The Last Sunday of the Church Year November 23, Year of Our → Lord 2025



By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1–11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. "For you know neither the day nor the hour" when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1–13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17–25).



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Church of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

420 1st St. SE PO Box 118 Gwinner, ND 58040

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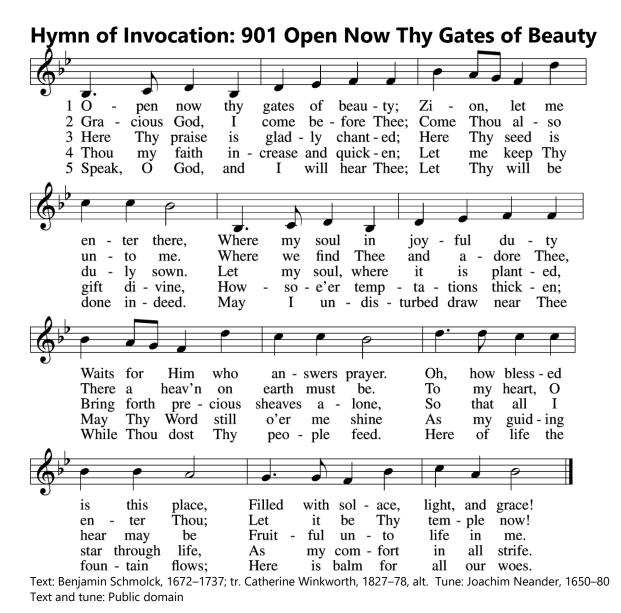
WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS:

As a way to celebrate and remember the vibrant history of the Christian Church–among many other reasons—we utilize the historic liturgy. This may be new and strange to you, or this may be comfortable and familiar. We invite you to sit next to one of our members who will be happy to assist you as you receive God's gifts of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation alongside us.

HOLY COMMUNION AT ZION:

Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at the Lutheran altar. Therefore, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. The Bible teaches we cannot be partakers from two differing tables (1 Cor. 10:15-18), and that communion can be taken to our judgment rather than our forgiveness (1 Cor. 11:27-32). It is our earnest desire at Zion that communion be taken according to our Lord's intent (Matthew 26:26-28). Members of Zion, out of love for their neighbor, can be of great assistance in this endeavor to bring others into the truth of this supper by encouraging visitors to speak with the pastor if they desire Holy Communion.

→ Confession and Absolution →



Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- © who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **and** You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. 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.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

→ Service of the Word →

Introit

Psalm 39:4-5, 7-8; antiphon: Isaiah 35:10

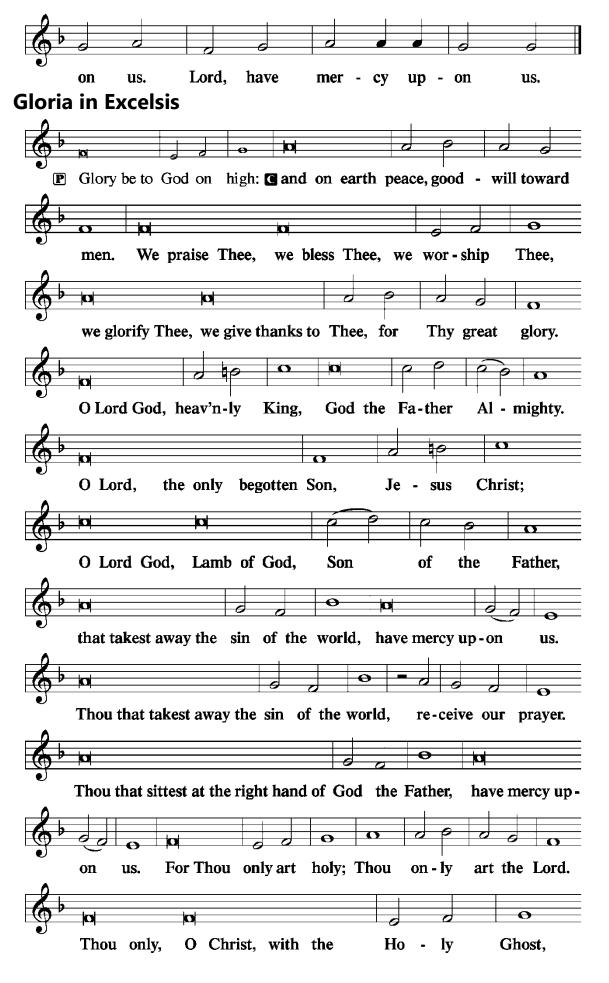
- P The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.
- They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
- P O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!
- **©** Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!
- P And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.
- Deliver me from all my transgressions.

 Do not make me the scorn of the fool!
- **G** Glory be 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.
- The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.
- They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Kyrie LSB 186



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



LSB 187



Salutation and Collect of the Day



O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that, from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷"Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create;

for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;

for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity,

for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

²⁴Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

PThis is the Word of the Lord.

CThanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm 45:14-15

- P In many-colored robes [the king's daughter] is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her.
- With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others

do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

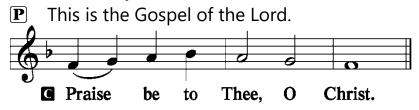


Holy Gospel Matthew 25:1–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."



Apostles' Creed

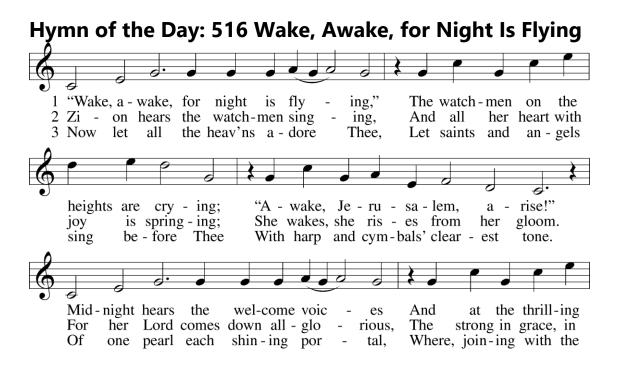
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

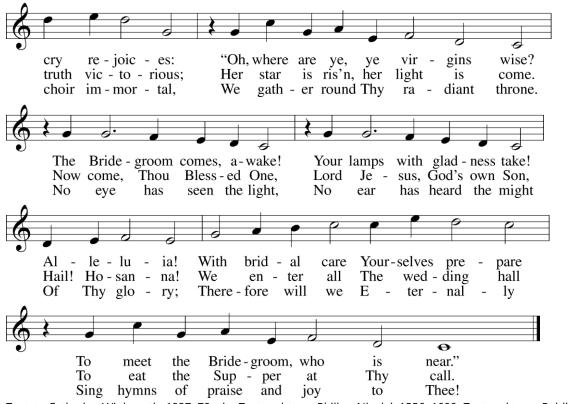
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

Sit





Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608 Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 192

Sermon





Prayer of the Church PIn peace, let us pray to the Lord: CLord, have mercy. Pror the Church, Christ's Bride, that He would lead her home to enter with all the company of the redeemed into His eternal wedding feast, let us pray to the Lord: CLord, have mercy. Prof. That the gifts of our Baptism may abide with us; and that we may be strengthened by the Word and the Sacraments of Christ until He comes, let us pray to the Lord: CLord, have mercy.

PFor faithful vocations in the home, the church and the world that build up and cultivate God's creation according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

CLord, have mercy.

PFor the nations of the earth, especially our country, its inhabitants and all who are in authority, that God's truth, righteousness and peace would abound; and for God's blessing on all who serve in our armed forces, that they would do so with integrity and honor, let us pray to the Lord:

CLord, have mercy.

Prof the sick, the mourning and all who cry out to God in the midst of suffering, [especially _______,] that God would heal them according to His will, comfort them with His steadfast love, and strengthen them to bear their crosses as they follow Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

CLord, have mercy.

