



*Live Like You'll Live †
Forever*



LIVE A LIFE OF STARTLING GENEROSITY

*Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 10/11, 2024*

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: LIVE LIKE YOU'LL LIVE FOREVER

Instead of saying, "Live each day like it's your last," what if we said, "Live like you'll live forever"? God made us with immortal souls. Even after physical death, the Bible teaches us that all people will be resurrected, either to eternal life or for everlasting condemnation (John 5:29). Through faith in Jesus, our Savior, who rose from death and has forgiven all our sins, we have the promise of resurrection to eternal life! Let that sink in. In Jesus, you are going to live forever. The gift of eternal life shapes how we live each day.

TODAY: LIVE AS A LIFE OF STARTLING GENEROSITY

The axiom goes, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." In other words, while you still can, use what you have in order to enjoy life to the fullest. If this life is all there is, St. Paul agrees that would be a good philosophy. Paul wrote, "If the dead are not raised, then 'let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die'" (1 Corinthians 15:32). However, note the "if." Paul was saying that the epicurean approach to life makes sense only if this life is all we have. But it isn't. Jesus will raise us from the dead and take us to live in his home, a place of perfect comfort and beauty. Knowing that, we are set free from the need to live a self-indulgent life now. Instead, we can be generous people, using the wealth that God has given us to serve both him and others. We can live a life of startling generosity.

OPENING HYMN

609 We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer



1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers, we bless you;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us;



we bless your ho - ly name, — glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, — our bat - tles we win.
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

STAND

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.
Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

ABSOLUTION

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus + Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace and serve him in newness of life.
Amen.

HYMN

752 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

1 Gra - cious God, you send great bless - ings new each
morn - ing all our days. For your mer - cies
nev - er end - ing, for your love we of - fer praise.

Refrain

Lord, we pray that we, your peo - ple who your
gifts un - num - bered claim, through the shar - ing
of your bless - ings may bring glo - ry to your name.

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in you. Grant us so firmly to believe in your Son Jesus that our faith may never be found wanting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BE SEATED

FIRST READING

1 Kings 17:8–16

A widow generously offers up the last bit of food she has to serve the prophet Elijah.

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹“Get up! Go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there. I have commanded a woman there, a widow, to provide for you.”

¹⁰So he got up and went to Zarephath. He came to the city gate, and there he saw a widow gathering sticks. He called to her and said, “Please give me a little water in a jar, so that I can have something to drink.”

¹¹When she went to get it, he called to her, “Please bring me a piece of bread.”

¹²She said, “As surely as the LORD your God lives, I have no food except a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a pitcher. See, I am gathering a couple of sticks so that I can go and prepare it for myself and my son, so that we can eat it and then die.”

¹³Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid. Go and do just as you said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from the flour and bring it out to me. Then go and make another for you and your son. ¹⁴For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says. The jar of flour will not run out and the pitcher of oil will not become empty until the day the LORD sends rain to water the surface of the ground.”

¹⁵So she went and did exactly as Elijah said. He and she, as well as her household, were able to eat for many days. ¹⁶The jar of flour did not run out, and the pitcher of oil did not become empty, just as the LORD had said through Elijah.

RESPONSE

The jar of flour did not run out; the pitcher of oil did not become empty.

Just as the LORD had said through Elijah.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 8:1–9

Overflow in the grace of giving, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

¹Now brothers, we want you to know about the grace of God that was given in the churches of Macedonia: ²In a severe test of trouble, their overflowing joy and their deep poverty overflowed into an abundance of their generosity. ³I testify that of their own free will they gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability, ⁴pleading with us with an urgent request for the gracious privilege of joining in this service to the saints. ⁵And they did this not as we had expected, but in keeping with God's will they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us. ⁶As a result we urged Titus, since he had already made a beginning, to bring to completion this gracious gift on your part. ⁷But just as you overflow in every way—in faith, in word, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you also overflow in this gracious gift.

⁸I do not say this as a command, but to test how genuine your love is, by comparing it with the eagerness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.

RESPONSE

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We give ourselves to the Lord.

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Corinthians 9:11

The congregation sings the refrains. The minister sings the verse.



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*You will be enriched in every way
so that you can be generous on every occasion.*

Refrain

GOSPEL

Mark 12:38–44

Jesus points to a poor widow as an example of startling generosity.

³⁸He also said to them in his teaching, “Beware of the experts in the law who like to walk around in long robes and receive greetings in the marketplaces. ³⁹They love the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and offer long prayers to look good. These men will receive greater condemnation.”

⁴¹Jesus sat down opposite the offering box and was watching how the crowd put money into it. Many rich people put in large amounts. ⁴²One poor widow came and put in two small bronze coins, worth less than a penny. ⁴³He called his disciples together and said to them, “Amen I tell you: This poor widow put more into the offering box than all the others. ⁴⁴For they all gave out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all that she had to live on.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

807 All Depends on Our Possessing, sts. 1-3, 6



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
 2 He who to this day has fed me and to man - y
 3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting o - ver tri - fles
 6 If my days on earth he length - en, he my wea - ry



grace and bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me is and ev - er shall be mine.
 and in get - ting things that have no sol - id ground.
 soul will strength - en; all my trust in him I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en in their God are
 He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, he who dai - ly
 I shall strive to win a trea - sure that will bring me
 Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing, like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
 last - ing plea - sure and that now is sel - dom found.
 way is glid - ing; safe I an - chor in his grace.

