



**The Holy Ministry  
Is Filled with Sinners Called by God**

June 11/12, 2023

# ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

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## FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing, or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the bathrooms should you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment. In addition, activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table and small bags with quiet activity items are located just outside the chapel doors.

## WORSHIP SERIES THEME: THE HOLY MINISTRY

“Ministry” simply means “service.” Throughout history, God has called individuals to serve God’s people by sharing God’s Word. Many today feel they do not need to be part of a church, do not need Christian preaching and teaching. “I can be a believer without any of that.” Well, if that is true, then why does Jesus’ bother to keep calling ministers to share his gospel: pastors, teachers, missionaries, etc.? Clearly, Jesus himself believes ministry is necessary. He knows what we need better than we do.

We call it “holy ministry” because the Holy Spirit does his work through his ministers. As ministers proclaim God’s Word, the Spirit unleashes his power. We also call it “holy ministry” because through gospel ministry our faith is sustained, which is what makes us holy in God’s eyes.

## THEME OF THE DAY: The Holy Ministry Is Filled with Sinners Called by God

They never forgot their past. Moses never forgot how, in a fit of anger, he killed a man. Paul never forgot how he had savaged the Church of God, overseeing the persecution and execution of Christians around Jerusalem. Matthew never forgot how, as a tax collector for the Roman Empire, he was disdained as a swindler and traitor to his people. These men never forgot their past.

But God did. God forgave them all their sins and called them into gospel ministry. The holy ministry is not filled with perfect people. The holy ministry is filled with sinners whom God has called out of his boundless mercy. The holy ministry is God’s gift to the Church. But it is also God’s gift to ministers, who certainly do not deserve the privilege of being God’s public servants. God calls sinful and weak individuals into the ministry, so that as his kingdom advances, we give credit where credit is due—to the Holy Spirit.

# OPENING HYMN

## Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit



1 Send, O Lord, your Ho - ly Spir - it on your ser - vants  
 2 You, O Lord, your - self have called them for your pre - cious  
 3 Help, Lord Je - sus, help them nour - ish our dear chil - dren



now, we pray; let them all be faith - ful shep - herds  
 lambs to care; but to pros - per in their call - ing,  
 with your Word, that in con - stant love they serve you



that no lamb is led a - stray. Your pure teach - ing to pro -  
 they the Spir - it's gifts must share. Grant them wis - dom from a -  
 till in heav'n their song is heard. Bound - less bless - ings, Lord, be -



claim, to a - dore your ho - ly name, and to feed your  
 bove, fill their hearts with ho - ly love; in their weak - ness,  
 stow on your ser - vants' work be - low till by grace to



lambs, dear Sav - ior, make their aim and sole en - deav - or.  
 Lord, be near them, in their prayers, Good Shep - herd, hear them.  
 them is giv - en their re - ward, the crown of heav - en.

*STAND*

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## **ABSOLUTION**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

# THE WORD

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Let us pray.*

Almighty and merciful God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear his call and follow him by faith that we may feast with him forever in his kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

## Exodus 3:1–15

*Moses asked a good question: “Who am I to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.”*

*Answer: the one the LORD himself had chosen for that holy ministry.*

Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. <sup>3</sup>So he said, “I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up.”

<sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, “Moses! Moses!”

Moses said, “I am here.”

<sup>5</sup>The LORD said, “Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup>He then said, “I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said, “I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. <sup>8</sup>So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>Now indeed, the Israelites’ cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup>Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup>So he said, “I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain.”

<sup>13</sup>But Moses said to God, “If I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what should I say to them?”

<sup>14</sup>So God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He also said, “You will say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.”

<sup>15</sup>God also told Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.’”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*STAND*

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 9:9-13

*Jews considered tax collectors to be among the worst of sinners. To demonstrate grace, Jesus called one of them to be his disciple.*

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting in the tax collector's booth. He said to him, "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> As Jesus was reclining at the table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners were actually there too, eating with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "The healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' In fact, I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*BE SEATED*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Young children may come forward for a brief devotion.*

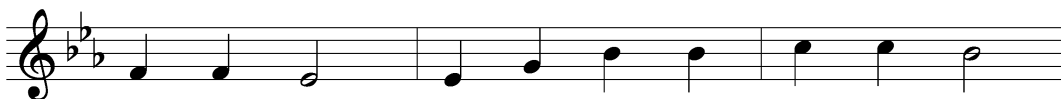


## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, high - er than the  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part com - fort to a  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
 5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, by your Spir - it



blood for me, died that I might live on high,  
 heav'ns a - bove, deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 wound - ed heart, peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
 all to me; all my wants to him are known,  
 and your Word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, love that found me—  
 joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, faith and hope to  
 all my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in  
 keep me in the nar - row way; grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!  
 won - drous thought— found me when I sought him not.  
 walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.  
 earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.  
 need sup - ply while I live and when I die.



