

Faith Lutheran Church
REFORMATION SERVICE
Wednesday, October 28, 2026 6:30 p.m.

John 8:36 – *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*
Today we celebrate Reformation Day! Luther is rightly remembered as a champion of the Gospel — but he also called himself "the apostle of good works." For, only by being set free by the Gospel, can we do good works. Jesus has set us free: His blood covers our sins, and now we stand before God as His beloved children, invited to live our lives to His glory for the good of His kingdom.



WELCOME VISITORS. We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding. Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible based church family.
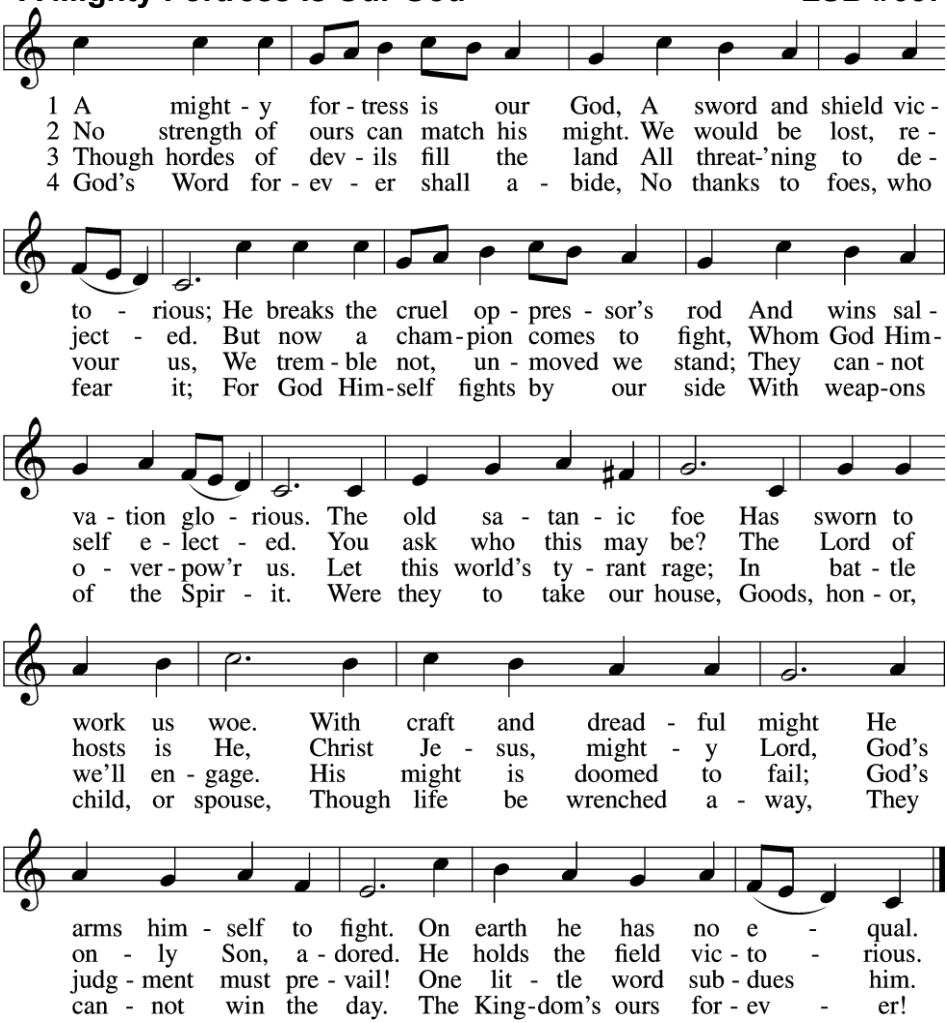
AS WE GATHER

Today we observe Reformation Day---remembering God's powerful working through Martin Luther. Luther sought to hold the Church accountable for clearly communicating the truth of God's Word. The reformer writes, "One thing, and only one thing, is necessary for Christian life, righteousness, and freedom. That one thing is the most holy Word of God, the Gospel of Christ." ("The Freedom of a Christian," Luther's Works, Vol. 31) Throughout his prolific writings, Luther seeks to unleash this Gospel so that laity may be properly taught its eternal riches and truths. Therefore, the service today walks through several sections corresponding to the Six Chief Parts of Luther's Small Catechism, which is the standard curriculum for Confirmation studies. Throughout these teachings Luther bears witness to the foundational doctrines of the Christian Church.

