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Scripture alone. Faith alone. Grace alone.

<https://www.zelcloganville.com/>

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August 16, 2026



Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession

<https://clclutheran.org/>

WELCOME: *To all who are present today, we offer a heart-felt welcome in Jesus' name.*

We come before God today with nothing in our hands that can make us righteous before Him. Cain could not hide his sin, the Pharisee could not justify himself by his goodness, and we cannot deliver ourselves from the darkness and judgment that sin deserves. Yet Christ gives what we cannot provide for ourselves: mercy for sinners, righteousness for the guilty, His name to those who are His, and the assurance that no power of darkness can take away what He has given.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

HYMN: #373 (vv. 1-5)

By Grace I'm Saved

**By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?
Nay; then this word must true remain;
By grace thou, too, shalt heav'n obtain.**

**By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.**

**By grace! Oh, mark this word of promise
When thou art by thy sins oppressed,
When Satan plagues thy troubled conscience,
And when thy heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend
God by His grace to thee doth send.**

**By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of thine own merit
That Jesus died thy soul to win?
Nay, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.**

**By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
So long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
What our whole faith must rest upon,
Is grace alone, grace in His Son.
Amen.**

INVOCATION

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

Cong: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

Cong: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love; cleanse me from my sin; and take away my guilt.

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. This Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes, because in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written: The just shall live by faith.
Cong: Amen.

GLORY TO GOD

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Glory to God. We give You thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us You peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high;
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have nothing of our own by which we may stand righteous before You. Keep us from the pride that trusts in our works and from the unbelief that despairs of Your mercy; lead us instead to confess our sins with humble hearts and to trust entirely in Jesus Christ, who has given Himself for us, clothed us with His righteousness, and marked us as His own; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Cong: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 4:1-15

(EHV) The man was intimate with Eve, his wife. She conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have gotten a man with the LORD." (2) She also gave birth to Cain's brother Abel. Abel tended sheep, but Cain worked the ground. (3) As time passed, one day Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil. (4) Abel also brought some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD looked favorably on Abel and his offering, (5) but he did not look favorably on Cain and his offering. Cain was very angry, and his face showed it. (6) The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you have that angry look on your face? (7) If you do good, will you not be lifted up? If you do not do good, sin is crouching at the door. It has a strong desire for you, but you must rule over it." (8) Cain said to Abel, his brother, "Let's go into the field." When they were in the field, Cain attacked Abel, his brother, and killed him. (9) The LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel, your brother?" He said, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (10) The LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the soil. (11) Now you are cursed and sent away from the soil which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. (12) When you work the soil, it will no longer give its strength to you. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." (13) Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great for me to bear. (14) Look, today you have driven me away from the soil. I will be hidden from your face, and I will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth. And whoever finds me will kill me." (15) The LORD said to him, "No! If anyone kills Cain, he will face sevenfold revenge." And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, so that anyone who found him would not strike him down.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 18:9-14

(EHV) Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: (10) “Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. (11) The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. (12) I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’ (13) “However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ (14) “I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

REVELATION LESSON: Revelation 9:7-21

(EHV) The locusts looked like horses ready for battle. On their heads were what appeared to be crowns that were like gold. Their faces looked like human faces. (8) They had hair that looked like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth. (9) They had breastplates that appeared to be made of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of many chariots and horses charging into battle. (10) They had tails with stingers like those of scorpions, and in their tails they had power to hurt people for five months. (11) They have the angel of the abyss over them as their king. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon. (12) One woe is past. Look! After these things two more woes are coming. (13) Then the sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice speak from the four horns of the gold incense altar that is before God. (14) It said to the sixth angel, the one with the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river

Euphrates.” (15) And the four angels who had been prepared for this hour, day, month, and year were let loose so that they could kill a third of the people. (16) The number of soldiers on horseback was two hundred million. I heard their number. (17) And this is what I saw in the vision of the horses and their riders: They had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire and smoke and sulfur. (18) As a result of these three plagues, the fire and the smoke and the sulfur that came out of their mouths, a third of mankind was killed. (19) For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like snakes that have heads, which they use to cause injuries. (20) The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands by giving up their worship of demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, or wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk. (21) And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immoralities, or their thefts.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostolic Creed

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

HYMN: #324 (vv. 1-3)

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

**Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve--
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim.
Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe--
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live--
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

Amen.

THE SERMON: Revelation 9:1-6

(EHV) Then the fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen out of heaven to the earth, and the key to the pit of the abyss was given to him. (2) He opened the pit of the abyss, and smoke came up out of the pit like the smoke from a huge furnace. The sun and the air were

darkened by the smoke from the pit. (3) And out of the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given the kind of power that scorpions of the earth have. (4) They were told not to harm the earth's grass, any green plant, or any tree, but only those people who do not have God's seal on their foreheads. (5) Indeed, they were not given permission to kill these people but only to torture them for five months. And the pain they cause is like the pain caused by a scorpion when it stings a person. (6) In those days people will seek death but will certainly not find it. They will long to die, but death will escape them.

