



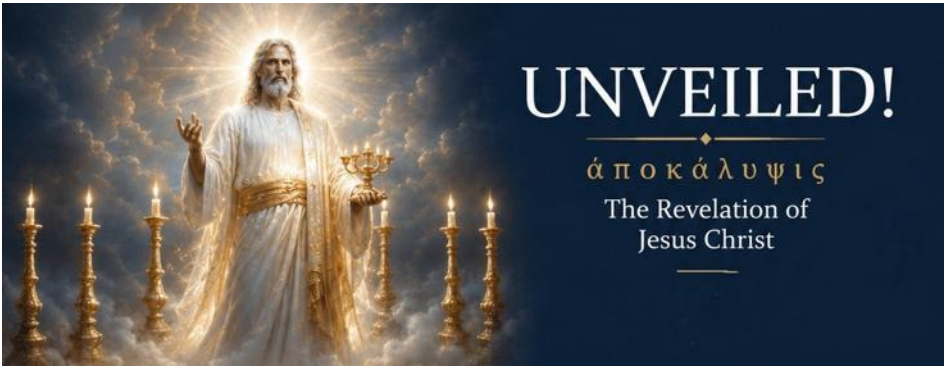
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**Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession**

<https://clclutheran.org/>

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

*The Lord graciously prepares and opens His heavenly banquet for sinners, calling them through His Word to receive the salvation won by Christ rather than trusting in themselves or the things of this world. Those who hear His voice and hold fast to His promises are strengthened to remain faithful, even when they appear weak in the eyes of men. Therefore, let us not despise His invitation or neglect His gifts, but rejoice that the Savior who calls us also preserves us and will bring His people safely into His eternal kingdom.*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

**HYMN: #17**

*Oh, Worship the King*

**Oh, worship the King, All-glorious above,  
Oh, gratefully sing His pow'r and His love,  
Our Shield and Defender, The Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor And girded with praise.**

**Oh, tell of His might, Oh, sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space!  
His chariots of wrath The deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path On the wings of the storm.**

**This earth, with its store Of wonders untold,  
Almighty, Thy pow'r Hath founded of old,  
Hath stablished it fast By a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast, Like a mantle, the sea.**

**Thy bountiful care What tongues can recite?  
It breathes in the air, It shines in the light,  
It streams from the hills, It descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills In the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust And feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, Nor find Thee to fail.  
Thy mercies, how tender, How firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

**O measureless Might, Ineffable Love,  
While angels delight To hymn Thee above,  
Thy humbler creation, Though feeble their lays,**

**With true adoration Shall sing to Thy praise.  
Amen.**

## **INVOCATION**

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

**Cong: (spoken) Amen.**

## **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

*Pastor: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

**Cong: If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.**

*Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and His truth is not in us.*

**Cong: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Pastor: Then let us confess our sins to God in prayer and seek His forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.*

**Cong: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray, of Your bountiful mercy, be merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

*Pastor: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord.*

**Cong: 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.**

**Father most holy, merciful and tender;  
Jesus, our Savior, with the Father reigning;  
Spirit of comfort, Advocate, Defender;  
Light never waning.**

**Maker of all things, all Your creatures praise You;  
All for Your worship were and are created.  
Hear us, Almighty, hear us as we give You  
Our adoration.**

**Trinity sacred, Unity unshaken;  
Deity perfect, giving and forgiving;  
Light of the angels, Life of the forsaken;  
Hope of the living.**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

*Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, our Prophet, Priest, and King, You have promised that those who read and who hear and keep the Revelation which You gave to Your servant, John, will be blessed. We thank You for revealing Yourself as the one who exercises all power and authority in heaven and on earth and that You do so for the good of Your people. Open our hearts to hear the instruction of Your Word this day that we might never fear the things that are coming on the earth, but trust in You for salvation; You who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit—one God, forever and ever.*

**Cong: Amen.**

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 14:15-24**

(EHV) When one of those at the table with him heard these things, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will feast in

the kingdom of God!” (16) Jesus said to him, “A certain man made a great banquet and invited many people. (17) When it was time for the banquet, he sent out his servant to tell those who were invited, ‘Come, because everything is now ready.’ (18) But they all alike began to make excuses. “The first one told him, ‘I bought a field, and I need to go and see it. I ask you to excuse me.’ (19) “Another one said, ‘I bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out. I ask you to excuse me.’ (20) “Still another said, ‘I just got married, and so I am unable to attend.’ (21) “The servant arrived and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house was angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town, and bring in here the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ (22) “The servant said, ‘Master, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.’ (23) “Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and urge them to come in, so that my house may be filled. (24) Yes, I tell you that none of those men who were invited will taste my banquet.’ ”