Officiant: **Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske,**
Executive Director of Lutherans For Life
Organist: **Irene Beethe**
Choir and Chimes: **Circuit choir, chimes directed by Miriam Lipke**

+ PRESERVICE MUSIC +

OPENING HYMN
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" LSB #657



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INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

TEN COMMANDMENTS
INSTRUCTION

P The Law would forever bind us, sentencing us to eternity entangled in the shackles of death. It is not the purpose of the Law to save. Since the fall, we are unable to keep the Law of God.

C **"There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins."** *(Eccl. 7:20)*

P The Law was given to show us our sin, guide us in our lives, and to discipline our behavior.

C **"Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the Law; rather, through the Law we become conscious of sin."** *(Romans 3:20)*

P In the Law, the righteous unchangeable will of God is revealed to His people. God's Law is written upon our hearts, and yet, knowingly and unknowingly we act contrary to His commands.

C: **"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.** *(Romans 3:23-24)*

P: We, therefore confess and renounce our sins to God, admitting that we have sinned against Him in thought, word, and deed.

CONFESSION OF SINS

C **Almighty God, I have not always feared, loved and trusted you above all things. I have not loved my neighbor according to all of Your Holy Commands. I have sinned and I daily fall short of the of Your Holy Law. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

OFFICE OF THE KEYS

P The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given and entrusted to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners. The Office of the Keys is a special God-given way of applying the Gospel to the individual. "God is surpassingly rich in His grace." *(Luther's Small Catechism, The Smalcald Articles)*

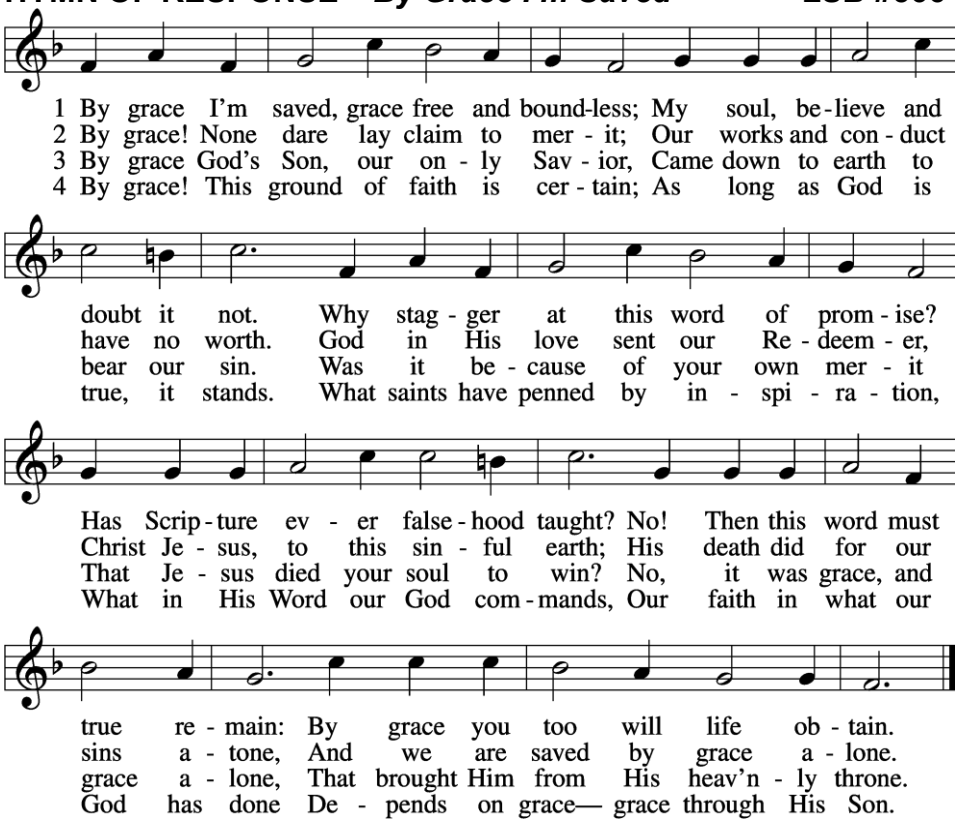
C **"And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If <u>you</u> forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if <u>you</u> do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."** *(John 20:22-23, Matthew 18:18) Here the Office of the Keys is given to <u>all</u> the Apostles not just to Peter. The "you" in the original Greek is <u>plural</u>.*

ABSOLUTION

P The Christian congregation by the command of Christ calls pastors to carry out the Office of the Keys publicly in His name and on behalf of the congregation. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Ephesians 4:11; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 4:1)*

C **Amen. By Grace I am saved. By Grace I am set free. "Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits -- <u>who forgives all your sins</u>"** *(Psalm 103:1)*

HYMN OF RESPONSE ***"By Grace I'm Saved"*** **LSB #566**



5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

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THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

P Preaching the counsels of God's Word, and rightly administering the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are all essential elements in exercising the Office of the Keys. The Word and the Sacraments are the means of grace which God has given to His Church, to sustain its life and increase the faith of His people.

C **"Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** *(Matthew 28:18-20)*

THE FIRST LESSON *Revelation 14:6-7*



6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. **7** And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and

worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

P "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men,

C **but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe."** - (1 Thessalonians 2:13-14)

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Psalm for Reformation" - David von Kampen

EPISTLE ***Romans 3:19-28***

The righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

But now 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. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished -- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.



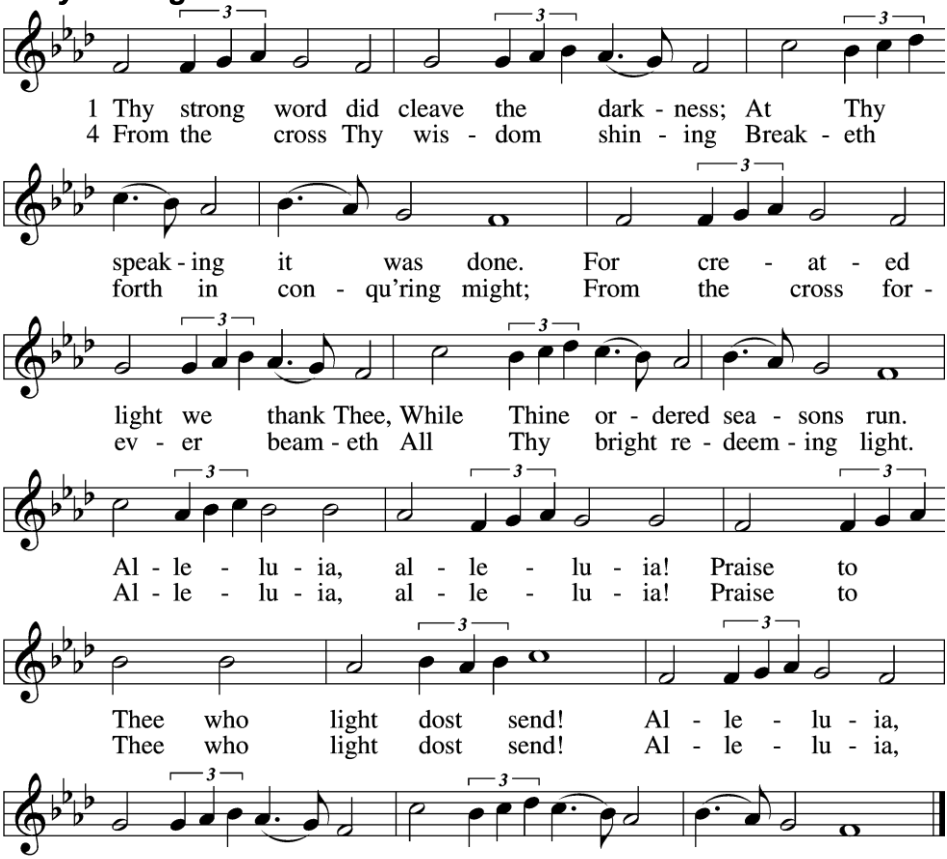
Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