PFor all who travel, that God would preserve them as He once preserved Abraham and Sarah throughout the days of their pilgrimage; and that He would bring them safely home again, so their homecomings would be joyful, let us pray to the Lord:

CLord, have mercy.

PFor all who eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus, that God would give us repentant hearts to receive the forgiveness of sins and to proclaim joyfully Christ's death until He comes in glory, let us pray to the Lord:

CLord, have mercy.

P This morning and throughout this week we hold before You in prayer Greg and

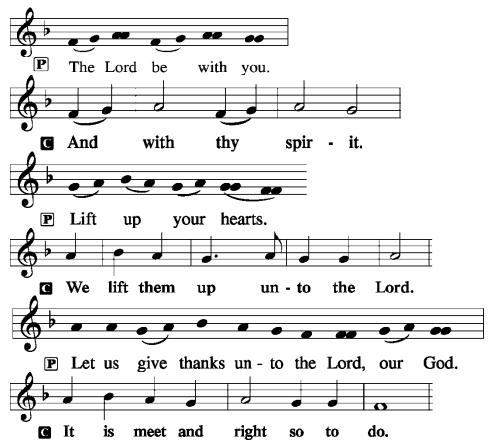
Janet Nelson.

Heavenly Father, we ask that in Your unconditional love that you would protect Greg and Janet from all physical harm and danger and that You would keep them in the certainty of their salvation that they have by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We also pray that You would enable us, this congregation of Zion, to hold Greg and Janet in our prayers this week and let them know that we love them in Jesus Christ.

PO Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

→ Service of the Sacrament →

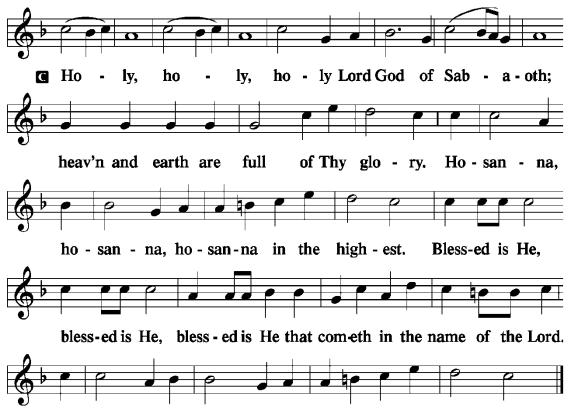
Preface LSB 194



It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus

Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus LSB 195



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer LSB 196

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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

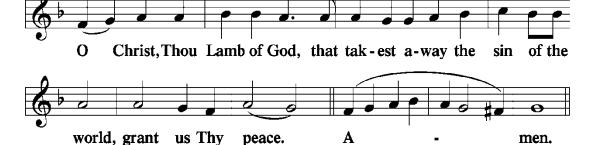
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when

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 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 it, in remembrance of Me."





tak-est a-way the sin of the world,

Sit

Stand

Distribution

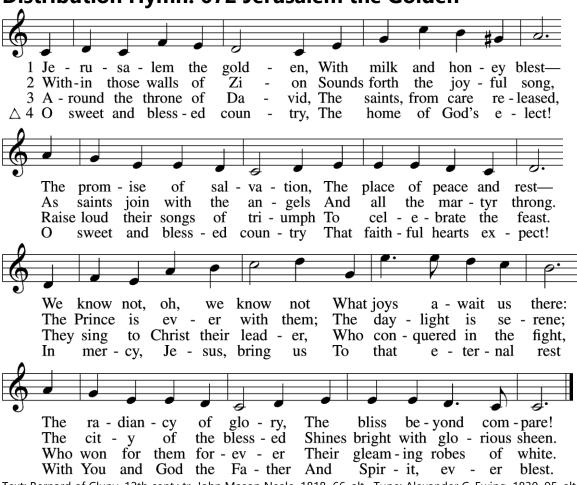
Those participating in communion are asked to exit the pew on the outer aisle. When coming forward to receive communion we ask that 7 people from each side approach the altar. The Chalice and Individual Cups are offered at the Supper; you can specify which cup you would like to receive from. Please exit down the center aisle, placing your cup in the bowl near the font.

have mer-cy up - on

us.

men.

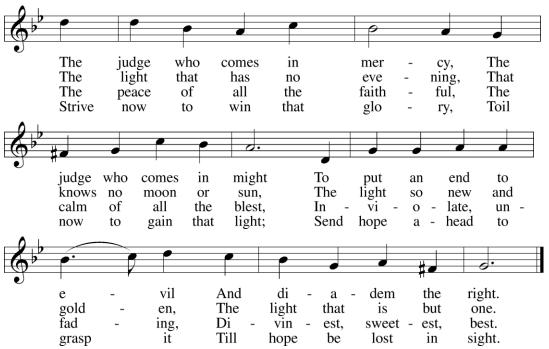
Distribution Hymn: 672 Jerusalem the Golden



Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–95, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

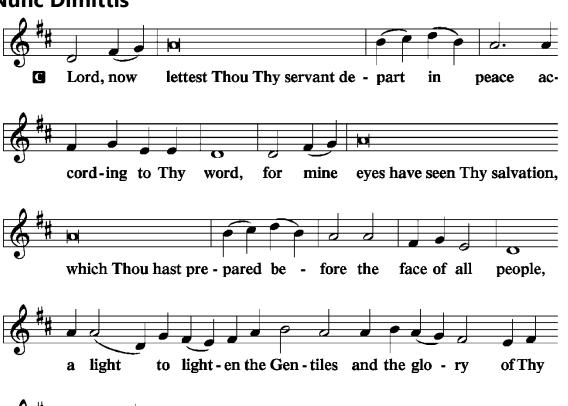
Distribution Hymn: 513 The Clouds of Judgment Gather



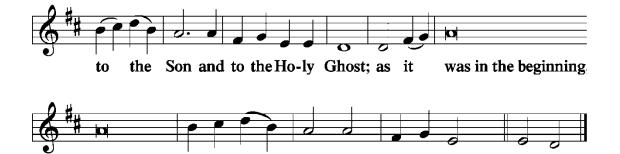


Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Tune: Welsh Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004305 Tune: Public domain





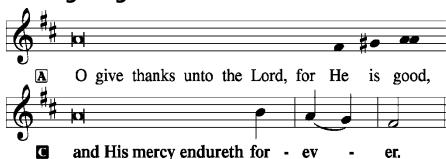




Thanksgiving LSB 200

be, world without end.

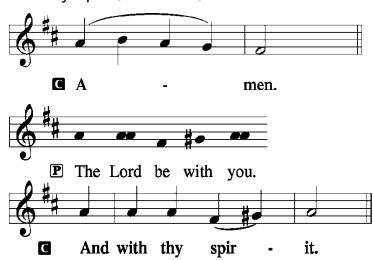
A-men.



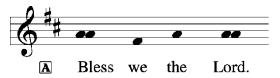
is now, and ev-er shall

P Let us pray

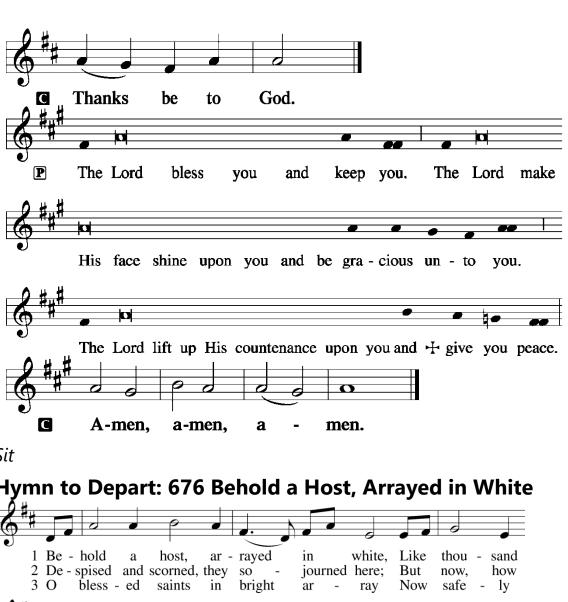
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

