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JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

*“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*

(Colossians 3:16)

August 17, 2025



Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession

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WELCOME: *Good morning. The prevailing message of the service today is that we have only one source of truth in the Church. It has nothing to do with the pastor's ideas or with the age in which we live. God's Word, the Bible, is all we need for training in righteousness, and it alone is able to save our souls.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER: *We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.*

HYMN:

Thy Strong Word

Thy strong Word did cleave the darkness.

At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee,

While Thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluias without end.

Thy strong Word declares us righteous,

Bright with Thine own holiness.

Glorious now we press toward glory,

And our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluias without end.

From the cross Thy wisdom shining

Breaketh forth in conquering might;

From the cross forever beameth

All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluias without end.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: You are dearly loved by God. So let us come near to His throne of grace with a true heart and confess our sins to Him, our heavenly Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to have mercy upon us and to forgive us.

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Cong: The Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

Cong: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin..

Cong: O Almighty God, merciful Father, 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 unto me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: On the basis of your confession and as a called servant of the Word, I announce to all of you the grace of God toward us in Christ Jesus. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all you sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Cong: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORY TO GOD

Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end.

God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

THE GREETING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Cong: And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that in Your mercy You have not left us to die in our sin but have revealed to us the light of Your enduring mercy through Your Word. May its message of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ our Savior work in our hearts that we might be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving ourselves. So preserve us in true faith toward you and cause us to shine brightly in this world that others may see our good works and glorify You, our Father in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit—one God, forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 33:1-11

(ESV) The word of the LORD came to me: (2) "Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, (3) and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, (4) then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. (5) He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life. (6) But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. (7) "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. (8) If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. (9) But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. (10) "And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' (11) Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Peter 1:13-25

(ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, (15) but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your

conduct, (16) since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
(17) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially
according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear
throughout the time of your exile, (18) knowing that you were
ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not
with perishable things such as silver or gold, (19) but with the
precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or
spot. (20) He was foreknown before the foundation of the world
but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you (21)
who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the
dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
(22) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a
sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure
heart, (23) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed
but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;
(24) for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of
grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, (25) but the word of
the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was
preached to you.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

**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 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.**

HYMN:

Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth

**Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth,
To Thy Word I now give heed;
Life and spirit Thy Word beareth,
All Thy Word is true indeed.
Death's dread power in me is rife;
Jesus, may Thy Word of Life
Fill my soul with love's strong fervor
That I cling to Thee forever.**

**Oh, what blessing to be near Thee
And to hearken to Thy voice!
May I ever love and fear Thee
That Thy Word may be my choice!
Oft were hardened sinners, Lord,
Struck with terror by Thy Word;
But to him who for sin grieveth
Comfort sweet and hope it giveth.**

**Lord, Thy words are waters living
Where I quench my thirsty need;
Lord, Thy words are bread life-giving,
On Thy words my Soul doth feed.**

**Lord, Thy words shall be my light
Thro' death's vale and dreary night;
Yea, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailing.**

**Precious Jesus, I beseech Thee,
May Thy words take root in me;
May this gift from heav'n enrich me
So that I bear fruit for Thee!
Take them never from my heart
Till I see Thee as Thou art,
When in heav'nly bliss and glory
I shall greet Thee and adore Thee.
Amen.**

THE SERMON: Mark 7:14-23

(ESV) And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: (15) There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." (17) And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. (18) And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, (19) since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) (20) And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. (21) For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, (22) coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. (23) All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Because God Said So

THE OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

The Peace Christ Freely Gives

**The peace Christ freely gives
He gives abundantly
In means of grace so dear
With God's own Spirit free.
Come, Holy Ghost, in love
To gladden each sad heart;
Take what belongs to Christ -
His peace to us impart.**

**That peace flows from the font
Where He calls us His own;
New life He gives that makes
Us His and His alone.
Here He forgives our sins
By water and the Word.
We now are dead to sin,
Alive with Christ our Lord.**

**The gifts of grace and peace
From absolution flow -
The pastor's words are Christ's
For us to trust and know.
Forgiveness that we need
Is spoken to our hearts.
He speaks by God's command
And thus His peace imparts.**

Christ's peace is there each day
The Holy Word is read;
God's child hungers and thirsts;
By it his soul is fed.
Christ fills us with Himself -
Blest words that give us life,
Sustaining us with grace
Throughout this world of strife.

This peace is in the Feast,
Far more than we can see;
Beneath the bread and wine
Is food from Calvary:
Christ's body and His blood,
Giv'n for our ev'ry sin,
Sets our sin guilty hearts
At heav'nly peace again.

Oh, Comforter from Heav'n,
The promised Paraclete,
Descend on us, we pray -
Our faith in Christ complete.
The means of grace provide
What only Christ can give:
Forgiving grace and peace
By which we sinners live. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Cong: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Cong: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Cong: It is good and right to do so.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and spiritually beneficial for us, in all places and in all circumstances, to give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, because through the instruction given to the Apostles and Evangelists by the Holy Spirit, You have ruled and protected Your holy Church and have kept it in the one true faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and give glory to Your name, evermore praising You and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Tho' the darkness hide Thee,
Tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS: On the basis of the Bible's teaching about Holy Communion, we in the Lutheran Church believe that Christ gives to us His true body and blood under the bread and the wine. We also understand that, while Christ instituted this meal for the strengthening of His disciples' faith, this sacrament has the potential to bring judgment on those who do not receive it with a proper understanding of its purpose. In love, we ask that if you are not a member of Faith Lutheran Church or a sister church in the CLC, that you not come forward to receive the sacrament. If you

would like more information concerning receiving Communion with us in the future, please speak with the pastor following the service.

**O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blest am I! How good art Thou!
Amen.**

Pastor: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this special means of grace. We ask that, of Your everlasting mercy, You would strengthen us through it in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Cong: And also with you.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Cong: Amen.