<sup>12</sup>I give thanks to the one who empowered me, namely, Christ Jesus our Lord, that he treated me as trustworthy, appointing me into his ministry. <sup>13</sup>He did this even though formerly I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. But I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. <sup>14</sup>The grace of our Lord overflowed on me along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>This saying is trustworthy and worthy of full acceptance: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,” of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup>But I was shown mercy for this reason: that in me, the worst sinner, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his unlimited patience as an example for those who are going to believe in him, resulting in eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Now to the King eternal, to the immortal, invisible, only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **PAUL’S STORY IS OUR STORY**

*Like Paul, we too have been:*

- 1) Made into a Reliable Witness
- 2) Given a Reliable Message

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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..**

## OFFERING

*The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here to donate:*



*During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row.*

## OFFERING SONG

### **Come, People of the Risen King**

*By Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, & Stuart Townend*

*Come, people of the risen King,  
Who delight to bring Him praise.  
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace.  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
We will lift our eyes to Him,  
Where steady arms of mercy reach  
To gather children in.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

*Come, those whose joy is morning sun  
And those weeping through the night.  
Come, those who tell of battles won,  
And those struggling in the fight.  
For His perfect love will never change,  
And His mercies never cease,  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace.*

*Come, young and old from every land,  
Men and women of the faith.  
Come, those with full or empty hands,  
Find the riches of His grace.  
Over all the world, His people sing,  
Shore to shore we hear them call  
The Truth that cries through every age:  
'Our God is all in all.'*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

*STAND*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

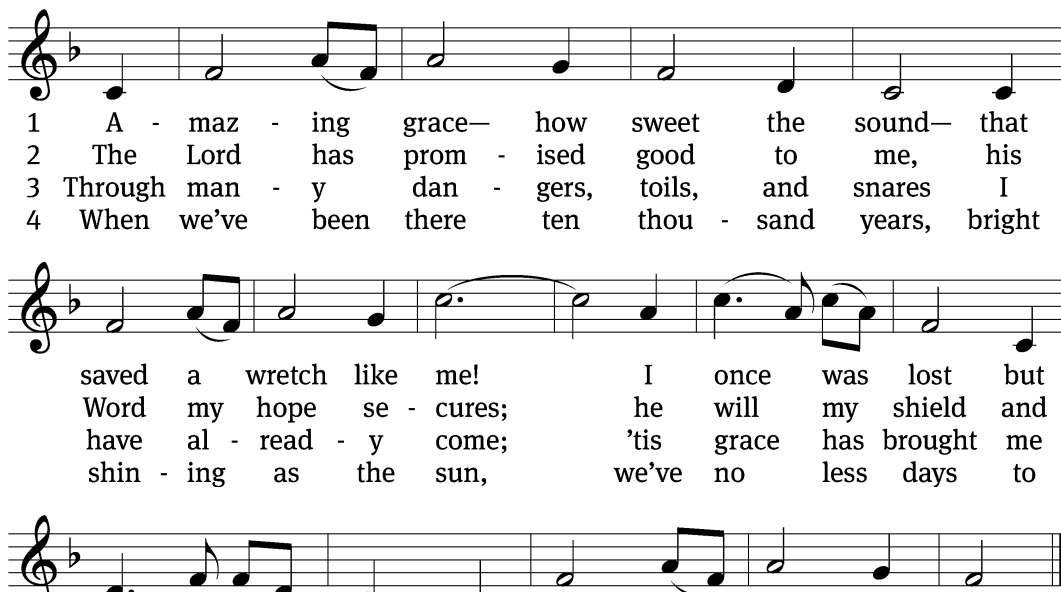
**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## HYMN

## Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that  
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*STAND*

## PRAYER

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN

## Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give



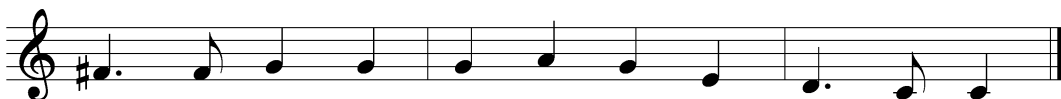
1 Dear Lord, to your true ser - vants give the grace to you a -  
 2 They glad - ly go at your com-mand to spread your Word o'er  
 3 When all their la - bor seems in vain, re - vive their sink - ing



lone to live. Set free from sin to serve you, Lord, they  
 sea and land. Be with them, Lord, and make them strong to  
 hopes a - gain; and when suc - cess crowns what they do, O



go to share your liv - ing Word, the gos - pel mes - sage  
 heal sin's ills, to right the wrong. Your rule is o - ver  
 keep them hum - ble, Lord, and true un - til be - fore your



to pro - claim that all may know your sav - ing name.  
 wind and wave, and might - y is your arm to save.  
 judg - ment seat they lay their tro - phies at your feet.

*BE SEATED*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Preacher & Liturgist: Pastor Dave Pries  
Scripture Reader: Dennis Oldenburg  
Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

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### **Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit**

Text: tr. Frederick W. Herzberger, 1859–1930, alt.; Lieder-Perlen, St. Louis, 1905 Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667 Text and tune: Public domain.

### **Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain.

### **Come, People of the Risen King**

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### **Amazing Grace**

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790 Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman Text and tune: Public domain

### **Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give**

Text: W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt. Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: Public domain.

### **Holy Bible**

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