℗ "and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (*2 Timothy 3:15)*

C "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (*2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

GOSPEL PROCESSION HYMN

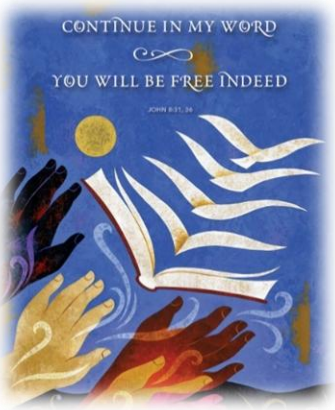
"Thy Strong Word" **LSB #578**



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HOLY GOSPEL ***John 8:31-36***

Freedom comes from knowing the truth of Jesus' teaching.
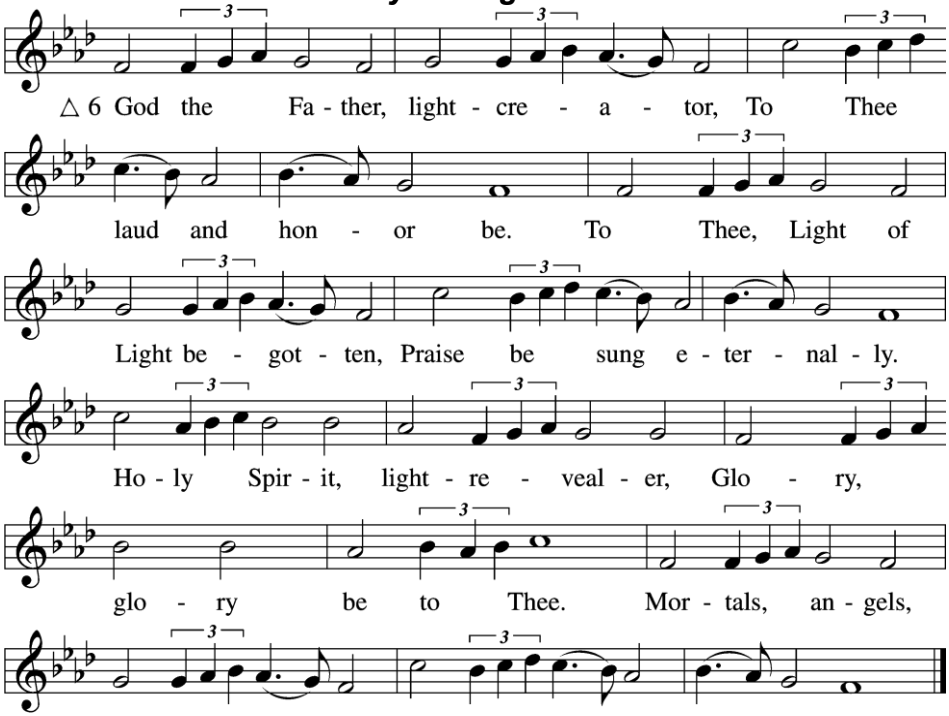


Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

℗ "Man does not live by bread alone."

℃ "But on every word that comes from the mouth of God."
(Matthew 4:4)

RESPONSIVE HYMN ***"Thy Strong Word"*** **LSB #578**



APOSTLES' CREED

℗ I, therefore, ask the members of the congregation and all who are gathered here today, Do you believe in God the Father?

℃ Yes, I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

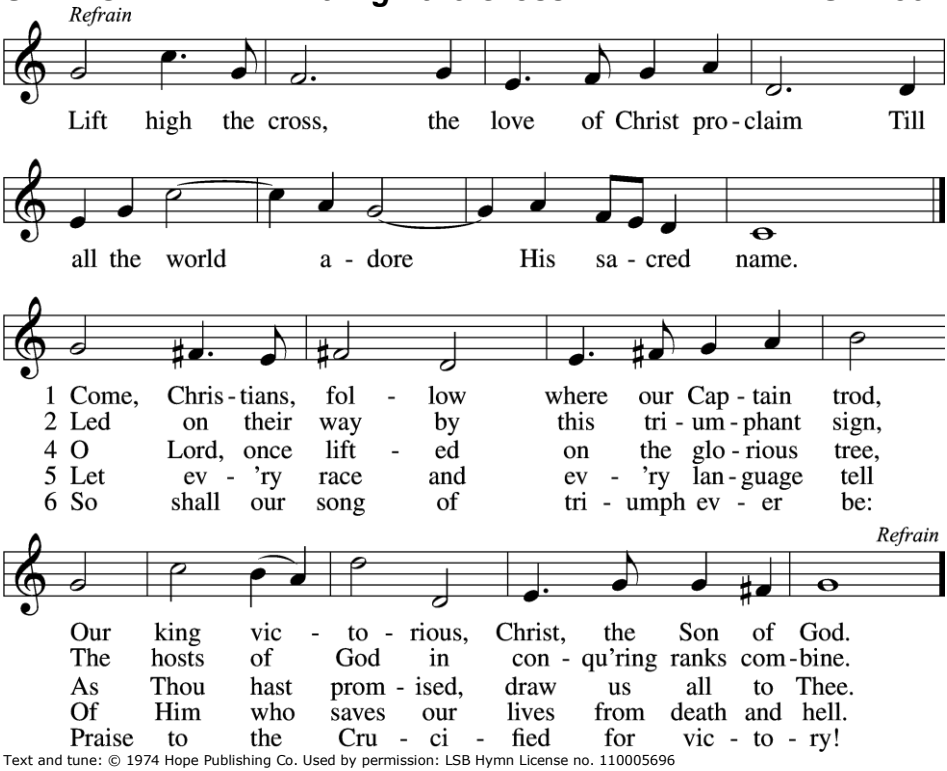
℗ Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

℃ Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and 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 sits at the right hand of God. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

℗ Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

℃ Yes, 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.

SERMON HYMN *"Lift High the Cross"* LSB #837



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THE SERMON
Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske
Executive Director – Lutherans For Life

WE BRING OUR FIRST FRUITS UNTO THE LORD
The Offering
(Malachi 3:6-18; Mark 12:41-ff; 2 Cor. 9:6-15)

CHIMES
"Lift High the Cross"
Crucifer, Sydney H. Nicholson, arr. Diane McAninch

LORD'S PRAYER

C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
P God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children.

C **Hallowed be Thy name,**
P God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us, to do this dear Father in Heaven.

C **Thy Kingdom come,**
P God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word.

C **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**
P God's will is done when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

C **Give us this day our daily bread;**
P Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body.

C **And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;**
P We pray that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

C **And lead us not into temptation,**
P We pray that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice.

C **But deliver us from evil.**

℗ We pray that our Father would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions, and reputations.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

℗ He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us.

C Amen.

℗ "Yes, yes, it shall be so." *(Luther's Small Catechism)*

THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Though All Our Life is Like a Scroll"

Sola, Wilfred L. Karsten, Jeffrey N. Blersch

THE SACRAMENTS

(Sacrament is a Latin word meaning "Mystery." It is a mystery how God can accomplish His promises through these simple things but He clearly promises that He does.)

