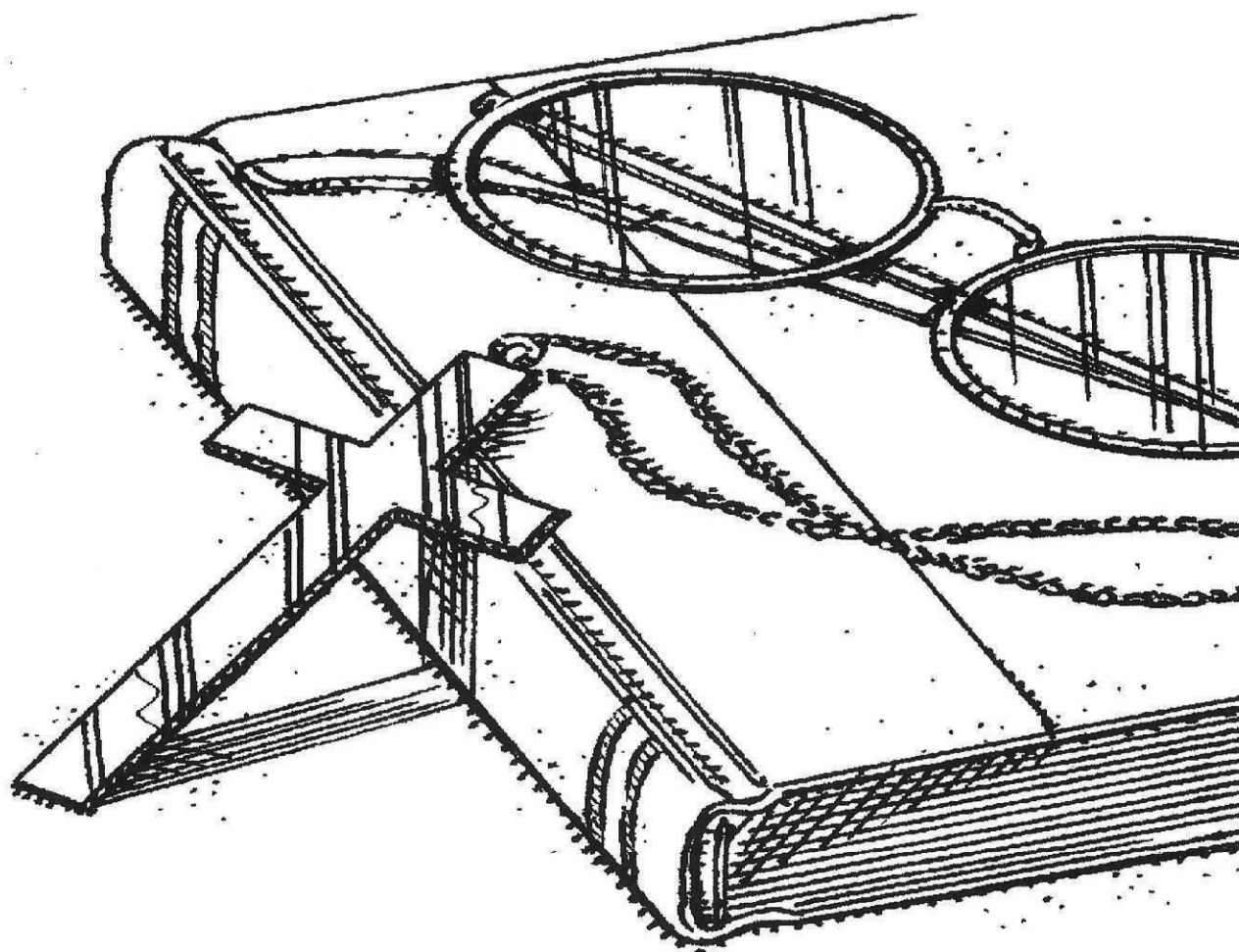


# Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Hillsboro, Texas



**Let us keep our eyes  
on Jesus, the author and  
perfector of our faith.**

**H e b r e w s   1 2 : 2**

**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**RUNNING ON FAITH**

**August 17, 2025**

## TODAY'S MESSAGE: RUNNING ON FAITH

Today's readings from God's Word remind us of the struggle and the conflict that exists in the world because of sin and because of sin's rebellion and opposition to God and His Word. God's people live through suffering and persecution as a result of their desire to follow the Lord and to proclaim and live according to His Word. The writer of the book of Hebrews compares the Christian life to a race; not a sprint, but a long challenging race like a marathon. And the writer of Hebrews encourages us with these words: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." The strength we have and need for this race comes in knowing that we are "running on faith" – faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Faith that is fed and strengthened by God's Word.



In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

*Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

## **✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝**

[“Divine Service: Setting One” from LSB p.151]

*Please silence – or turn off – all phones and electronic devices before and during the service.*

### Welcome

*Psalm 118:24*

**P:** This is the day the LORD has made.

**C:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

### Announcements

### Opening Hymn

“O God, Forsake Me Not”

LSB 731

**O God, forsake me not! Your gracious presence lend me.  
Lord, lead Your helpless child. Your Holy Spirit send me.  
That I my course may run, O be my light, my lot.  
My staff, my rock, my shield. O God, forsake me not!**

**O God, forsake me not! Take not Your Spirit from me.  
Do not permit the might, of sin to overcome me.  
Increase my feeble faith, which You alone have wrought.  
O be my strength and pow’r. O God, forsake me not!**

**O God, forsake me not! Lord, hear my supplication!  
In ev’ry evil hour, help me resist temptation.  
And when the prince of hell, my conscience seeks to blot,  
Be then not far from me. O God, forsake me not!**

**O God, forsake me not! Lord, I am Yours forever.  
O keep me strong in faith, that I may leave You never.  
Grant me a blessed end, when my good fight is fought.  
Help me in life and death. O God, forsake me not!**

### Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b*

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

**C:** *(sung)* A - - - men

## Confession of Sins

*Hebrews 10:22; 1 John 1:8-9*

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.)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

## Entrance Psalm [ESV]

*Psalm 119:81-88*

P: My soul longs for your salvation (O LORD); I hope in your word.

C: **My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?"**

P: For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes.

C: **How long must your servant endure? When will you judge those who persecute me? The insolent have dug pitfalls for me; they do not live according to your law.**

P: All your commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me!

C: **They have almost made an end of me on earth, but I have not forsaken your precepts.**

ALL: **In your steadfast love give me life (O LORD), that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**



## Gloria in Excelsis *(sung)*

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**ALL: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father. Receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

## Opening Prayer

**ALL: Merciful Father, since You have given Your only Son, who endured the cross for us as a sacrifice for our sin, also give us Your Spirit to receive gratefully the salvation of Jesus, that we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us. We pray through and with faith in Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading [ESV]

*Jeremiah 23:16-29*

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'You will have peace'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.' For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds."

“Am I a God at hand,” declares the LORD,” and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him?” declares the LORD. “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD. “I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat?” declares the LORD. “Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Reading [ESV]

Hebrews 11:17 – 12:3

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, 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. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading [ESV]

Luke 12:49-56

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

## Children's Message

### Sermon Hymn

"Preserve Your Word, O Savior"

LSB 658

**Preserve Your Word, O Savior, to us this latter day,  
And let Your kingdom flourish. Enlarge Your Church, we pray.  
O keep our faith from failing. Keep hope's bright star a glow.  
Let nothing from truth turn us, while living here below.**

**Preserve, O Lord, Your honor, the bold blasphemer smite.  
Convince, convert, enlighten, the souls in error's night.  
Reveal Your will, dear Savior, to all who dwell below,  
Great light of all the living, that all Your name may know.**

**Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion, bought dearly with Your blood.  
Protect what You have chosen, against the hellish flood.  
Be always our defender, when dangers gather round.  
When all the earth is crumbing, safe may Your Church be found.**

**Preserve Your Word and preaching, the truth that makes us whole,  
The mirror of Your glory, the pow'r that saves the soul.  
Oh, may this living water, this dew of heav'nly grace,  
Sustain us while here living, until we see Your face.**

**Preserve in wave and tempest, Your storm-tossed little flock.  
Assailed by wind and weather, may it endure each shock.  
Stand at the helm, our pilot, and set the course aright.  
Then we will reach the harbor, in Your eternal light.**

### Sermon

### RUNNING ON FAITH

### Confession of Faith

### 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 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** (*sung*)

*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,**

**In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

**Offering** (*Greet those seated near you. You may say, "The peace of the Lord be with you."*)

**Prayers**

## **✠ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠**

*VISITORS and MEMBERS*

*Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.*

**P:** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C:** (*sung*) **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

*Colossians 3:1*

**C:** (*sung*) **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

*Psalm 136*

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name . . .

Sanctus *(sung)*

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

Words of Our Lord

*Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

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  $\text{\textcircled{x}}$  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 is my  $\text{\textcircled{x}}$  blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

*John 20:19*

C: *(sung)* **A - men.**

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

*John 1:29*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, for round us falls the eventide.  
O let Your Word, that saving light, shine forth undimmed into the night.**

**In these last days of great distress, grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness.  
That we keep pure till life is spent, Your holy Word and Sacrament.**

**To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold, speak tongues of fire and make us bold  
To shine Your Word of saving grace, into each dark and loveless place.**

**May glorious truths that we have heard, the bright sword of Your mighty Word,  
Spurn Satan that Your Church be strong, bold, unified in act and song.**

**Restrain, O Lord, the human pride, that seeks to thrust Your truth aside,  
Or with some man-made thoughts or things, would dim the words Your Spirit sings.**

**Stay with us Lord, and keep us true. Preserve our faith our whole life through.  
Your Word alone our heart's defense, the Church's glorious confidence.**

**"I Know My Faith is Founded"**

LSB 587

**I know my faith is founded, on Jesus Christ, my God and Lord.  
And this my faith confessing, unmoved I stand on His sure Word.  
Our reason cannot fathom, the truth of God profound.  
Who trusts in human wisdom, relies on shifting ground.  
God's Word is all sufficient, it makes divinely sure.  
And trusting in its wisdom, my faith shall rest secure.**

**Increase my faith, dear Savior, for Satan seeks by night and day,  
To rob me of this treasure, and take my hope of bliss away.  
But, Lord, with You beside me, I shall be undismayed.  
And led by Your good Spirit, I shall be unafraid.  
Abide with me, O Savior, a firmer faith bestow.  
Then I shall bid defiance, to ev'ry evil foe.**

**In faith, Lord, let me serve You. Though persecution, grief, and pain,  
Should seek to overwhelm me, let me a steadfast trust retain.  
And then at my departure, Lord, take me home to You,  
Your riches to inherit, as all You said holds true.  
In life and death, Lord, keep me, until Your heav'n I gain,  
Where I by Your great mercy, the end of faith attain.**

**"How Firm a Foundation"**

**LSB 728**

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said,  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**"Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid.  
I'll strengthen you, help you and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."**

**"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes.  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"**

**"When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you, I only design,  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine."**

**"Throughout all their lifetime, My people will prove,  
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love.  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."**



**If Your beloved Son, O God, had not to earth descended,  
And in our mortal flesh and blood, had not sin's power ended,  
Then this poor, wretched soul of mine, in hell eternally would pine,  
Because of my transgression.**

**But now I find sweet peace and rest. Despair no more reigns o'er me.  
No more am I by sin oppressed, for Christ has borne sin for me.  
Upon the cross for me He died, that reconciled, I might abide,  
With You, my God, forever.**

**I trust in Him with all my heart. Now all my sorrow ceases.  
His words abiding peace impart. His blood from guilt releases.  
Free grace through Him I now obtain. He washes me from ev'ry stain,  
And pure I stand before Him.**

**All righteousness by works is vain. The Law brings condemnation.  
True righteousness by faith I gain. Christ's work is my salvation.  
His death, that perfect sacrifice, has paid the all sufficient price.  
In Him my hope is anchored.**

*(STAND)* **My guilt, O Father, You have laid, on Christ, Your Son, my Savior.  
Lord Jesus, You my debt have paid, and gained for me God's favor.  
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace, the good in me to You I trace.  
In faith and hope preserve me.**

**Song of Thanksgiving**

**"Thank the Lord"**

*Psalm 100*

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**ALL:** 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. Amen.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C:** *(sung)* A - men, A - men, A - - men.

## Closing Hymn

“Fight the Good Fight”

LSB 664

**Fight the good fight with all your might.  
Christ is your strength and Christ your right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be,  
Your joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God’s good grace.  
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.  
Life with its way before us lies.  
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside, lean on your guide.  
His boundless mercy will provide.  
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove,  
Christ is your life and Christ your love.**

**Faint not nor fear, His arms are near.  
He changes not who holds you dear.  
Only believe, and you will see,  
That Christ is all eternally.**

<p><b>CLC MISSION STATEMENT:</b> “We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God’s Word, sharing God’s love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name.”</p>
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