STAND

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.**

BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Father of the heavenly lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Your goodness, mercy, and love do not change like shifting shadows. Give us wisdom to use your gifts.

Teach us to be wise and faithful stewards of our time, talents, and treasure.

You give us the ability to work and to provide for the needs of our families.

Focus our attention on what we truly need for body and life.

You have put your authorities over us as servants for our good to provide peace and order.

Lead us to be good citizens, to pay our taxes, and work for peace and safety.

You are gracious and compassionate, and you display your power to your people. Sustain all who suffer poverty, loneliness, pain, or illness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

Majestic Lord, accept these little gifts which we bring to your altar. Grant that bringing these gifts may bring real joy to the heart of each who gives. Grant that these gifts may bring joy to the heart of our Savior, to whom they are given.

Amen.

OFFERING

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. Thank you!

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 and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



OFFERING SONG

All My Boast Is in Jesus

*What wonder of wonders, what love is this
That Christ would die for me
His goodness, His merit, His righteousness
This sinner's only plea
Oh, foolish pride, be crucified
The work is finished*

*All my boast is in Jesus
All my hope is His love
And I will glory forever
In what the cross has done*

*Now fully forgiven, my life is filled
With graces undeserved
For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill
Let praises now return
Rise up, my soul, and bless the Lord
Who else is worthy?*

*All my boast is in Jesus
All my hope is His love
And I will glory forever
In what the cross has done*

*Oh, praise the One forever blessed
Him alone my heart adores
And I will boast in nothing less
Than the love of Christ, my Lord*

*Oh, praise the One forever blessed
Him alone my heart adores
Oh, and I will boast in nothing less
Than the love of Christ, my Lord*

*I boast not in riches, in strength, or might
But in the grace of God
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ
In plenty or in want
That I may know, that all may see
His power within me*

*All my boast is in Jesus
All my hope is His love
And I will glory forever
In what the cross has done*

*And now, I stand in this freedom
Ransomed, clean in His sight
Oh, and I cannot be ashamed for
My boast is Jesus Christ
My boast is Jesus Christ
Forever, my boast is Jesus Christ*

HYMN

751 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made, sts. 2-3



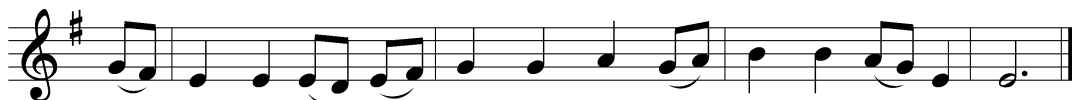
2 To us are giv - en gifts di - vine, all tal - ents you have sent;
3 De - liv - er us from self - ish aims, true stew - ards we would be;



in - spire us now to use them well your king - dom to ex - tend.
en - dow us with a deep de - sire to live un - self - ish - ly.



We hold each gift a trust from you nor claim it as our own;
A full ac - count - ing we must give and see you face to face;



we grate - ful - ly ac - knowl - edge, Lord, all things are yours a - lone.
let us ap - proach your throne with joy, sup - port - ed by your grace.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord God, heavenly Father, because of your goodness we receive many abundant gifts from you, and you daily guard us against all evil. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may acknowledge your goodness with all our heart and may now and always thank and praise your loving kindness and tender mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord + Jesus Christ, strengthen you by his Spirit, that Christ, dwelling in your hearts by faith, may fill you with all spiritual blessings. Go in peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

372 As with Gladness Men of Old, sts. 1, 3



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

BE SEATED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Ushers: Brian Gantenbein (8:00), Tim Kruse (10:45)

Scripture Reader: Jason Kempfert (8:00) Tim Kruse (10:45)

Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

609 We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt. Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, Haarlem, 1626 Text and tune: Public domain.

752 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

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Gospel Acclamation (Setting Four)

Tune: © 2002, 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

807 All Depends on Our Possessing

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676 Tune: adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758; Johann Löhner, 1645–1705 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession of Faith

McCain, P. T., ed. (2005). Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (p. 33). Concordia Publishing House. (The footnote appended to the confession of faith today comes from the editors of this edition of the Book of Concord.)

Prayer of the Church

Adapted from Praying with the Readings...Year B © 2023 Paul Stratman.

Offering Prayer

By John Jeske in *Christian Stewardship Is Taking God at His Word* (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Online Essay File:

<http://essays.wls.edu:8080/handle/123456789/2367>)

All My Boast Is In Jesus

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751 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made

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Closing Prayer

Text: Stratman, Paul. Christian Prayer: Illustrated, translated and edited by Paul C. Stratman (p. 78). Kindle Edition. ; Common Service Book of the Lutheran Church, 1919.

372 As with Gladness Men of Old

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt. Text and tune: Public domain.

Holy Bible

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