



# First Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Synod

2231 E. Broadway, Helena, Montana

Rev. Larry A. Miller, Pastor

406-442-5367 • [www.firstlutheranhelena.org](http://www.firstlutheranhelena.org)



Sharing God's Word with Everyone, Everywhere!

**Worship** — Sunday 8:15 and 11 a.m.

**Sunday School and Bible Study** —9:45 a.m.

**Midweek Worship** —Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

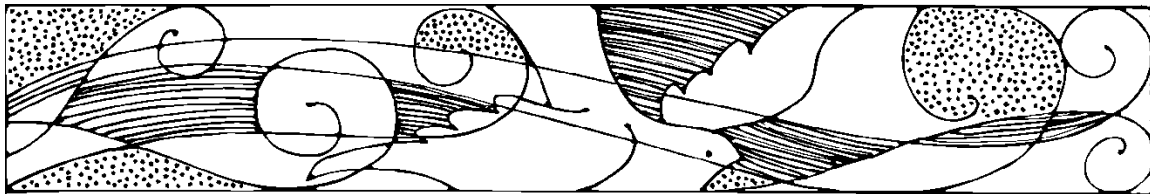
Welcome ~ on this special day, to this special celebration of the grace, mercy, peace, and love of God for our congregation and every member of it for the past 135 years! We'll also rejoice in His blessings to the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod for over 175 years, and for the Protestant Reformation of the church which began 505 years ago tomorrow and continues yet today, through God's all-powerful Word! We're so glad you have joined us and pray that you will be blessed!

Large Print Bulletins ~ and hymnals for your use are available. Please ask the ushers for these if you would like to use them.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion ~ is celebrated in our worship today and every Sunday! We believe that Scripture teaches that the Lord's Supper is a precious gift of God in which Christ gives us His true body and blood (in a miraculous "Sacramental" way), together with the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Because the Bible teaches that this Sacrament may also be spiritually harmful if misused, and that participation in the Lord's Supper is an act of confession of faith, we ordinarily commune only those who have been instructed in the teachings of our church and who have confessed their faith in these teachings. Before communing, anyone who has questions or doubts or holds other beliefs concerning Holy Communion is asked to speak with one of our pastors or an elder. White grape juice is available on the individual cup trays for those with allergies to alcohol and other special needs. Please see an elder or usher before worship if you need a gluten-free wafer for the Sacrament.

A Prayer to Begin ~

*The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ever-living,  
To whom the heav'nly host Their laud and praise are giving.  
The Lord, my God be praised, In whose great name I boast,  
God Father, God the Son, And God the Holy Ghost. (LSB 794:1)*  
All praise, honor, and glory to You for all You have done. Amen!



135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LCMS  
Reformation Sunday

October 30, 2022 A.D.,  
Anno Domini, The Year of Our Lord

+ We Enter to Worship +

Music to Begin / Welcome / Announcements / Greetings

“The Word of the Lord” ~ HIS Kids! (Later Service)

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**A mighty Fortress is our God,  
A trusty Shield and Weapon;  
He helps us in our ev'ry need  
That hath us now o'ertaken  
The old malignant foe,  
he means us deadly woe;  
Deep guile and cruel might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done,  
Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the Valiant One  
Whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye who this may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is He.  
As Lord of Hosts adored,  
Our only King and Lord,  
He holds the field forever.**

Text: Martin Luther 1528, based on Psalm 46;  
*Songs and Hymns of Zion*, Laestadia Lutheran Church, Loretto, MN

## **Invocation**

*(The sign of the cross + may be made by all  
in remembrance of their Baptism)*

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the T Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sins**

Beloved in the Lord, we are not ashamed of the Gospel. And yet sometimes we live and act as if we are ashamed. Let us repent of our sins, rejoice in the comfort of God's abundant pardon, and recommit ourselves to the tasks He gives us. For apathy in our mission of proclaiming the Good News about Jesus Christ to everyone, everywhere,

