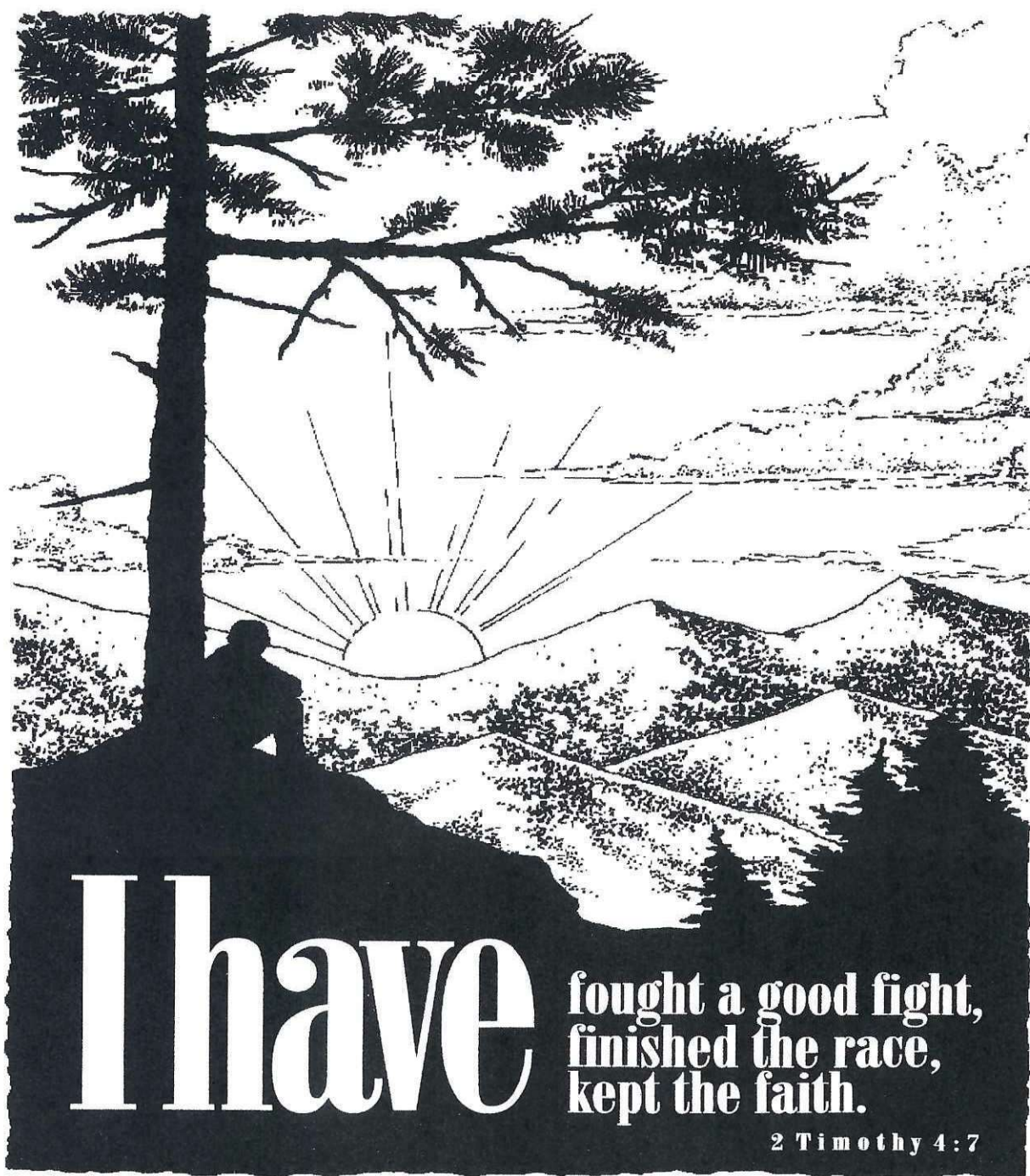


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Hillsboro, Texas



I have

fought a good fight,
finished the race,
kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

19th Sunday after Pentecost

THE TESTS OF LIFE

October 19, 2025

TODAY'S MESSAGE: THE TESTS OF LIFE

Life is a struggle. We struggle against so many things (failure to be a good parent, loss of a job, not enough money to pay the bills, sickness or injury, death of a loved one or a close friend). Some struggles are more serious than others, so we have to be careful how we “pick our fights”. Today’s readings from God’s Word tell us to “not give up” and to “fight the good fight”. The “good fight” to which we are called is one in which – thru everything else in life – we never let go of the Lord, His Word and Sacraments, and prayer. When we have the Lord, His Word, His baptism, His body and blood, and prayer in our life, then we know that the Lord is with us through the struggles and He will give us the crown of eternal life.



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 – your phones and refrain from using them during the service.

Welcome

Announcements

Opening Hymn

"Come, My Soul, with Every Care"

LSB 779

**Come, my soul, with ev'ry care, Jesus loves to answer prayer.
He Himself has bid thee pray, therefore will not turn away.**

**Thou art coming to a King, large petitions with thee bring.
For His grace and pow'r are such, none can ever ask too much.**

**With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin.
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt, set my conscience free from guilt.**

**Lord, Thy rest to me impart, take possession of my heart.
There Thy blood-bought right maintain, and without a rival reign.**

**While I am a pilgrim here, let Thy love my spirit cheer.
As my guide, my guard, my friend, lead me to my journey's end.**

**Show me what is mine to do. Ev'ry hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith. Let me die Thy people's death.**

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 [ESV]

Psalm 121

P: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

C: **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

P: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

C: **Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

P: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

C: **The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

P: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

C: **The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.**

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.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

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

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: Heavenly Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we are strong and committed in our faith, persistent in our prayers and thoroughly equipped for every good work; 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]

Genesis 32:22-30

The same night Jacob arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face and yet my life has been delivered."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading [ESV]

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:8

As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word. Be ready in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Luke 18:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18th chapter.

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

Jesus told his disciples a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Sermon 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.**

Sermon

THE TESTS OF LIFE

2 Timothy 1:1-14

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, evermore praising you and saying:

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 $\text{\textcircled{a}}$ 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.

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

"What a Friend We have in Jesus"

LSB 770

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry, ev'rything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear.

All because we do not carry, ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In His arms He'll take and shield thee. Thou wilt find a solace there.

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

LSB 722

Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way.

Direct, protect and feed me from day to day.

Without Your grace and favor, I go astray.

So take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.

**Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, in peace I go.**

**Lord, when the shadows lengthen, and night has come,
I know that You will strengthen, my steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend.
So take my hand and lead me, unto the end.**

“Abide with Me”

LSB 878

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens. Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need Thy presence ev’ry passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings.
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev’ry plea.
Come, friend of sinners, thus abide with me.**

**Swift to its close, ebbs out life’s little day.
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless.
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!**

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee.
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with 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

"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.**

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."
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