What Christ Allows & What Christ Gives

THE OFFERTORY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
Uphold by Your Spirit free.**

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: #344 (vv. 1-2, 5)

Jesus, Love of My Soul

**Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly**

While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide.
Oh, receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.
Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me!
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the Fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.
Amen.

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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, our God.

Cong: It is good and right to do so.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for though our sins cry out against us and the powers of darkness seek our ruin, Your Son has given Himself for us, bearing our judgment upon the cross and rising again in victory. Through Him You justify the sinner who pleads for mercy, place Your holy name upon Your people, and give us forgiveness, righteousness, and everlasting life in Him. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Cong:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord
God of heavenly hosts adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
Shout the glory of Your name.
Sing Hosanna in the highest,
Sing Hosanna to the Lord.
Truly blest is He who comes
In the name of the Lord.**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this 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 from it,

all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Cong: Amen.

Cong:

**O Lamb of God, O Christ, our Lord,
Whose blood, once shed, true life restored,
Impart Your joy, our faith increase,
Sustain with Your mercy,
And grant us Your peace.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

THE SONG OF SIMEON

**O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav’nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace –
A Light to the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit –
Forever three in one:
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God’s Triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

THE BENEDICTION

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.

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS: While we took the summer months off for our Wednesday morning Bible Class, we will be resuming these opportunities to gather each Wednesday morning for Bible study in September. September 2nd, we will resume our classes, which will start at 10:00 AM.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Art Pontow has been released from the hospital and is regaining his strength from the infection that had weakened him. He is set to have a procedure on October 7 to complete the treatment needed to return to full health. Please remember him in your prayers.

CHURCH COUNCIL: The church council will meet next Sunday following the church service.

CALL NEWS: Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has **returned** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. Pastor David Reim of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Vernon, British Columbia, has **returned** the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. Pastor David Reim has also **returned** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, has **returned** the call to St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN. Pastor Luke Willitz of Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN, has **returned** the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN. Pastor Emeritus Paul Tiefel has **returned** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has **received** the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison, Heights, MI.

FOR FUTHER THOUGHT...

We spend much of life thinking about what we have to give. We give our time, our effort, our money, our attention, and our prayers. But the Scriptures for today turn the question around. What does God give to us?

Cain brought an offering, but his heart was not right before God. The Pharisee in Jesus' parable brought his record of good works and compared himself with everyone else. Revelation 9 shows terrifying powers at work in the world, yet even they can act only within the limits God gives them. In every case, the message is the same: what we bring cannot save us, and what threatens us cannot finally rule us – Christ does not give it!

The tax collector understood this. He had nothing to offer God except his guilt. He simply prayed, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” And Jesus says that man went home justified... That is what Christ gives.

He gives mercy to sinners who cannot earn it. He gives righteousness to those who have none of their own. He gives His name to those He claims as His people. He gives forgiveness when your conscience accuses, peace when fear rises, and life where death seems to have the final word.

Even the frightening picture in Revelation 9 points us back to this comfort. The powers of darkness are real, but they are not free to do whatever they please. Their reach is limited. Their time is limited. Their ability is limited. Christ still reigns. What He gives His people is greater than anything the darkness can bring.

The devil may accuse, but Christ gives forgiveness. The conscience may condemn, but Christ gives righteousness. Death may threaten, but Christ gives eternal life.

We come before God with nothing to boast about and nothing with which to bargain. We come as beggars before the King, asking only for mercy, and mercy is what God has in rich supply.

Christ, our Savior, gives it. More than that, He gives Himself. That is enough for today. It will be enough tomorrow. And it will be enough when everything else has passed away.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

August 17 – August 22, 2026

Mon Luke 18:9-14 In this familiar parable the Pharisee looked to himself and his own doings while the tax-collector looked for God's merciful help. It was God's doing that the latter went home justified (v14).

Tues 1 Corinthians 15:1-10 It was all God's doing that "Christ died for our sins" (v3), and was raised on the third day (v4). Scripture prophecies before and multiple appearances afterward testified to this resurrection.

Wed 2 Samuel 22:21-29 David praises the LORD our righteousness (Jer23:6). In the Messiah, God has made us His righteous ones, and as such He continues to bless us. This is truly grace upon grace!

Thurs Psalm 147:1-11 Not merely urging us to praise the LORD, this psalm proceeds to praise Him for His power and care, shown both to His people and to all creation. Those who fear Him wait for His mercy (v11).

Fri Psalm 147:12-20 The LORD provides protection and peace for His people. He sends food and He sends His Word. He sends snow, and frost, and hail; He melts them again. Above all, He sends His Word!

Sat Psalm 119:81-88 In the darkest night, when life is hanging by a thread, and our eyes are worn out, we still look for comfort in His Word. When they almost put an end to us, let us look for His great mercy (v88).