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

For taking Your precious Word and Sacraments for granted,  
**Christ, have mercy on us.**

For failing to advance Your work with generous gifts of time, talent, treasure, tissue, and testimony,

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

Holy and merciful Father,

**We ask that You would not look upon our sins or because of them deny our prayers; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we ask, neither have we deserved them, but we ask that You would give them all to us by Your grace; for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. Please also help us to forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us.**

## **Absolution**

Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Confession has two parts. The one is that we confess our sins, the other, that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting but firmly believing that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven. Therefore, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

**Though devils all the world should fill,  
All watching to devour us,  
We tremble not; we fear no ill,  
They cannot overpower us.  
Though satan's angels still  
Rage fiercely as they will,  
Their rage we can endure,  
For lo! their doom is sure;  
A Word shall overthrow them.**

**The Word they still shall let remain  
Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain  
With His good gifts and Spirit.  
Take they, then, what they will—  
Our life, our goods; and still,  
E'en when their worst is done,  
They yet have nothing won;  
The kingdom ours remaineth.**

Text: Martin Luther 1528, based on Psalm 46;  
*Songs and Hymns of Zion*, Laestadia Lutheran Church, Loretto, MN

## **Anniversary Litany**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Name of the Lord!  
**Praise the Lord! Give thanks to Him!**

God has blessed us and brought us to this time.  
**God has blessed us and brought us to this place.**

God has caused His Name to dwell in our midst.  
**God has stirred our hearts and made us glad.**

God has shown us His glory in His mighty Word.  
**God has shown us the way of truth and life.**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Name of the Lord!  
**Praise the Lord! Give thanks to Him!**

For 135 years, God has nurtured and fed us.  
**For 135 years, God has shown us His grace.**

For 135 years, God has given us Himself in Word and Sacrament.  
**For 135 years, God has empowered us with His Holy Spirit.**

For 135 years, God has placed us in loving fellowship with Him and with one another.

**For 135 years, God has made us His witnesses into the world, to everyone, everywhere!**

Praise the Lord for 135 years! Praise Him for many more!

**Praise the Lord forevermore! Oh, praise the Name of the Lord!**

Through Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now —  
**and forever. Amen.**

**“Our Hymn of Gratitude”** ~ Chancel Choir ~ Later Service

## Old Testament Lesson

## First Kings 8:22-30

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, <sup>23</sup> and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart; <sup>24</sup> you have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. <sup>25</sup> Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ <sup>26</sup> Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father. <sup>27</sup> But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! <sup>28</sup> Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, <sup>29</sup> that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you

may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. <sup>30</sup> And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Lesson**

## **Revelation 21:1-5**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” <sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Alleluia Verse ~ “Thy Strong Word”**

LSB 578:1,4



He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup> And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." <sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

**Praise to You, O Christ!**

**Gospel Response ~ "Thy Strong Word"**

LSB 578:5,6

**Nicene Creed**

*(You may find the text to the Creed printed  
on the last pages of the Lutheran Service Book)*

**Message Especially for Children**

*(Please register your participation with us today  
by signing our Friendship Books located in the pews)*

## **“Praise God for Saints Who Have Gone Before Us”**

*Commissioned by Concordia Publishing House to the glory of God  
on the occasion of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

**Praise God for saints who have gone before us—  
They walked through trials in Jesus’ name!  
By their example they yet implore us  
Humbly to seek to do the same:  
“God’s holy Word alone endures;  
Jesus, the Way, your faith secures!”  
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God for holy ones placed beside us,  
Sisters and brothers to embrace;  
Baptized, believing—may naught divide us,  
Walking as one by God’s great grace!  
Let us be bold, with love proclaim  
Jesus, the Truth, His saving name!  
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God for little ones newly baptized,  
Their angels see the Father’s face;  
Clothed in Christ’s merit, adopted, sealed, prized—  
May Jesus be the path they trace!  
Through years with snares they cannot see,  
Jesus, the Life, will keep them free!  
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God for talents entrusted to us,  
Gifts of His grace to us on loan;  
God by His Spirit is working through us,  
Giving us words to make Christ known!  
Though all our gifts are not the same,  
We are one Body to exclaim:  
“Alleluia, alleluia!”**