+The Sacrament of Holy Baptism+

℗ During our instruction in the Lutheran faith we spoke of the benefits of Baptism. It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this. *(Luther's Small Catechism)*

C "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. *(Romans 6:3-4)* **and "Baptism now <u>saves</u> you also"** *(1 Peter 3:21)*

℗ Each time we gather for worship we should remember our own Baptism. Our baptized life in the name of the holy Trinity offers comfort in distress and strength in adversity. It is a promise between God and His children.

+The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper +

℗ As the Lord has blessed us with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, He has also given to His Church the gift of Holy Communion. In this Sacrament we receive the true body and

blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in, with, and under the bread and the wine.

C **"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ**? (1 Corinthians 10:16)

P Scripture teaches us to prepare ourselves for a right reception of this holy and precious gift.

C **"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."** (1 Corinthians 11:28)

P Scripture also teaches us that the Sacrament is given that we might have the forgiveness of sins and that we might be strengthened in our faith.

C **Jesus said "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many <u>for the forgiveness of sins</u>.** (Matthew 26:28)

P Scripture likewise teaches us that partaking of the Sacrament also make ourselves one with the teachings of that altar and wittiness of oneness in faith with each other.

C **"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf…. Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?" (1 Corinthians 10:16-18)**

P May we always hold as sacred and very holy these gifts that God has given us and has attached His holy solemn promises of the forgiveness of sins.

C **Amen!**
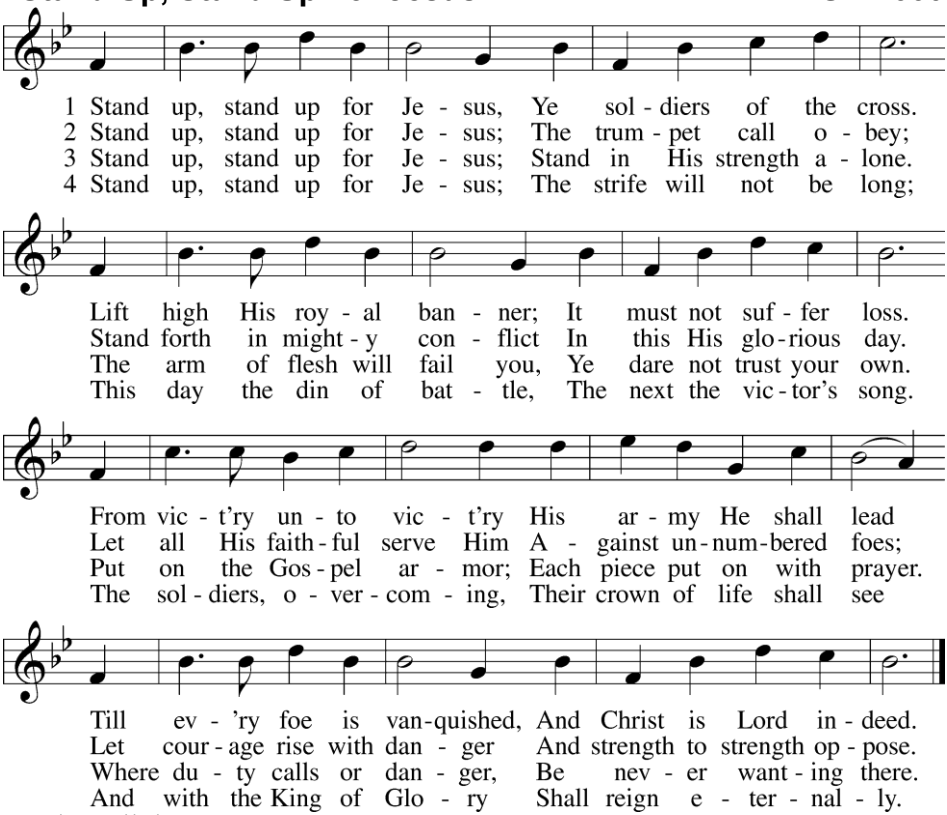
BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✢ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus" **LSB #660**



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Join us following worship for fellowship and ice cream sundaes. Sponsored by the Circuit Youth Ministry Team and assisted by our youth

Sola Gratia

Grace Alone

Sola Fide

Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone