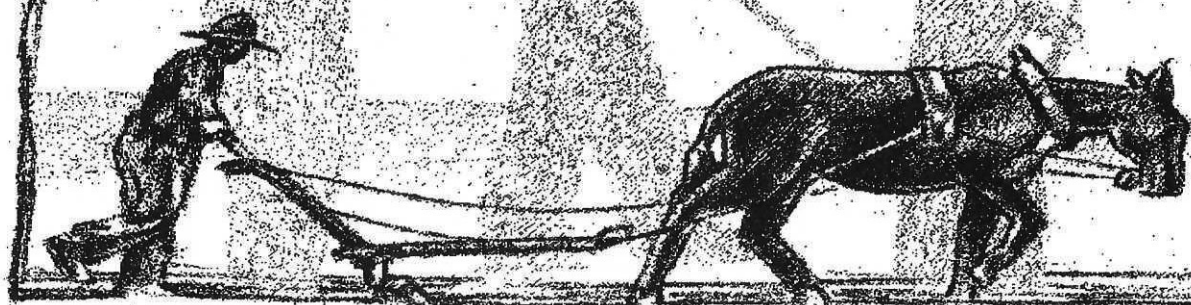


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas

NO ONE WHO
PUTS A HAND TO
THE PLOW AND
LOOKS BACK IS
FIT FOR THE
KINGDOM OF GOD.

LUKE 9 : 62



3rd Sunday after Pentecost
WALKING IN FREEDOM!

June 29, 2025

TODAY'S MESSAGE: WALKING IN FREEDOM!

The world and our own sinful flesh would have us think that our Christian faith keeps us in slavery and that by following Jesus and the teachings of the Bible, we are missing out on the "freedoms" that the world has to offer. On the contrary, it is not Jesus and His words, but the temptations and sins of this world and of our own sinful flesh, that enslave us and control us. Jesus says, "Everyone who sins is a slave to sin." (John 8:34) Jesus saves us from our sins through His cross and His resurrection, and He says, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36) Freed from our slavery to sin by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are free to live a life full of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23) In Jesus, we are truly walking in freedom!



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

Opening Hymn

“Draw Us to Thee”

LSB 701

**Draw us to Thee, for then shall we, walk in Thy steps forever,
And hasten on, where Thou art gone, to be with Thee dear Savior.**

**Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly; let us depart with gladness.
That we may be, forever free, from sorrow, grief and sadness.**

**Draw us to Thee, O grant that we, may walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way, lest we should stray, and from Thy paths be driven.**

**Draw us to Thee, that also we, Thy heav’nly bliss inherit,
And ever dwell, where sin and hell, no more can vex our spirit.**

**Draw us to Thee, unceasingly, into Thy kingdom take us.
Let us fore’er, Thy glory share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

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

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.**

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 [NIV]

Psalm 119:41-48

P: May your unfailing love come to me, O LORD, your salvation, according to your promise; then I will answer the one who taunts me, for I trust in your word.

C: **Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws.**

P: I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.

C: **I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in your commands because I love them.**

P: I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love, and I meditate on your decrees.

C: **I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.**

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.**

Hymn of Praise

“Thy Word is a Lamp”

[AGPS 247]

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

**When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there right beside me;
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

**I will not forget your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

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

P: Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

ALL: Heavenly Father, as Jesus set out resolutely for Jerusalem, there to suffer and die for the world; give us strength to accept your schedule and to follow your agenda, that loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

1 Kings 19:9b-21

And behold, the word of the LORD came to Elijah, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD."

And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading [ESV]

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . .

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Luke 9:51-62

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 9th chapter.

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

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake"

LSB 688 (v.1-2, 4-5)

**"Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding.
Deny yourselves, the world forsake. Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate'er betide. Take My example for your guide."**

**"I am the light, I light the way, a godly life displaying.
I bid you walk as in the day. I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show, how you must sojourn here below."**

**"I teach you how to shun and flee, what harms your soul's salvation.
Your heart from ev'ry guile to free, from sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul, and lead you to your heav'nly goal."**

**Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed.
And, firmly clinging to His Word, in suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain, the crown of heav'nly life obtain.**

**All for Christ I have forsaken, and have taken up my cross.
Worldly joy, its fame and fortune, now I count as worthless dross.**

**Who is sweeter than Christ Jesus? No good thing in Him I lack!
Hand to plow, at peace I follow. Where He leads me... why look back?**

**Gone the past, unknown the future – grace supplies my daily breath.
Strong in Christ through death’s dark valley, firm and faithful unto death.**

**When God takes me home to heaven, should this be the day I die,
God will keep my spouse and children, as the apple of His eye.**

**Though the road ahead be thorny, though dark clouds all light obscure,
Though my cross-shaped path grows steeper, with the Lord, I am secure.**

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."*)

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

C: **May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.**

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 ☩ 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 ☩ 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.**

Distribution Hymns

"Jesus, Lead Thou On"

LSB 718

**Jesus, lead Thou on, till our rest is won.
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand, to our fatherland.**

**If the way be drear, if the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'er take us.
Let not faith and hope forsake us.
For through many a woe, to our home we go.**

**When we seek relief, from a long felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore, where we weep no more.**

**Jesus, lead Thou on, till our rest is won.
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us.
Till we safely stand, in our fatherland.**

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

LSB 685

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us, and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father's bidding,
Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where You guide.**

**Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness. Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy,
All discomforts that annoy, shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe. Help me there Your joy to know.**

**Let us gladly die with Jesus, since by death He conquered death.
He will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion, that would lead us into sin.
And the grave that shuts us in, shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, there to live with You on high.**

**Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead,
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members. Where You live, there we shall be.
In Your presence constantly, living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be. Life eternal grant to me.**

“Christ, the Word of God Incarnate”

LSB 540

**Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham.
Christ, the radiance of the Father, perfect God, the great I AM.
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished, Light of life You bring to all.
Light our path with Your own presence, grant us grace to heed Your call.**

**Christ, the living bread from heaven, food for body, food for soul.
Christ, the manna daily given, nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven, foretaste of the feast to be.
Quench our thirst with living water, springing up eternally.**

**Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant, from the stump of Jesse's tree.
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches, to bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into You, O Savior. Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard, till eternal life we gain.**

**Christ, our good and faithful shepherd, watching all Your lambs and sheep.
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold, never failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us, find us, lift us, bear us home.
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us. Let us hear Your voice alone.**

**Christ, the way that leads unfailing, to the Father's home on high.
Christ the truth that frees the captive. Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions, there to share Your wedding feast.**

**(STAND) Christ, the Alpha and Omega. Christ, the firstborn from the dead.
Christ, the life and resurrection. Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration, and unending worship be,
To the Father and the Spirit, and to You eternally.**

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

P: Let us pray.

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

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

LSB 924

**Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us. O refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration, for Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation, in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful, to Your truth may we be found.**

**Savior, when Your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us, glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever, reign with You in endless day.**

<p>CLC MISSION STATEMENT: "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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