**Praise God the Father, His mercy showing,  
Rescuing sinners through His Son!  
Praise God the Son, with love overflowing—  
His holy cross salvation won!  
Praise God the Spirit, who extends  
His call to faith until time ends!  
Alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955, ©2022 Concordia Publishing House  
Music: Public Domain

## **Sermon**

## **Offering**

### **“God’s Word is Our Great Heritage”**

LSB 582+

*Hymn text written for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
St. John’s Lutheran Church (Oakwood Road), Oak Creek, Wisconsin.*

**God’s Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way;  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant while worlds endure  
We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.**

**So You, through all these many years  
Great grace to us have granted.  
Your glorious Gospel filled our ears  
Through church and school here planted.  
So let it ever be  
That we may ever see  
Your perfect, boundless love  
And reach Your home above  
With all Your true believers.**

**Our Lord, we magnify and praise  
Your faithfulness unbroken;  
For You have kept through all our days  
Each promise You have spoken.  
Forsake us not, we pray;  
Preserve us in Your way!  
As You our fathers led,  
So shall it here be said:  
"He keeps us safe forever!"**

**Our high, majestic God and Lord,  
The heav'ns cannot contain You.  
And yet You tell us in Your Word.  
"I dwell in You, sustain You."  
Though reason cannot see  
This wondrous mystery  
Your Word our trust has won.  
Let this same grace be shown  
Throughout all generations.**

Stanza 1 – LSB 582

Stanzas 2-4 – Werner H. Franzmann, 1991; published with permission.

## **Prayer of the Church**

Almighty God, we give You thanks for the work You have done in this place.

**We give You thanks for Your love and faithfulness.**

When we called on Your Name,

**You made Your presence known to us.**

When we prayed,

**You heard and answered us.**

When we preached Your Word and administered Your Sacraments,

**You were in our midst.**

You have accepted our humble sacrifices  
**of praise and thanksgiving.**

You have listened to our confessions  
**and forgiven our sins.**

And You have sent Your Holy Spirit  
**to heal and comfort our hurts, our sorrows, our infirmities,  
and our losses.**

Continue to empower us with Your Spirit, O Lord, that we might  
proclaim Your Gospel to all people.  
**We dedicate our lives anew to Your service!**

Help us to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ in all that we do and  
say.  
**We dedicate our lives anew to Your service!**

Show us how we might give care and support to the needy, love and  
mercy to the broken and forlorn.  
**We dedicate our lives anew to Your service!**

Show us new ways of loving one another and those around us.  
**We dedicate our lives anew to Your service!**

Break down the prejudices and barriers which divide us, and make  
us all one in Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Renew us by the Spirit, given at our Baptisms, so that we might be  
challenged to move beyond our ruts, our apathy, and our anxieties  
of inadequacy.  
**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Grant that we may continually grow in the Spirit and in the ministry that You give us as members of Your royal priesthood, the priesthood of all believers, so that we may carry out our mission of service and love.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Continue to comfort, heal, and lift up the broken and afflicted among us. By the promise of Your presence, bring us Your healing love.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Bring us at last to the joy of Your eternal kingdom, where, with the faithful of this church who have gone before us and with all Your saints, we may evermore praise Your Name.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Blessed Lord, draw our hearts to You, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills and make us wholly Yours. Use us as You will, to the glory of Your holy Name and the welfare of Your people; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now —

**and forever. Amen.**

**“The Word of the Lord” ~ HIS Kids! (Earlier Service)**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Holy Communion**

***“What Is This Bread”***

LSB 629

**Prayer**

Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now —

**and forever. Amen.**

## Benediction

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

LSB 790

+ We Depart to Serve and to Celebrate  
the Blessings of Our God ~ Ours Only in Jesus! +



**REFORMATION**