### **REVELATION LESSON:** Revelation 2 – 3

(EHV) To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven gold lampstands, says this: (2) I know your works, your labor, and your patient endurance, and that you are not able to tolerate evil people. You have tested those who say they are apostles, but are not, and have found them to be liars. (3) Indeed, you do have patient endurance. You have endured hardships on account of my name and have not become weary. (4) But I have this against you: You have forsaken your first love. (5) Remember, therefore, the state from which you have fallen! Repent and do the works you did at first. Otherwise I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, if you do not repent. (6) But you do have this: You hate the actions of the Nicolaitans, which I also

hate. (7) Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious I will give the privilege to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (8) To the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: The First and the Last, who was dead and came to life again, says this: (9) I know your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich. And I know the blasphemy that comes from those who say they are Jews but are not; rather, they are a synagogue of Satan. (10) Do not fear anything that you are about to suffer. Look, the Devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you will be tested, and you will suffer for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (11) Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death. (12) To the messenger of the church in Pergamum write: The one who has the sharp, two-edged sword says this: (13) I know where you live—where the throne of Satan is. And I know that you hold fast to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me even in the days when Antipas, my faithful witness, was put to death near you, the place where Satan lives. (14) But I have a few things against you: You have some people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who instructed Balak to put a stumbling block in front of the children of Israel so that they would eat things offered to idols and commit sexual immorality. (15) Likewise, you also have some people who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. (16) Therefore, repent! If not, I will come to you soon, and I will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (17) Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, which no one will know except the one who receives it. (18) To the messenger of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, whose eyes are like fiery flames and whose feet are like polished bronze, says this: (19) I know your works and love and

faith and service, as well as your patient endurance, and that you are doing more now than you did at first. (20) But I have this against you: You allow that woman Jezebel, the one who calls herself a prophetess, to deceive my servants and to teach them to commit sexual immorality and eat things offered to idols. (21) I gave her time to repent, but she is not willing to repent of her sexual immorality. (22) Look, I am going to throw her onto a bed and throw those who commit adultery with her into great suffering, if they do not repent of her works. (23) And I will put her children to death. And all the churches will know that I am the one who searches hearts and minds, and that I will give to each of you according to your works. (24) To the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold to this teaching, who do not know Satan's "deep things," as they call them, I say that I will not lay any other burden on you. (25) Only hold fast to what you have until I come. (26) To the one who is victorious and continues to do my works until the end, I will give him authority over the nations, (27) and he will rule them with an iron staff and shatter them like clay pots, (28) just as I myself have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. (29) Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (3:1) To the messenger of the church in Sardis write: The one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says this: I know your works. You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. (2) Wake up, and strengthen what is left, which is about to die, for I have found that your works are not complete in the sight of my God. (3) Therefore remember what you received and heard. Hold on to it and repent! If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come upon you. (4) Yet you have a few names in Sardis, people who have not defiled their clothes. They will walk with me in white clothing, for they are worthy. (5) The one who is victorious in this way will be clothed in white clothing. I certainly will not erase his name from the Book of Life, and I will acknowledge

his name before my Father and his angels. (6) Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.... (14) To the messenger of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation, says this: (15) I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. If only you were cold or hot! (16) So, because you are lukewarm and not hot or cold, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. (17) You say, "I am rich. I have become very wealthy and need nothing." But you do not know that you are miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. (18) I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments, so that you may be clothed and the shame of your nakedness may not become public, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. (19) I rebuke and discipline those whom I love. So take this seriously and repent. (20) Look, I stand at the door and I am knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in with him and dine with him, and he with me. (21) To the one who is victorious I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. (22) Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

## **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: #16**

*Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word*

**Blessed Jesus, at Thy word  
We are gathered all to hear Thee;  
Let our hearts and souls be stirred  
Now to seek and love and fear Thee,  
By Thy teachings, sweet and holy,  
Drawn from earth to love Thee solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
Till Thy Spirit breaks our night  
With the beams of truth unclouded.  
Thou alone to God canst win us;  
Thou must work all good within us.**

