

**A Prayer
Upon
Entering
Church**

Remember
Your Church,
O Lord, to
save it from
all evil and
make it per-
fect by Your
love. Make it
holy, and
gather it from
the four
winds into
Your king-
dom, which
You have
made ready
for it. For
Yours is the
power and
the glory for-
ever. Amen
~ *Didache*,
around 100
A.D.



The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. What do you care about most: the truth, or power? Or has someone fooled you into thinking that power is truth? Consider the chief priests of Jerusalem, whom we meet in today's Bible readings. They tried to trick Jesus with questions, not because they cared about getting true answers, but because they cared about keeping their own power. Our Lord is too wise to play that game. He is the truth, and He has come so that you might know the truth. So what would happen if we simply lived for the truth, spoke it, and then waited to see what happens?

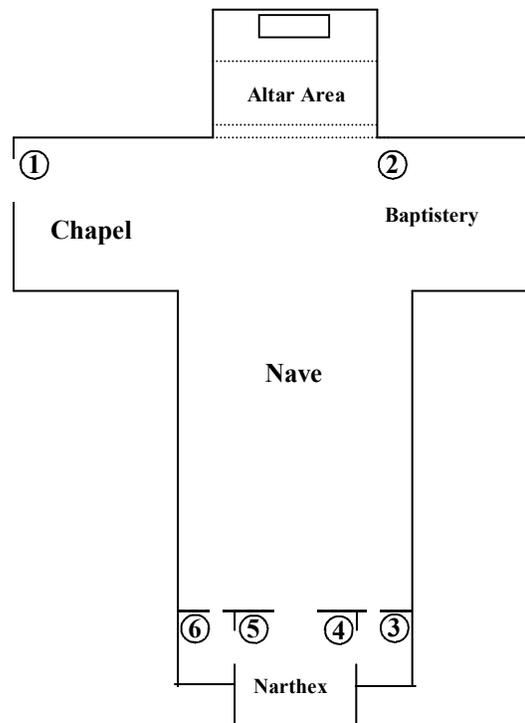
Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Verna Schuett and Deb Schuett, in gratitude for all God's blessings received by them and their families through the years.
- The flowers at the altar are sponsored by Richard and Nancy Ziebell, in remembrance of their parents, Elvera and Elmer Pagel, and Esther and Ewald Ziebell.

To Share Your Offering

Offerings are received in **Zion's wooden offering boxes built into the walls of the church**. Please see the map, where the boxes are labeled by **number (1-6)** or ask an usher for assistance.

This returns us to an older and beautiful tradition of the Lutheran church in which offerings are not collected during worship so as to focus more intently on God's gifts and offerings to us.





PRELUDE

“Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs”

... Wilbur Held and Benjamin M. Culli

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please kneel. Silence for reflection.

*Who, I say,
could have
hoped that the
nations
would hope in
the name of
Christ, when
He was ar-
rested, bound,
scourged,
mocked, cru-
cified, when
even the dis-
ciples them-
selves had
lost the hope
which they
had begun to
have in Him?
The hope
which was
then enter-
tained
scarcely by
the one thief
on the cross,
is now cher-
ished by na-
tions every-
where on the
earth, who are
marked with
the sign of the
cross on
which He
died that they
may not die
eternally.
~ Augustine,
City of God*

The working of God raises Christ from the dead; the same working of God quickens us together with Christ, forgives our sins, blots out the bond, and fixes it to the cross."

*~ Hilary of Poitiers (315-368 A.D.)
On the Trinity,
Book 9*

P: Most merciful God,

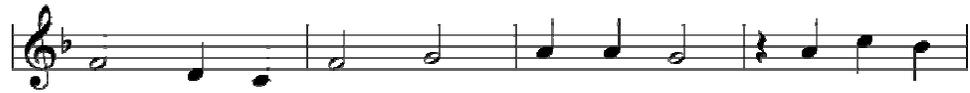
C: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church, and by the authority of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

Please stand.

ENTRANCE HYMN "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"



1 Come. let us join our cheer - ful songs With an - gels
2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry. "To be ex -
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive Hon - or and
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one To bless the



round the throne: Ten thou - sand thou - sand
alt - ed thus!" "Wor - thy the Lamb," our
pow'r di - vine; And bless - ings more than
sa - cred name Of Him who sits up -



are their tongues, But all their joys are one.
 lips re - ply, "For He was slain for us!"
 we can give Be, Lord, for - ev - er Thine.
 on the throne And to a - dore the Lamb.

APOSTOLIC GREETING and COLLECT

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, you exalted your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .²⁵"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely

Human history is the long, terrible history of man trying to find something other than God to make him happy.
 ~ C. S. Lewis,
 1900s A.D.

Truly, matters in the world are in a bad state; but if you and I begin to reform ourselves, a really good beginning will have been made.

~ Peter of Alcantara, 1499-1562 A.D.

live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

P: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

C: **Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

P: Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

C: **Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

P: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

C: **Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

P: Gracious and upright is the LORD; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

C: He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.

P: All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

EPISTLE Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

*Do you believe..that Christ died, and that He was raised again? Believe then the same of yourself. For this is like to the other, since both Cross and Burial is yours. For if you have shared in Death and Burial, much more will you in Resurrection and Life.
~ John Chrysostom,
300s A.D.,
Homily on Romans*

*Every one
that prepares
a pit for his
brother will
necessarily
fall into it
himself.
~ Augustine,
Exposition
of Psalm 57*

VERSE

L: Alleluia, Alleluia!
All authority in heaven 'and on earth*
has been giv'en to me.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

APOSTLES CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:
C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin

Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the ✠ resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

1. Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word;
 2. Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known,
 3. O Com - fort - er of price - less worth,

Curb those who by de - ceit or sword
 For you are Lord of lords a - lone;
 Send peace and u - ni - ty on earth;

Would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 De - fend your ho - ly Church, that we
 Sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

And bring to nought all he has done.
 May sing your praise tri - um - phant - ly.
 And lead us out of death to life.

Let us not, therefore, be insensible to His kindness. For were He to reward us according to our works, we should cease to be.

~ Ignatius of Antioch, d. 108 A.D., Epistle to the Magnesians

SERMON

"Getting Real"

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

P: . . . Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

As the pastors prepare the altar for the Holy Supper, vocal or instrumental music provides a time for worshipers to prepare for the Holy Supper, offering thanks to God and asking for the blessing of His Holy Spirit. When the Offertory ends, please stand.

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise;
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . Merciful Lord,

C: **we do not come to your table trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. Grant us so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us. Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☐ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

There is a certain promise of God attached to Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which is to be embraced without doubting. That can be done only by men who have become poor sinners. To say to a person 'You must take comfort in your Baptism' and 'You must turn to Jesus Christ' is identical. A person may imagine that he is a believer, but a brief affliction will suffice to dissipate that notion. Only the Holy Spirit can give a person true faith.
 ~ C.F.W. Walther,
Law and Gospel

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: **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**

ACCLAMATION

P: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

Therefore it is with the sacrament even as it is with Christ. In order that the Godhead may dwell in Him, it is not necessary that the human nature be transubstantiated and the Godhead be contained under its accidents; but both natures are there in their entirety, and it is truly said, 'This man is God,' and 'This God is man.' Even though philosophy cannot grasp this, faith grasps it, and the authority of God's Word is greater than the grasp of our intellect."
~ Martin Luther, Babylonian Captivity of the Church

"This Word, then, the Christ, the cause of both our being at first (for He was in God) and of our well-being, this very Word has now appeared as man, He alone being both, both God and man – the Author of all blessings to us; by whom we, being taught to live well, are sent on our way to life eternal."
~ Clement of Alexandria, 150-215 A.D., Exhortation to the Hea-then

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. The pastor will hand you the holy Body. Please take a cup of the holy Blood as directed. Those who do not commune may cross their arms over their chest as they come forward to ask for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

The vocalists will sing the hymns.

The texts are printed for prayerful meditation.

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.

Remove the pow’r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”

O Jesus, King most wonderful!
O Conqueror renowned!
O Source of peace ineffable,
In whom all joys are found:

When once You visit darkened hearts,
Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs,
Then kindles love divine.

O Jesus, light of all below,
The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know,
All that we can desire:

May ev'ry heart confess Your name,
Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame
To seek You more and more!

Oh, may our tongues forever bless,
May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express
The image of Your own!

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

**A Prayer
As You Go**
Dear Lord
Jesus, we
thank and
praise You
that You
have again
refreshed us
with the gift
of Your holy
body and
blood in this
comforting
sacrament.
Bless our
participation
that we may
depart from
Your pres-
ence with
peace and
joy in the
knowledge
that we are
reconciled to
God. We ask
this in Your
name. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies" ... Benjamin M. Culli

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children preschool age through grade 6 begins in the east balcony, above the Baptistry. Children will gather first in the Baptistry area and then proceed up the steps together.

Preschool through Grade 4 remain in the balcony for all of the Sunday School time. Grades 5-6 proceed to the conference room/library (by the elevator) after the music portion. Please reclaim your children at 10:45 a.m.

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Presiding: The Rev. Christopher Johnson (*at Bethany, 10:30*)

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Vocal Ensemble: Tim Pagel; Tyler Pagel; Steve Zeinemann

Clarinet: Dan Maguire

Lector: Jan Gaugush

Radio Announcer: Dick Ames

Acolyte: Madison Cornell

Elder: Scott Schubring

Ushers: Sally Christoffersen; Ken Rodemeier;

Steve and Marlene Kroening

Altar Guild: Janet Dettmering; Kay Krall

Acknowledgements

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“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”: Text: Public Domain.

Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

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Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

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