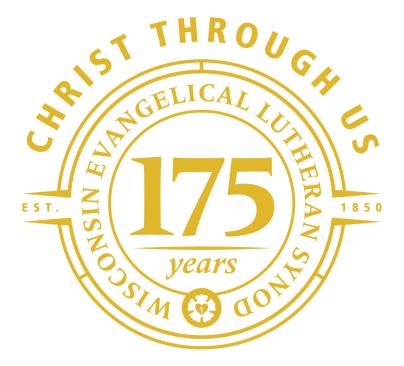
Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

# October 26, 2025 Reformation



#### **Prepare for Worship**

Heavenly Father, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We give thanks for your abundant blessings over the years, for the faithful proclamation of your Word, and for the countless lives touched by the Gospel through our synod's ministry. Lord, for many generations, you have preserved and guided your Church both through trials and blessings, raising up pastors, teachers, and lay leaders to serve your kingdom. As we remember this milestone, we ask for your continued guidance and strength to remain steadfast in the truth, proclaiming Christ crucified and risen for the salvation of all. Bless this synod with unity, wisdom, and a renewed commitment to spread the kingdom of God, that your name may be glorified now and forever. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## **Setting One**

#### **Reformation Dialogue**

We consider some of Martin Luther's 95 Thesis and respond with God's Word.

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent," he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

Thesis 1

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

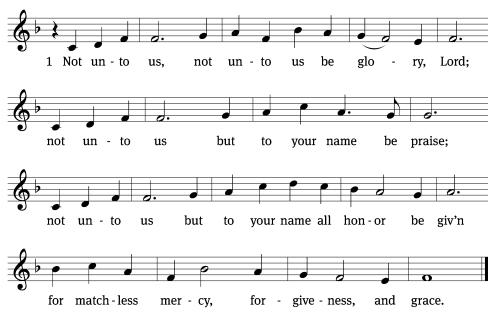
\*Psalm 51:1-2\*\*

Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally condemned, together with their teachers. *Thesis* 32

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

Galatians 3:10

#### 582 Not unto Us



Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters.

Thesis 36

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases. He does not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to our iniquities. For as far as the east is from the west, So far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:2,3,10,12

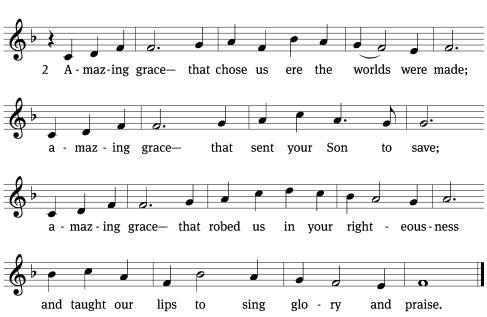
Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church. This is given to him by God, even without indulgence letters.

Thesis 37

A righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

\*\*Romans 3:21-25\*\*

## 582 Not unto Us



It is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the one selling indulgences, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security.

Thesis 52

Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

Galatians 1:8

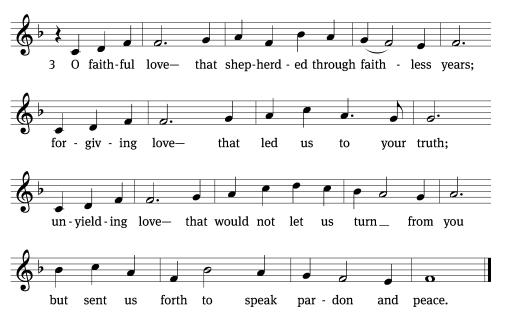
The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.

Thesis 62

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

#### 582 Not unto Us



Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their head, through penalties, death, and hell, and thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace.

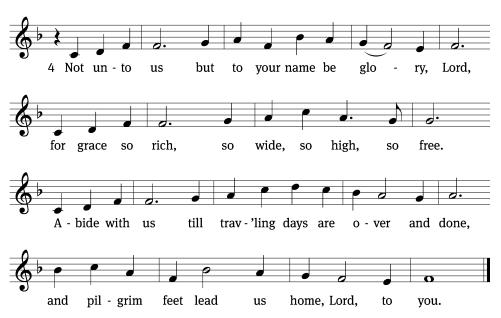
Theses 94 & 95

Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:13 & 5:10-11

Stand

#### 582 Not unto Us



#### Invocation

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution CW 154

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.



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



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.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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## The Word

#### Salutation

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Lord, keep your household, the church, in continual godliness. Even as you have been with us in WELS for 175 years, continue to bless us with your presence 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**

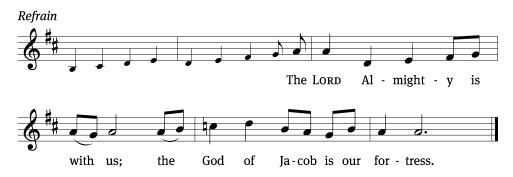
Joshua 4:1-9

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD told Joshua, <sup>24</sup>Take twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, <sup>3</sup> and give them the following orders: 'Pick up twelve stones from here in the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the feet of the priests are standing securely. Carry them over with you and put them at the place where you will stay tonight." 4So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had selected from the people of Israel—a man from each tribe. 5Joshua said to them, "Go to the middle of the Jordan in front of the Ark of the LORD your God. There each man is to lift up one stone on his shoulder. The number will correspond to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel, <sup>6</sup>so that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in the future, 'What do these stones mean for you? <sup>7</sup>Then you shall respond to them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD. When the ark passed through the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones will serve as a permanent memorial for the people of Israel." So the people of Israel did just as Joshua had ordered. They picked up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, corresponding to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel, as the LORD had instructed Joshua. They carried the stones over with them to their lodging place and deposited them there. 9Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the feet of the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant had stood. They are there to this day.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### 46A The LORD Almighty Is with Us





God is our ref- / uge and strength, an ever-present help in / trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea, though its waters / roar and foam and the mountains quake with their / surging. *Refrain* 

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- / y of God, the holy place where the Most / High dwells.

God is within her, she / will not fall;

God will help her at / break of day.

"Be still, and know that / I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth."

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

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## **Second Reading**

#### Revelation 3:7-13

To the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write:

The Holy One, the one who is true, the one who has the key of David, the one who opens and no one can shut, and who shuts and no one can open, says this:

<sup>8</sup>I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>Look, I will make those who are from the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not but are lying—look, I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them realize that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup>Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will also keep you from the hour of testing, which is about to come over the whole inhabited world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have so that no one takes your crown.

<sup>12</sup>The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never leave it again. I will also write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God—the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God—and my new name.

<sup>13</sup>Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Word of the Lord.

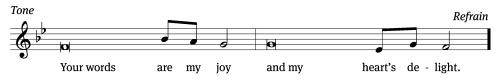
Thanks be to God.

Stand

## **Gospel Acclamation**

CW 161





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Gospel John 8:31–36

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>33</sup>"We are Abraham's descendants," they answered, "and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, 'You will be set free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

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

Be seated

#### 863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Composite Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Christ WITH Us

Joshua 4:1-9

Stand

#### Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Prayer of the Church**

Gracious God, the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed us from sin, and the work of your Spirit in our hearts has brought us to faith. According to your promise, preserve us in faith through your Word and sacraments. Accept our humble thanks for these rich blessings, and help us to rejoice in them and use them faithfully. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you have brought us together in a church body in which your Word is proclaimed faithfully, the message of reconciliation through Christ is the central focus of ministry, and the mission is to reach the lost and strengthen the saved. For this gift of your grace, we give you thanks. Work in us by your Holy Spirit to rekindle our zeal for the work you have set before us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Gracious Lord, you have given us opportunities to proclaim your Word in our nation and throughout the world. Move the hearts of more young people to prepare for the teaching and preaching ministry. Help us view them as your precious gifts. Bless the work of our schools that prepare them for ministry and provide the opportunities for them to serve in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Gracious Lord, you have brought us together as a church body that we may proclaim your praise. Inspire us by your grace to let our light shine so that more people may be led to glorify you. Forgive us when we fall short of living and working together as your people. Renew in us an godly determination to serve you and one another in love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Gracious Lord, you have preserved our synod and blessed its ministry for the past 175 years. We thank you for the faithful ministers of the gospel throughout our history who have taught your truth and proclaimed your Word. Bless us in the future as you have in the past so that our synod, its congregations, and each of us may boldly confess your name for the salvation of precious souls. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Hear us, help us, and hold your guiding hand over us that in all our service your saving name may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

Be seated

## Good News for Kids/Offering

## The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. The Lord's Supper makes a second statement. It says, "We are one in all that we do." We don't know if this type of bond exists with our guests, so we ask that if you are not a member of a WELS or ELS congregation you refrain from the Lord's Supper today and meet personally with our pastor if you desire to receive the sacrament in the future.

Stand

Preface 165

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



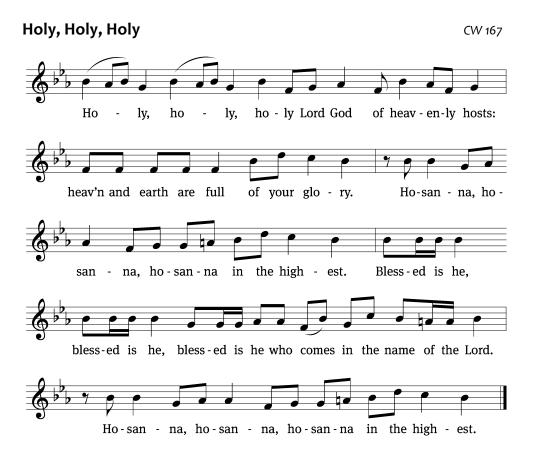
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



## **Proper Preface**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following their example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

#### **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.** 



Be seated

#### Distribution

#### 663 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

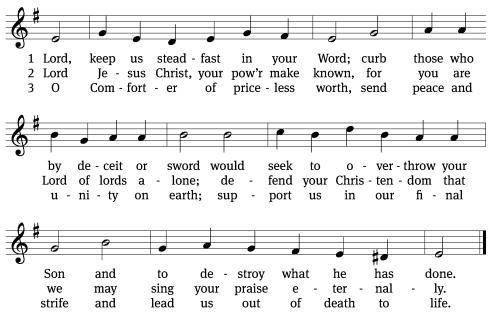


- 5 Human reason, though it ponders, cannot fathom these great wonders, that Christ's body must be boundless since the souls it feeds are countless, and that he his blood is giving with the wine we are receiving.

  These great mysteries unsounded are by God alone expounded.
- 6 Lord, by love and mercy driven, you have left your throne in heaven on the cross for me to languish and to die in bitter anguish, to forgo all joy and gladness and to shed your blood in sadness. By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.
- Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends most tender, Jesus, joy of my desiring, fount of life, my soul inspiring: at your feet I cry, my maker, let me be a fit partaker of this blessèd food from heaven for our good, your glory, given.
- 8 Jesus, Lord of life in heaven,
  help me when this meal is given
  to receive it for my blessing
  as I come, my sins confessing.
  In this supper let me measure,
  Lord, how deep is your love's treasure,
  that, as I on earth have eaten,
  I may be your guest in heaven.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 4, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 3, 5–6): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 8): tr. Peter M. Prange, b. 1972 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text (st. 8): © 2021 Peter M. Prange, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518 Text (sts. 1–7) and tune: Public domain

#### 862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder zu Wittemberg, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

A suggested prayer to use after receiving Holy Communion

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.

Stand

#### **Thanksgiving**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

#### 510 In Christ Alone



#### **Acknowledgments**

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#### **In Our Prayers**

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list:

Ukraine

Ray & Gloria Overson, Sherry Just and Randy Michael- shut-ins Paul White, Gary Finch, Linda Thielke, Larry Borchert, Jeff Overson, Makenzie Phippen - health

Addyson Pender & Zach Ostendorf - engaged

Payton Weis - expecting in February

#### **Online Giving**

Thank you for your generous and cheerful offerings to the Lord. www.LHELC.org/giving



#### **Prepare for Next Sunday**

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday. The Word for next Sunday: *Joshua 4:1-9, Revelation 3:7-13, John 8:31-36* 

#### **Joint Reformation Service**

Today at 4 pm

Professor David Scharf from Martin Luther College will preach for our joint celebration of the Lutheran Reformation. Join our brothers and sisters of the WELS and ELS churches of Central Iowa for a Reformation worship service at Beautiful Savior in West Des Moines, 8051 EP True Pkwy.

#### **Game Night**

The next game night will be on Saturday, November 8 from 4 - 8 pm. Bring food to share, games to play and friends. Meet in the basement.

## THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS October 26 - November 2, 2025

Sunday	8:00 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 11:35 am 4:00 pm	Worship with Communion Homeless Meal Delivery Sunday School Bible Class Worship with Communion Kunama Worship Handbell Practice Joint Reformation Service at Beautiful Savior
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Evangelism
Wednesday	5:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:45 pm	Catechism & Bible History Choir Evening Prayer Bible Class
Thursday	10:00 am	Womens' Fellowship Group
Sunday	8:00 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 11:35 am	Worship Homeless Meal Delivery Sunday School Bible Class Worship Kunama Worship Handbell Practice

## LINCOLN HEIGHTS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 1217 Watrous Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa

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