**Glorious Lord, Thyself impart,  
Light of Light, from God proceeding;  
Open Thou our ears and heart,  
Help us by Thy Spirit's pleading;  
Hear the cry Thy people raises,  
Hear and bless our prayers and praises!**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Praise to Thee and adoration!  
Grant that we Thy Word may trust  
And obtain true consolation  
While we here below must wander,  
Till we sing Thy praises yonder.  
Amen.**

## **THE SERMON:** Revelation 3:7-13

(EHV) To the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: The Holy One, the one who is true, the one who has the key of David, the one who opens and no one can shut, and who shuts and no one can open, says this: (8) I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. (9) Look, I will make those who are from the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not but are lying—look, I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them realize that I have loved you. (10) Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will also keep you from the hour of testing, which is about to come over the whole inhabited world, to test those who dwell on the earth. (11) I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have so that no one takes your crown. (12) The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never leave it again. I will also write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God—the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God—and my new name. (13) Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

# Holding Fast What You Have

## **GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN:#220**

*Jesus, My Great High Priest*

**Jesus, my great High Priest,  
Offered His Blood and died;  
My guilty conscience seeks**

No sacrifice beside.  
His pow'rful blood did once atone,  
And now it pleads before the Throne.

To this dear Surety's hand  
Will I commit my cause;  
He answers and fulfils  
His Father's broken laws.  
Behold my soul at freedom set;  
My Surety paid the dreadful debt.

My Advocate appears  
For my defense on high;  
The Father bows His ears  
And lays His thunder by.  
Not all that hell or sin can say  
Shall turn His heart, His love, away.

Should all the hosts of death  
And pow'rs of hell unknown  
Put their most dreadful forms  
Of rage and mischief on,  
I shall be safe, for Christ displays  
Superior pow'r and guardian grace.  
Amen.

## **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

**BIBLE CLASS:** We will resume our Bible Class series on the three ecumenical creeds of the Christian Church this Wednesday at 9:30 AM.

**TN/NC CIRCUIT TRIP:** Following Bible Class on Wednesday, Pastor Gantt will be leaving for the circuit trip to Tennessee and North Carolina. God willing, he will be home Saturday evening.

**CLC CONVENTION:** The CLC General Convention is scheduled for June 24-28. While we currently have no delegates to convention, Pastor Gantt will be attending. He will leave after the church service next Sunday. Since the Convention runs through Sunday afternoon, Pastor Gantt will not be back for church services on June 28. He will return afterwards, but he does have a planned vacation for the following Sunday, July 5. However, he may not be taking that planned vacation... stay tuned for further information.

**Used Smartphones for Africa** - Missionary Bruce Naumann is again requesting donations of used smartphones that were previously on a Verizon plan. These are for use by pastors and pastoral students in East Africa. If you have upgraded your phone and have no use for the old one, please bring it to the church office. Verizon is preferred because it will work with African cell carriers, but most others will not. A sim card is not needed. These phones are much appreciated by students and pastors in our sister African churches - thank you!

**CALL NEWS:** Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Berea Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan, WI, has extended two one-year calls to members Marie Muehlenhaupt to serve as teacher and to Rebecca Lillo to serve as principal. <> Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Mr. Steve Sydow has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Paul Agenten of Calvary Lutheran Church, Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Iron River, MI, has

returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has received the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose has also received the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN. <> St. John's Lutheran Church, Okabena, MN, has extended two part-time, one-year teaching calls to Lori Ruthenbeck and Lydia Buck.

### **FROM THE CLC PRESIDENT:**

Dear Brother Theologians,

At the recent Lower Michigan study club, the pastors studied an essay by Wauwatosa theologian, John Schaller, entitled The Hidden God. Schaller's essay serves as a good reminder of how, in his preaching, teaching, and writing, the theologian dare not go beyond the simple words of Scripture. Schaller writes:

“But man is unwilling to let that truth stand. And right here is the immediate cause of all theological and religious error wherever God's revelation in the Word is found. We think, e. g., of the great throng of arrogant men who think that the great God must be measured by the short span of human brain power. They lay their miserably inadequate yardsticks up against God's revelation and reject it completely, because it mocks their attempts at measuring it.”

The essay, written over one-hundred years ago, is very timely, speaking directly to theological questions that our own members are often confused about, and that maybe we have trouble answering at times. The essay is also a good tie in to this year's convention theme: The Word of God: Preach It! Defend It!

What follows are quotes from that article, which you can find in full in volume 2 of The Wauwatosa Theology, pages 169-187.

“The only safe principle of orthodox theology is, let the hidden God remain hidden where he wants to remain hidden!”

“To be sure, he [the theologian] can unfold from the text of the Scripture the divine thoughts contained in it, but the minute he asserts something that is not stated in just so many words in the Scripture he has abandoned the basis of theology and has instead reached out for the tools of human philosophy.”

“By means of these systems, science is pretty well designed the good Lord completely out of nature, because he simply no longer fits in. And yet many people are so satisfied with the existing scientific system that they defend it fanatically as a religion.”

“In our days, wherever the children of this world pursue the sciences they end up with nothing more than the self-satisfied conviction that the human spirit will eventually eliminate all obstacles that oppose their investigation.”

“Since God could not have treated Adam and Eve lovelessly and unjustly, why did he not right from the start exclude every possibility of the fall into sin? Here again God has veiled himself in deep silence. He nowhere gives us the slightest hint which could lead us to answer this question. By so doing, God has clearly indicated to us that we have no business concerning ourselves with this question. And it is unwholesome theologizing to try all sorts of ways to solve this problem, which must be recognized as a mystery of divine will, a mystery that neither our observation nor our speculation will ever unlock.”

“The war in Europe, which has caused unspeakable misery for all participants, presents a similar puzzle . . . The problem is not God’s chastisement per se, but that he chastises the way he does. Could he not have carried out his punishment in ways other than through such devastation, through such a frightful bloodbath? One may speculate about the problems raised by world history, but ultimately there is only one suitable answer: God wanted it that way, and he has not told us why.”

“But every child of God must also learn the lesson that once caused Job so much grief, and that is that even in his dealings with his own

children God is a hidden God, whose thoughts are not our thoughts and whose ways are not our ways.”

“On the other hand, we have the clear word of Paul for our teaching that the secret of the election lies in God, and that it remains a secret because God has not told us a single thing about what, in addition to his grace and Christ’s merit, moved him to choose the elect personally for eternal life.”

“In the Holy Scripture we enjoy the possession of God’s revelation. There God has given us information about what he thinks of man, who enters the world as a sinner. There God sketches man for us, shows us how he sees him, and shares with us how he must deal with such creatures in his eternal righteousness. To make us eternally happy, God has further revealed the full riches of his love and mercy, according to which he has from eternity determined the salvation of the whole world of sinners and has accomplished it through his own Son in time.”

Convention is right around the corner! It will be good to spend time with you, my brothers. We can all look forward to being edified by the essays, devotions, worship services, as well as our time together.

Pray for the Spirit’s blessing upon our convention, that He give us wisdom and joy to do the work He has set before us. The Lord give you all safe travels to Eau Claire.

In the Name of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Michael Wilke

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

June 15 – June 20, 2026

**Mon Luke 14:16-24** Jesus pictures God's invitation to a banquet rejected in favor of earthly pursuits. The result: those handicapped in such pursuits are brought in, and others from highways and hedges.

**Tues 1 John 3:13-18** The world hates, but our Jesus loves, and laid down His life for us. We also will want to use the things of this life to help those in need where we can, truly loving both in words and actions.

**Wed Isaiah 25:6-9** Isaiah also used a banquet to picture God's blessings for all peoples (v6). Death will be swallowed up, and tears will be wiped away (v8). This is the LORD! We waited for Him, and He saved us! (v9)

**Thurs Psalm 28** God's children call to Him and plead for His mercy when suffering at the hands of the wicked (God's enemies). They leave the punishing of the wicked to Him (v4-5), and rejoice in His salvation (v8).

**Fri Psalm 119:9-16** The Word of God can guard our path, but it is not just a path we seek, but Him (v10). Thus we want to learn, tell about, rejoice in, meditate on, consider, delight in, and never forget His Words.

**Sat Luke 14:25-35** May the love of God fill our hearts, that we may recognize that His invitation (see Monday reading) is more precious than anything else in this life, including family, possessions, even our earthly life (v26).