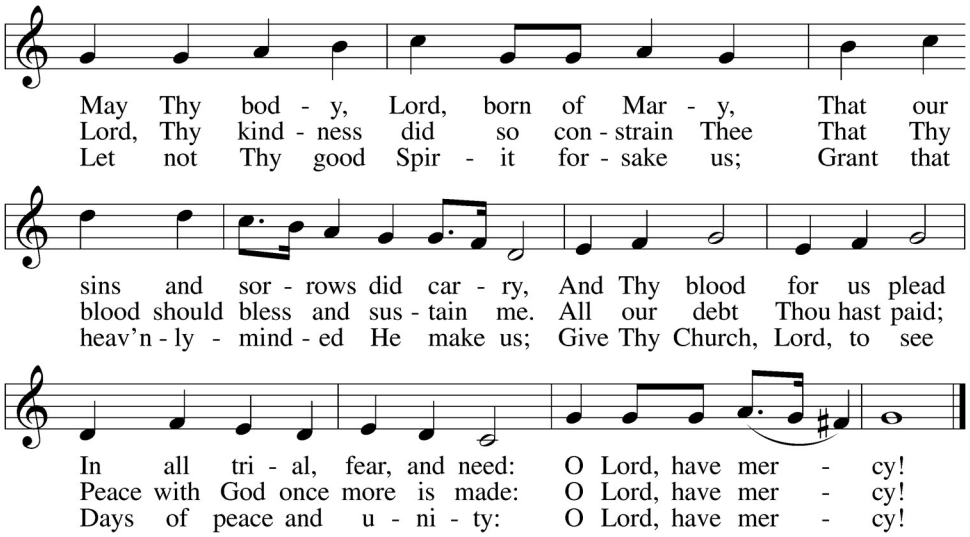
AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD) *LSB 198*

(Congregation sits)

DISTRIBUTION *(please see our Communion policy on the back page)*

COMMUNION HYMN "O LORD, WE PRAISE THEE" *LSB 617*





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(Congregation stands)

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: and His mercy endures forever.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

P: *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.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 228*

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 ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen.

DEPARTING HYMN **"LORD JESUS, THINK OF ME"** ***LSB 610***

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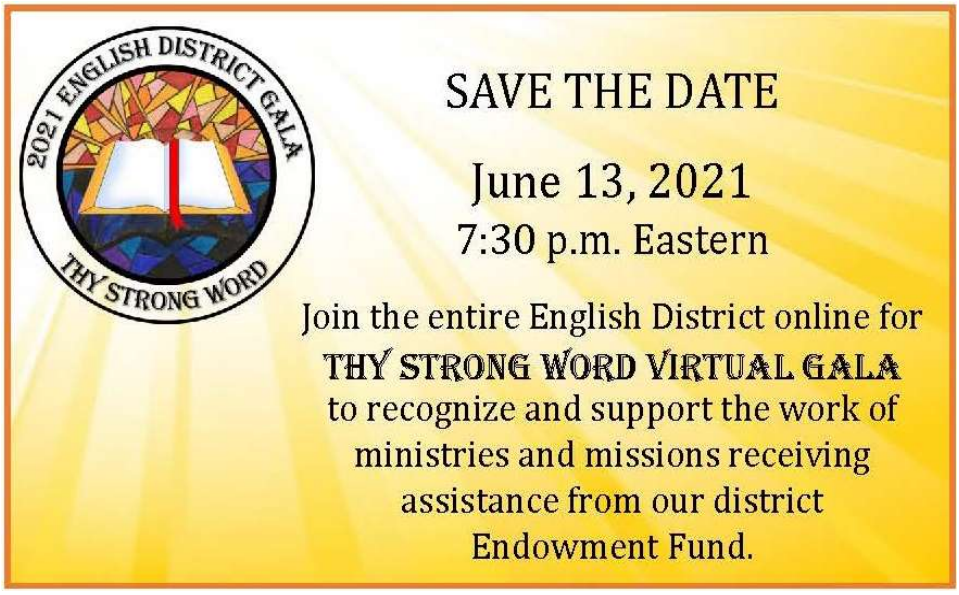
Join us Wednesday, March 24th for our final Mid-week Lenten service reflecting on Martin Luther's Hymn "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice"

Wednesday at 6pm



Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

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Serving at Family of Christ

Pastor

Reverend Fred H Gerlach

Pastor@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Cell: 609-751-2546

Music Director

Inessa Leip

Music@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Church Office Administrator

Admin@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

3/21– 3/28

Today

9:30AM Divine Worship *(with communion)*;

11:00AM No Bible Study (resumes on April 11th)

Wednesday

6:00PM Mid-week Lenten Service

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM No Men's Bible Study (resumes on April 9th)

Next Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

Thursday (April 1)

6:00PM Maundy Thursday Service

PLEASE NOTE: *Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols and procedures.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer

Our Communion Policy

Family of Christ Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the ***Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod***. We celebrate the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord gives into your mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.