

LET US
Love
NOT WITH
WORDS OR SPEECH
BUT WITH
Action
AND IN
Truth

Christ Lutheran Church

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Cochrane, WI 54622

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Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost - November 10, 2024

502 Children of the Heavenly Father

CW 502

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

Confession

CW 154

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.

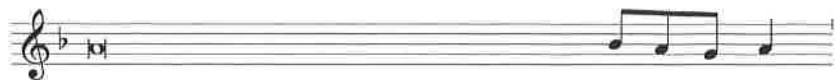
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son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

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



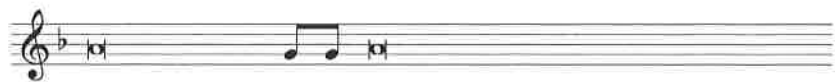
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



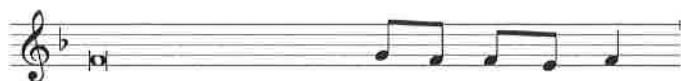
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

2

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



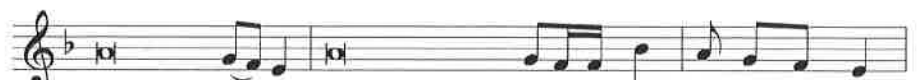
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world



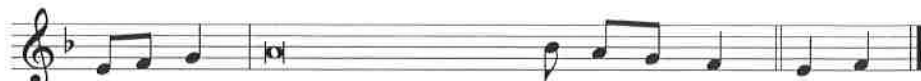
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

3

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.

First Reading

1 Kings 17:8–16

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹“Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” ¹⁰So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” ¹¹As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

¹²“As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

¹³Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

¹⁵She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.

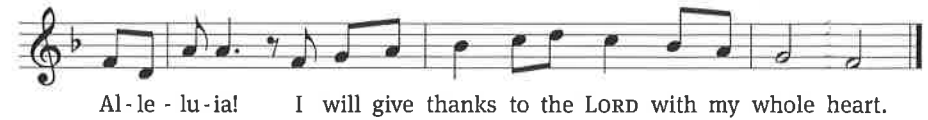
Thanks be to God.

4

111B I Will Give Thanks to the LORD

Psalm 111B

Refrain



Tone



Great are the works / of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who de- / light in them.
Glorious and majestic / are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures for- / ever. *Refrain*

He has caused his wonders to be re- / membered;
the LORD is gracious and com- / passionate.
He provided redemption for his / people;
holy and awesome / is his name.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Book of Common Prayer, 1979

Tune: David Chervlen

Setting: David Chervlen

Music: © 1989 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130047252

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 8:1–9

¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as

5

they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

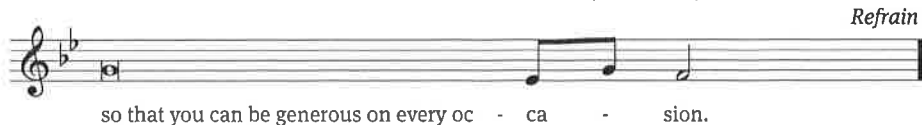
2 Corinthians 9:11



Refrain



Tone



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: Northwestern Publishing House no. ALM8V-ZQ3MO-DFDAU-FMUAP

Gospel

Mark 12:38-44

³⁸As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."

⁴¹Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

803 Day by Day

CW 803

Sermon: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 An Example of Christian Giving

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.

Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.
Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.
Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.
Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage

more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

695 Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 695

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

750 We Give Thee but Thine Own

CW 750

Together

NEWS. RESOURCES. ENCOURAGEMENT.



Conference of Presidents fall 2024 meeting

The Conference of Presidents (COP) held its fall meeting Oct. 8-11. Items discussed or decided include:

- The COP adopted a statement on critical theory in keeping with a request from the 2023 synod convention. This paper will provide information on what critical theory is and how our pastors and members can evaluate it and respond to it. The paper will be released in the coming weeks.
- The COP discussed a suggestion that the synod convention be changed from a biennial convention to a triennial convention. After receiving input from the district conventions last summer, the COP decided not to bring this proposal to the 2025 synod convention.
- Rev. Steven Wiebe, who serves an independent Lutheran congregation in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, applied for colloquy into WELS. After a thorough process, his colloquy request was granted, and he is now a member of the WELS ministerium.
- In reviewing the pastoral vacancies in the synod, the COP noted that there are 151 vacancies for parish pastors, 1 foreign missionary, 1 professor, and 2 other pastor-trained positions. These numbers are similar to the number of vacancies one year ago.
- The COP will release guidelines for congregational governance. Several models will be provided for congregations of different sizes. Release is scheduled for early 2025. Meetings will be planned for district constitution committees so they are familiar with these guidelines.
- The COP received a report from Curriculum Coordinator Melanie Giddings, which outlines the progress and plans for the new theology curriculum for K-12 currently in development.
- The COP issued a divine call for a national coordinator of early childhood ministries. The position will become vacant upon the retirement of Mrs. Cindi Holman, who has served in the role since 2011. The call was extended to Miss Jennifer Mehlberg, who currently serves at Martin Luther College.
- The COP appointed Mr. Jon Thibaudeau to serve as a lay member on the Commission on Lutheran Schools.

- The COP will submit a recommendation to the 2025 synod convention to change the way synod officers (president, first and second vice presidents, and secretary) are elected. Currently, nominations for these positions are made by the delegates at the synod convention. This proposal would have the delegates submit nominations prior to the convention. When a final ballot is determined, that ballot would be published prior to the convention.
- A committee was formed to develop a shared philosophy of ministry for WELS schools to elementary and secondary students and families active in other Christian churches.
- The COP reiterated the synod policy that says that any church worker who is directly involved with the means of grace should be called, not hired.
- Martin Luther College has proposed a three-part strategy to increase the number of ministry-certified teachers in our synod. The COP approved the plans.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder ☩

WELS seniors gather to celebrate past blessings and reimagine future

WELS seniors gathered in Omaha, Neb., Oct. 14-17, for the annual Lutheran Convention for Seniors, sponsored by the Organization for WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS). Under the theme “40 Years of Service,” this special gathering celebrated four decades of conventions and seniors serving in God’s kingdom.

One of the highlights of the convention was a Zoom presentation and Q&A with Rev. Robert Weiss, the WELS European civilian chaplain, who is stationed in Spiesheim, Germany. Weiss serves WELS military members and citizens living abroad in Europe. Each year, OWLS provides substantial financial support to the European chaplaincy.

Another keynote featured Rev. Dan Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. Sims gave an update of the organization’s compassion ministry, which helps to bring physical and spiritual blessings to people in need locally and in mission fields worldwide.

Rounding out the keynotes was a presentation by Rev. Joel Gaertner, director of WELS Special Ministries. Gaertner gave an overview of the eight areas of Special Ministries and the wide array of resources available to help share the gospel with those may not have access to it through traditional channels.

In addition to the keynotes, convention goers enjoyed breakouts, worship, fellowship, displays from WELS partner organizations, and a tour of the U.S. Strategic Command at nearby Offutt Air Force Base.

The convention also included an open forum to discuss the future of OWLS, including a potential reimaging of

the organization for a new generation of seniors. “The group asked, ‘What does the next generation of seniors want? What are ways seniors can serve their Savior?’ ” reports Gaertner. “The group contributed a great list of ideas for service opportunities and ways to support synod-related ministries.”

He adds, “OWLS has been a tremendous blessing to seniors, and the service they’ve given has been a tremendous blessing. It’s a good time to now evaluate what the next 40 years can be.”

“OWLS has provided a means for retirees to serve their Lord and their fellow members for 40 years,” says Mr. John Paulsen, outgoing OWLS executive director. “I’ve been the executive director since 2014, and it’s time for new ideas for the next generation. I look forward to what the new OWLS may look like.”

The 2025 Lutheran Convention for Seniors will be Oct. 14-17 at the Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, Oshkosh, Wis. The convention is open to all seniors 55 and older in WELS and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. ☩

Upcoming synod convention to look at the past and the future

The 68th biennial convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod will be held at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., July 21-24, 2025. About 400 voting delegates from around the country will attend the convention.

The theme of the 2025 synod convention is “Christ through us.” This theme highlights both

God’s blessings to the synod as it celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2025 as well as God’s continued work through WELS in years to come. A new strategic plan that establishes synodical, congregational, and individual objectives and strategies will be introduced at the convention.

“The convention provides grassroots input to the plans and priorities of the work we do together as a synod,” says WELS President Rev. Mark Schroeder. “I think that past delegates will tell you that attending a synod convention is an informative, uplifting, and memorable experience. Delegates hear reports from all areas of the synod’s ministries and gain a new appreciation for the opportunities and blessings that God provides.”

The *Book of Reports and Memorials*, which will be available in May 2025, details information and items of business that will be discussed at the convention, including any memorials. A memorial is a formal request to the convention to take action on a specific matter or proposal. Synodical entities (boards, commissions, and other duly constituted groups); congregations; circuits; conferences; districts; pastors; male professors, teachers, or staff ministers; and voting members of WELS congregations may submit a memorial to be considered for inclusion in the printed *Book of Reports and Memorials*; the deadline is Jan. 15, 2025. Memorials submitted after Jan. 15 and approved for convention consideration will be posted on the convention website if they are received by June 15, 2025. Find more information and submission details at welsconvention.net.

RECOVERY IN CHRIST offers hope in Jesus.

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays at 4:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin (school library) and Wednesdays, 1:15 pm at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center, 933 Ferry Street. To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays, 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.

Recovery in Christ is not meant to replace other groups or therapists. It is an additional group that offers Christian fellowship and direction to those in recovery from alcohol and/or drugs.

NEED A CARD? Why go to a big box store and spend more than you have to? Please browse our wide selection of cards in the former library room at Christ. Cards are exceptionally priced at \$0.50 each.

Diane Schultz is our sunshine lady. If anyone knows of someone who would like a card of encouragement, please let her know. Her cellphone is 608-738-9934 and her home phone is 608-685-3861.

Church Offerings

Wednesday, October 30: 12

General: \$345 Missions: \$ Cap Imp.: \$

Sunday, November 3: 36

General: \$1237 Missions: \$150 Cap Imp: \$95

(Cap Imp includes a gift for Luther High School)

Total: \$1827

General: \$1582 Missions: \$150 Cap Imp.: \$95

Our Weekly Walk with Jesus

Sunday, November 10

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour

10:40 am Church council meeting

Monday, November 11

10:00 am Bible class

Tuesday, November 12

9:30 am Winona circuit meeting at St. Mike's, Fountain City

6:30 pm Bible class

Wednesday, November 13

6:30 pm Midweek worship service

Thursday, November 14

Friday, November 15

Saturday, November 16

Sunday, November 17

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour