



*Live Like You'll Live †  
Forever*



**LIVE AS A COURAGEOUS WITNESS**

*Reformation (observed)*

*October 27/28, 2024*

# ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*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**

What if instead of “Live each day like it’s your last.” We went with: “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 COURAGEOUS WITNESS**

Jesus repeatedly told his followers that living as his disciples would bring hardship. Christians may appear odd, even evil in the eyes of the world. Sharing a message of mankind’s sin and God’s gracious salvation can cause offense. So why not just stay silent if that makes life easier? Why not keep our faith private? Because we are going to live forever. In gratitude for Christ saving us and giving us eternal life, we share the gospel with others, hoping that they will believe and be saved too. We don’t need to worry if being a witness for Christ brings hardship or even death. Martin Luther (1483-1546) wanted to reform the false teaching of the church. He stood firm in the truth of the gospel, knowing it might cost him his life. But Luther knew that, thanks to Christ, he would live forever. So will we. Therefore, like Luther, let us live a life of courageous witness.

OPENING HYMN

585 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

*In 1524 Martin Luther composed stanzas two and three of this hymn to the Holy Spirit. That same year, the Achtliederbuch ("Eight-Song Book"), the first Lutheran hymnal, was published. How blessed we are to sing as heirs of the Reformation, 500 years later!*



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, God and Lord! May all your grac - es  
 2 Come, ho - ly Light, guide di - vine, and cause the Word of  
 3 Come, ho - ly Fire, com - fort true, grant us the will your



be out-poured on each be - liev - er's mind and heart;  
 life to shine. Teach us to know our God a - right  
 work to do and in your ser - vice to a - bide;



your fer - vent love to them im - part. Lord, by the bright - ness  
 and call him Fa - ther with de - light. From ev - 'ry er - ror  
 let tri - als turn us not a - side. Lord, by your pow'r pre -



of your light you gath - er and in faith u - nite  
 keep us free; let none but Christ our mas - ter be  
 pare each heart, and to our weak - ness strength im - part



your Church from ev - 'ry land and tongue: this to your  
 that we in liv - ing faith a - bide, in him, our  
 that brave - ly here we may con - tend, through life and



praise, O Lord our God, be sung. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Lord, with all our might con - fide. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 death to you, our Lord, as - cend. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## INVOCATION

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

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## OPENING RESPONSES

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Reformation service God again delivers to us love and forgiveness, power to be his people, and resolve to share his precious gospel of forgiveness with all people.

**We are not ashamed of the gospel.**

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey. But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! *(Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-5)*

**The gospel is the power of God for my salvation.**

Jesus said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. *(Luke 24:46-48)*

**The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.**

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said "Repent," he willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance. *(Martin Luther, the first of the 95 Theses)*

**The gospel is the power that caused the Reformation.**

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is present with me. I certainly delight in God's law according to my inner self, but I see a different law at work in my members, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me captive to the law of sin, which is present in my members. What a miserable wretch I am! Who will rescue me from

this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my sinful flesh I serve the law of sin. *(Romans 7:21-25)*

**The gospel is the power that overcomes the devil, the world, and our own sinful weakness.**

Jesus said, "...whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." *(Mark 8:38)*

**We are not ashamed of the gospel.**

For God did not give us a timid spirit, but a spirit of power and love and sound judgment. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Instead, join with me in suffering for the gospel while relying on the power of God. He saved us and called us with a holy calling, not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace. *(2 Timothy 1:7-9a)*

**We are not ashamed of the gospel. We will courageously testify about our Lord and his mighty deeds.**

## THE WORD

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray.*

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were courageous witnesses.*

<sup>16</sup>Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, “We have no need to answer you about this matter. <sup>17</sup>Since our God, whom we serve, does exist, he is able to save us from the blazing fiery furnace. So, he may save us from your hand, Your Majesty. <sup>18</sup>But if he does not, you should know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods, and we will not worship the golden statue that you set up.”

<sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed against Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego. He said to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it was usually heated. <sup>20</sup>He ordered some men, who were soldiers from his army, to bind Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego in order to throw them into the blazing fiery furnace. <sup>21</sup>So these men were bound in their coats, their pants, their turbans, and their other clothing, and they were thrown into the middle of the blazing fiery furnace. <sup>22</sup>Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace was extremely hot, those men who carried Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego were killed by the intense heat of the fire. <sup>23</sup>But these three men, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, who had been tied up, fell into the blazing fiery furnace.

<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar was startled and immediately stood up. He said to his advisors, “Didn't we throw three men, who had been tied up, into the middle of the fire?”

They answered the king, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

<sup>25</sup>He said, “Look! I see four men, who are untied and walking around in the middle of the fire, unharmed. What is more, the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

<sup>26</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar approached the door of the blazing fiery furnace. He said, “Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out!” Then Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego came out from the middle of the furnace. <sup>27</sup>The satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the royal advisors gathered together and looked at these men. The fire had no power over their bodies. Not a hair on their head was singed, their robes were not damaged, and the smell of fire had not stuck to them.

<sup>28</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, who sent his angel and saved his servants, who trusted in God and ignored the king's command. They gave up their bodies and did not pay homage or worship any god except their God.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM OF THE DAY

## Psalm 46E – If God Is for Us

*The choir introduces the refrain and sings the verses.  
The congregation joins in the refrains after each verse.*

### Refrain

If God is for us, who can be a - gainst us?  
God is our sal - va - tion, al - ways by our side.

1 *God is our refuge and our strength,  
an ever present aid,  
and therefore, though the earth be moved,  
we will not be afraid;  
though hills into the seas be cast,  
though foaming waters roar,  
the LORD of hosts is by our side,  
a refuge strong and sure.* **Refrain**

2 *A river flows whose streams make glad  
the city of our God,  
the holy dwelling of the LORD,  
the place of God's abode.  
Since God is in the midst of it,  
our safety is secure;  
the LORD of hosts is by our side,  
a refuge strong and sure.* **Refrain**

3 *Behold the wondrous deeds of God,  
who causes wars to cease,  
the weapons of the strong destroyed,  
God brings abiding peace.  
"Be still and know that I am God,  
exalted evermore;"  
the LORD of hosts is by our side,  
a refuge strong and sure.* **Refrain**

## SECOND READING

Revelation 14:6-7\*

*St. John sees God's messenger proclaiming the true gospel to all people.*

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in the middle of the sky. He had the everlasting gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth, to every nation, tribe, language, and people. <sup>7</sup>He said with a loud voice:

Fear God and give him glory,  
because the hour of his judgment has come.  
Worship him who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

STAND

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 12:32



*Refrain*

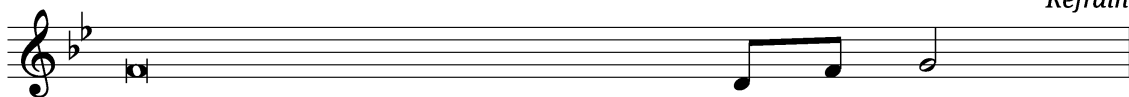


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Tone*



Do not be afraid, lit - tle flock,



for your Father has been pleased to give you the king - dom.

*Refrain*

\* In 1546, this reading served as the text for the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther.



## GOSPEL

**Mark 13:5–11**

*Jesus encourages us that we might be bold in sharing the gospel in these end times.*

<sup>5</sup>Jesus began by telling them [Peter, James, John, and Andrew], “Be careful that no one deceives you. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many.

<sup>7</sup>“Whenever you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled. Such things must happen, but the end is not yet. <sup>8</sup>In fact, nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places. There will be famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. <sup>9</sup>But be on your guard! People will hand you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues. You will stand in the presence of rulers and kings for my sake as a witness to them. <sup>10</sup>And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

<sup>11</sup>Whenever they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand what you should say. Say whatever is given to you in that hour, because you will not be the ones speaking; instead it will be the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*BE SEATED*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Young children are invited to the front for a brief devotion.*

*The choir sings stanza three.*

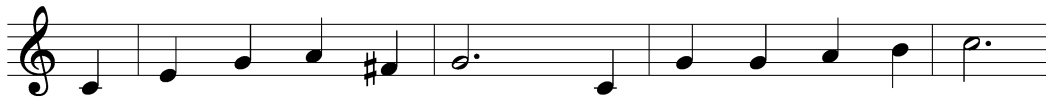
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y  
 2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our  
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger  
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y



shield and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry  
 loss ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant  
 to de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no  
 thanks have for it; he's by our side up - on the



need that has us now o'er - tak - en.  
 one whom God him - self e - lect - ed.  
 ill; they shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 plain with his good gifts and Spir - it.



The an - cient e - vil foe now means to work us woe;  
 You ask who this may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he,  
 The prince of dark - ness still may scowl fierce as he will,  
 And should they take our life, goods, hon - or, child, and wife,



deep guile and aw - ful might are his dread arms in  
 the Lord of hosts his name, from age to age the  
 his rag - ing harms us none. He's judged; the deed is  
 though all of these be gone, our vic - to - ry is



fight; on earth is not his e - qual.  
 same, he holds the field for - ev - er.  
 done; one lit - tle word can fell him.  
 won; the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

*It Takes Courage to Be a Witness for Jesus*

STAND

**CONFESSION OF FAITH      Augsburg Confession, Article IV: On Justification<sup>†</sup>**

**Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By his death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in his sight.**

BE SEATED

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Gracious God, Mighty Fortress, Valiant One, always present with us with your gifts and Spirit:

**let your Word remain our treasure that your kingdom may be ours forever.**

Lord of hosts, you are our refuge and our fortress.

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word.**

Keep us watchful so that no one deceives us.

**Open our lips to give reason for the hope that we have.**

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<sup>†</sup> *There is a historic saying in Lutheranism that the Church stands or falls on the article of justification. To justify means "to declare righteous." God's sure and certain declaration that we are righteous in his eyes is possible only because of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Through his life, Jesus satisfied God's demand for perfect obedience. Through his sacrificial death, Jesus took God's wrath and atoned for the sins of the world. The Holy Spirit, through the means of grace, works in us saving faith, which personally apprehends what Christ has done for us. Our justification before God, therefore, is brought about by the One who lived, suffered, and died for our salvation. We cannot merit God's favor through our obedience; we cannot offer sacrifices to pay for our sins. But what we cannot do for ourselves, Christ has done for us. He is the solid Rock on which God builds his Church. On him, and him alone, we stand forgiven.*

Let your Word be taught in its truth and purity, that your kingdom may come  
**and your will be done by people near and far.**

With your holy Word give strength and faithfulness to the president of our synod, Pastor Mark Schroeder, the president of our Northern Wisconsin District, Pastor Joel Zank, and the circuit pastor for our Appleton South Central Circuit, Pastor Matt Holtz.

**May they lead your congregations to be firm in the faith and focused on your eternal mission.**

Let the living voice of your gospel be heard as your Word is preached, taught, and sung for the joy and strengthening of your holy church.

**Fill your church in all the world with courageous witnesses.**

Help your people freely in every need, those who are troubled, weak, or sick.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Listen, Lord, to the thoughts and cares of our hearts.

*Silent prayer*

Lord God, heavenly Father, you did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all to be our Savior, and along with him you have graciously given us all things.

**Thank you. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

## My Soul Finds Rest (Psalm 62)

*By Aaron Keyes*

HYMN

874 Preserve Your Word, O Savior



1 Pre - serve your Word, O Sav - ior, to us this lat - ter  
 2 Pre - serve your Word and preach - ing, the truth that makes us



day, and let your king - dom flour - ish; en - large your  
 whole, the mir - ror of your glo - ry, the pow'r that



Church, we pray. O keep our faith from fail - ing, keep  
 saves the soul. Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, this



hope's bright star a - glow; let noth - ing turn us  
 spring of heav'n - ly grace, sus - tain us while here



from you while wan-d'ring here be - low.  
 liv - ing un - til we see your face.

## **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.**

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**1 Corinthians 15:57–58**

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!  
Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor is not in vain in the + Lord.

**Amen.**

STAND

CLOSING HYMN

820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

- Stanza 1: All
- Stanza 2: Men
- Stanzas 3-4: All
- Stanza 5: Women
- Stanza 6: All



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 **O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home!**

BE SEATED

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus  
Ushers: Neil Jeske (8:00), Tim Kruse (10:45)  
Scripture Reader: Tim Kruse (10:45)  
Accompanist: Ben Rusch  
Choir Director: Clay Funk

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### 585 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 15th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, Erfurt, 1524 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: Public domain.

### Psalm 46E – If God Is for Us

Text: James Chepponis Tune: James Chepponis Text and tune: © 2004 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### Gospel Acclamation (Setting Two)

Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### 864 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546 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.

### 874 Preserve Your Word, O Savior

Text: tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.; Andreas Gryphius, 1616–1664, abr. Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: Public domain.

### 820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt. Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727 Text and tune: Public domain.

### Holy Bible

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