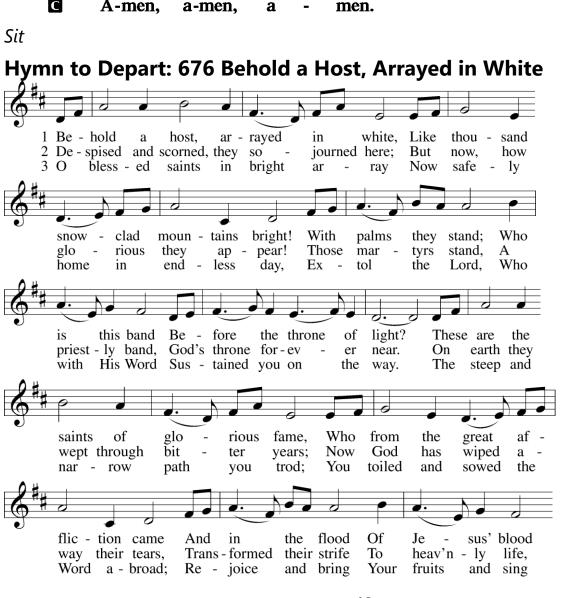


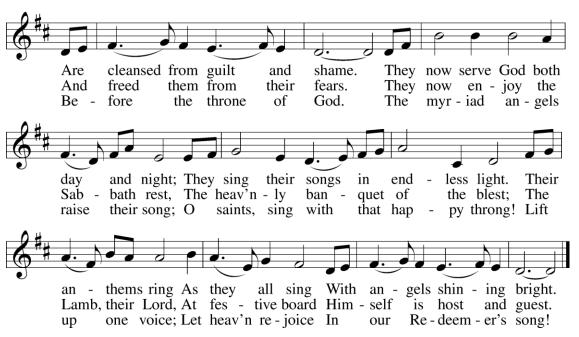
Benedicamus & Benediction



LSB 202







Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Norwegian, 17th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Mission of the Month Ronald McDonald House

Ronald McDonald House has been supporting families since 1974
After recognizing the need to support the whole family when a child is seriously ill or injured, the first Ronald McDonald House opened in Philadelphia, PA, USA, in 1974. That was the beginning of their role as a unique charity dedicated to caring for families with children who are ill or injured. Their programs and services address the essential needs of families around the world - all along their child's healthcare journey -

Ronald McDonald House programs are a home away from home that provide comfort, support and resources to families who travel far from home for the medical care their child needs.

so they can focus on the health and well-being of their child.

Ronald McDonald Family Room programs provide comfort to families right in the hospital, giving them a private place to relax or decompress.

Prayer Family

Greg and Janet Nelson 13443 80th St SE Milnor, ND 58060

Cleaners

Nov. 23-29: Brian and Lindy Orn, Greg and Janet Nelson

FB Live for the Month of November

23rd Krista 30th Cindy

Ushers for the Month of November

23rd Grover 30th Ron

Pastor's Study Hours:

Monday: 8:30-noon

Tuesday: 8:30-noon, 1-3:30 pm

Wednesday: 8:30- 9 am, 10am-noon 1:00-3:30 pm

Thursday: Blessed Thanksgiving

Friday: Day Off

This Week in the Congregation of Zion

Today 9:15 am Sunday School

10:00 am Divine Service with Holy Communion

11:15 am Coffee Hour11:30 am Bible Study

Wed. 26th 9:00 am Bible Study

6 pm Thanksgiving Eve Vespers, Redeemer/Lisbon

Sun. 30th 9:15 am Sunday School

10:00 am Divine Service w/Holy Communion

11:15 am Coffee Hour11:30 am Bible Study

Attendance & Giving at Zion

Sunday, November 16

Worship Attendance: 56

Catechesis: 6

	F	Received	F	Received for	ſ	Monthly					0	ver/Under
Category	Last Week		November			Goal	YTD Received		YTD Needed		Goal	
General Fund	\$	3,415.00	\$	3,415.00	\$	13,124.83	\$ 1	117,603.23	\$13	33,267.54	\$	(15,664.31)
Misc. Income	\$	0.25	\$	0.25			\$	10.75				
Building Fund	\$	550.00	\$	550.00			\$	6,396.12				
Cemetery Fund							\$	1,000.00				
Memorial Fund												
Vehicle Fund												
ND Missions	\$	625.00	\$	625.00	\$	2,166.67	\$	17,321.00	\$ 2	22,000.00	\$	(4,679.00)
Mission of Month	\$	75.00	\$	75.00			\$	9,202.92				
Parking Lot							\$	2,284.00				

Zion's Income Goal: \$ 157,498.00 ND Mission Goal: \$ 26,000.00

Did you know.... We offer the convenience of electronic giving?

Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at www.ziongwinner.org
- 2) Click on the **Online Giving** tab at the top of the page,
- 3) Click on the Sign In/Sign Up button, then
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Prayer and Petitions

Nov. 23, 2025

Please let Pastor know if you want a request added or removed

Remembering Our Shut-Ins

Donna Olson and Martha Asche at Beverly Ann, Lisbon Iris Meyer and Corrine Haussler, at Forman Villas Teresa Rodahl at Four Seasons, Forman

Remembering Those Who Serve

Rick Gaden: National Guard

Nate Utecht: US Navy in Washington DC

Chris Mathias, Jason Asche, Bob Orn, Sam Helm: Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Mother with child

Anna (Greenmyer) Wang



THE FAITH ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent topics include: The

Hymnal as Devotional Resource, Why Christians Should Build Cathedrals, Late First-Century Bishop Clement of Rome, The Third Use of God's Law, and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

Advent suppers are being provided. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Please sign up to help provide and serve a meal of soup and sandwiches. The ladies of the LWML thank you.

Christmas decorating for the church has been scheduled for **Tues. Dec. 2nd at 10 am**. Many hands make the work go faster. A lunch will be provided.

Poinsettias can be purchased to help adorn the church and sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. Feel free to drop off any donated flowers, or money to purchase.

November 23: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) was a bold defender of the faith and wrote two of the most well-known hymns in the Lutheran tradition: Wake, Awake for Night is Flying (today's Hymn of the Day) and O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright. Many hymn writers wrote a multitude of hymns, of which a handful stood the test of time; but Nicolai only wrote these two hymns, and they received the monikers the King and Queen of the Lutheran Chorales, respectively. As you sing the King of the Lutheran Chorals today, focus on the joyous anticipation of the Church, pictured in the hymn as Jerusalem, virgins, and Zion, at the coming of the Bridegroom Jesus. -Rev. Mark Chepulis, North Dakota District President

Mining the Scriptures and Confessions

How does the Christian fulfill the law of God? Does he fulfill the law and please God on account of the law itself? If that were the case, what need would there be for faith? For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing (Romans 7:19). Herein lies the problem of relying on the flesh and its works of trying to fulfill the law. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out (Romans 7:18).

This is true when the flesh is relied upon. What happens when something else, or namely, someone else is trusted and relied upon? There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-2). Our Lutheran Confessions put it this way: Therefore, starting to fulfill the Law does not please on its own account, but on account of faith in Christ. Otherwise, the Law always accuses us. (AP V; par. 45-46; p. 108; Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord)

Who is the one whom the law does not accuse? The one who is in Christ Jesus, who receives His forgiveness in His word and sacraments in His church, who trusts Him for their justification. Otherwise, the law only accuses and condemns to eternal death, those who do not cling to Christ Jesus, to His word and sacraments, to His bride, the church. This is just the beginning of fulfilling the law, without which no can even begin to fulfill the law, no matter what works of his own flesh he presents to God.