Welcome to

# **Luther Memorial Church**

of the Erie Lutheran Parish



# 29 OCTOBER 2023 The Feast of the Ever-Reforming Church 10:30 am

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day todo this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106 REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor* 

WALT GABER

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN
Director of Care & Health Ministries
JAN MACINNES
Care Ministry
BETH KELLER & SARAH PRYLINSKI
Youth and Family Ministry
MICHELLE THOM
Academy Administrator

# 29 OCTOBER 2023 THE FEAST OF THE EVER-REFORMING CHURCH Holy Communion • ELW – The Deutsche Mass • 10:30

Luther Memorial Church and Academy is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people, people of the Six Nations Treaty, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

GATHERING - "The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God."

PRELUDE - "A Mighty Fortress"

Cor Kee, Teresa Wilhelmi, Kurt Kaiser

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Please stand as you are able and face the procession at the doors.

Augsburg Publishing House of Minneapolis requested the development of this hymn.

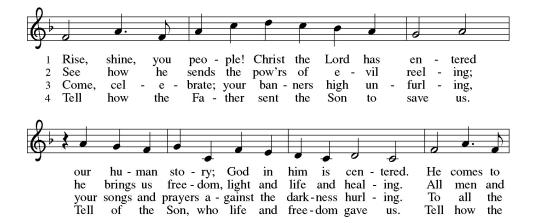
Text was written by a Lutheran academic who later moved to Madagascar to teach English.

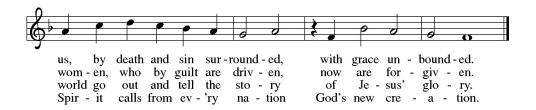
The tune is by a distinguished Lutheran musician, teacher, editor and composer.

The tune bears the composer's family name, lost early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century when an immigration official suggested it be changed.

# ENTRANCE HYMN ELW 655

# Rise, Shine, You People!





Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt. Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003 Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

# **GREETING**

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

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

God of promise, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill us with all truth and peace. Where we are corrupt, purify us; where we are in error, direct us; where in anything we are amiss, reform us; where we are right, strengthen us; where we are in need, provide for us; where we are divided, reunite us; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our chief cornerstone, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

# A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

WORD - "God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song."

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

# FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

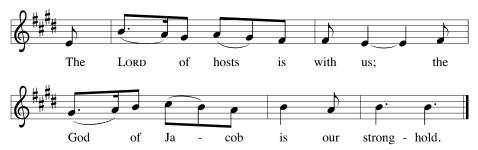
<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt— a covenant that they broke, though I was married to them, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

**☑** Thanks be to God.

# PSALM 46

**Refrain:** (Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by **R**.)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

<sup>3</sup> though its waters rage and foam,

and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;

God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup> The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;

God speaks, and the earth melts away. R

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;

he God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup> Come now, regard the works of the LORD,

what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

<sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  $\mathbf{R}$ 

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

# **SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For no human will be justified before God by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. This was to demonstrate God's righteousness, because in divine forbearance God had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to demonstrate at the present time God's own righteousness, so that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. <sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. ▶

Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

# **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

# God's Word Is Our Great Heritage



Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861–1925, alt. Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

- L The Holy Gospel according to John.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

# GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Judeans who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

- The Gospel of the Lord.
- **©** Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON Pastor Jay

Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.

In Pablo Sosa's vision, the church is likened to a tree planted by the river of life (Rev. 22:1-2).

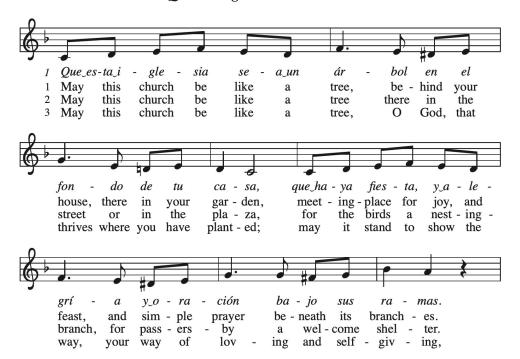
However, the vision need not be a distant one: God can make the church be like the tree of a childhood home—comforting, welcoming, and reassuring. The third stanza asks God to mold us into a church that gives freely of its fruit, shade, and wood for the sake of others.

An Argentinian Methodist pastor, composer, editor, and teacher, Sosa was very influential in theology, worship, and the church's song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS 1042

# May This Church Be like a Tree Que esta iglesia sea un árbol





Text: Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; tr. Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951 Music: QUE ESTA IGLESIA SEA UN ÁRBOL, Pablo D. Sosa Spanish text and music © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. English text © 2013 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Please be seated.

# AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM and RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Those making affirmation may gather with the ministers. They may be joined by others from the congregation.

- P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.
- L I present \_\_\_\_\_, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

**P** Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

# Amen.

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- I renounce them.

Please stand. The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the congregation.

- **P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- **G** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

  On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- **Q** 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.

# **AFFIRMATION**

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the congregation.

- People of God, do you promise to support these siblings and pray for them in their life in Christ?
- **2** We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

# **CONFIRMATION**

**P** Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Each confirmand kneels. As the presiding minister lays both hands on the hands of each confirmand, you may extend a hand in blessing. The presiding minister prays:

- P God our creator, for Jesus' sake, stir up in \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in her/his serving, give her/him patience in suffering, and bring her/him to everlasting life.
- C Amen.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Those making public affirmation stand and face the congregation. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

- Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.
- We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

  Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

The congregation offers acclamation with applause.

# THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (written by our confirmands)

- **A** Let us pray for the Church, the world, and those in need:
- Our Father, we pray for the Church that it grow in faith and number. We pray for bishops, pastors, deacons, and the whole people of God that we proclaim your good news in the world. Our Divine Intercessor,
- **G** hear our prayer.
- ⚠ We pray for all creation that you make us good stewards of your goodness. Our Divine Intercessor,
- **G** hear our prayer.
- A Give peace to the nations and their leaders, especially Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, and all places that need it. Our Divine Intercessor,
- **G** hear our prayer.
- A Help those in need: the poor, the needy, the underhoused and underemployed. Grant an abundance to our City Mission drive. Our Divine Intercessor,
- **G** hear our prayer.
- A Visit the sick and those who need wholeness especially Lois, Abbie, Dave, Ann, Pat, Phil, Rose-Marie, Jean, Jeannette, Ian, Carol, John, Jeff, Nick, Howie, Melissa, Jim, Allison, Audree, Melissa, Scot, Robin, Mark, Bonnie, Suzie, Doug, Jenine, Lisa, Brian, Scott, Cindy, Jane, Mitchell, Matt, Michael, Andrew, Alli, Ben and those whose names and needs we lift up now:\_\_\_\_. We pray for healthcare workers to have strength and perseverance to do their jobs. Raise up others who will bear another's burdens. Our Divine Intercessor,
- **G** hear our prayer.

- A Thank You, Holy One. We are thankful for those who have given us examples to follow; in particular Martin, Katie, Philipp, and all reformers of your Church. Keep us in the promises of baptism until we join them in the Church Triumphant. Our Divine Intercessor,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- All these prayers and whatever else you see that we need we offer from our hearts into Jesus' hands trusting in your mercy through the same, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

# THE PEACE

- **P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

MEAL - "God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ."

# THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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

arr. Roger Price

A mighty Fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; Our Helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. But still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great; and, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;

Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,

And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.

The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;

His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;

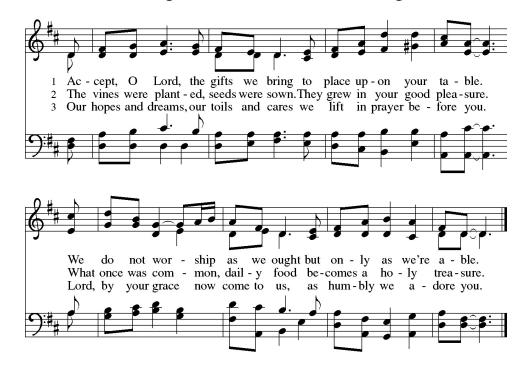
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Please stand as you are able.

# OFFERTORY ELW 691

# Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring

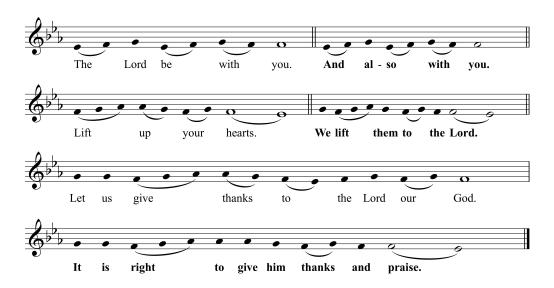


Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957 Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925 Text © 1990 and arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

# **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

- (A) God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

# GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG



# **PREFACE**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:



# **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

- P We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover, our keeper, our Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of Truth, for the universe beyond our knowing, for seas and forests and fields, for the waters of Wittenberg and for flowers in this place, for creatures seen and unseen, for animals both wild and tame, for our ancestors and godparents from around the globe, and for the places we humans call home, for cities and churches and schools, for seminaries and missions and fellowship halls.
- P We praise you for your covenant people, for Moses and Miriam and Aaron, for Jeremiah and the psalmists, and for centuries of faithful Christians, for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, for Luther, Melanchthon, Muhlenberg, and Fedde, for Katie Luther and Cranach, Bach and Nicolai, Nommensen and Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer and Hammarskjöld, for all servants of the Reformation.
- P We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and from evil, embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free,

who on the night before he died, took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

- P And so we remember your Word, his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection, his presence in this meal around the world, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
- **©** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P We pray, O God, for your Spirit, your breath, your fire, your wisdom, your law, your grace, your freedom. Bless this meal and all those who share it; inspire your people for service; continue the reformation of your churches; and renew the world with your mercy, with your healing, your justice, and your peace, with the joy of life in your household. We praise you, all-holy God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, mighty Fortress, victorious Champion, powerful Shield, today, tomorrow, and forever.



# **OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER**

- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- **G** 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.

# **AGNUS DEI**



# INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.
- P Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

The congregation is seated.

# SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

# **COMMUNION**

This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast! We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.

Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.

White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.

Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.

As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.

All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.

# HANDBELL VOLUNTARY – "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

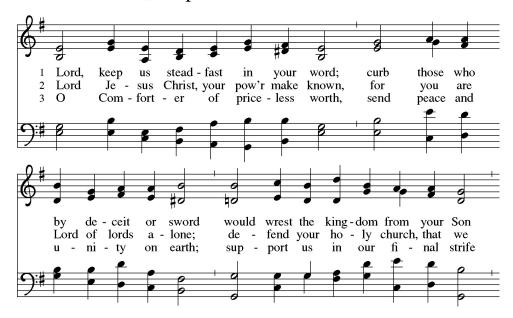
arr. Cathy Moklebust

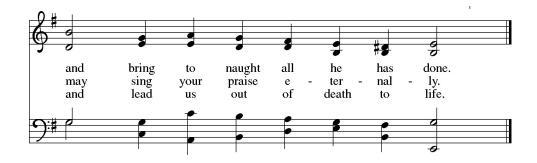
Martin Luther wrote the text of this hymn for a service offering prayers for Germany's protection from the Turkish army, then on the offensive in neighboring countries. The melody, believed also to be the work of Luther, was patterned after a 12<sup>th</sup> century plainsong. J. S. Bach based his Cantata 126 on this hymn.

# HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

**ELW 517** 

# Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word





Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

Martin Luther's theology of holy communion is taught simply and profoundly in this hymn, one of the earliest hymns of the Reformation. Luther's text was inspired by an earlier hymn by Jan Hus, an early reformer and leader in the movement that would become the Moravian Church. Singing theology is an important part of the Lutheran tradition. It has a unique ability to form and strengthen a body of believers. Assemblies sing centuries-old music like this not because older things somehow have more intrinsic value, but because they have something profound to teach us. The communion of saints sings to us through these hymns as we join in "thankful labor" as Christ's body in the world.

# **ACS 963**

# Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, after Jan Hus, c. 1369–1415; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, and Paul Westermeyer, b. 1940 Music: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, Hohenfurt, 1410; *Enrichidion*, Erfurt, 1524 Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

# **TABLE BLESSING**

- May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.
- **G** Amen.

# **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

**ELW 501** 

# Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus



Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891 Music: WERDE MUNTER, Johann Schop, 1600–1665; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750



# POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

# C Amen.

Please be seated.

SENDING - "God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world."

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

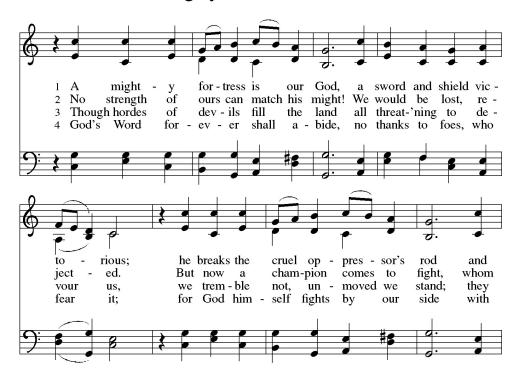
# **BLESSING**

- ...and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit be yours now and forever.
- C Amen.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

SENDING HYMN ELW 504

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God





Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

# DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

**A** Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** – "A Mighty Fortress"

J. G. Walther

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# SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

GREETER – Pat Young

CRUCIFER – Ely Cooney

ACOLYTES – Chloe Meucci, Jake O'Brien

BANNER BEARER – Carlo Cimino

STREAMER – Cecilia Montroy

ASSISTING MINISTER – Kate Martin

LECTORS – Carlo Cimino, Ely Cooney, Chloe Meucci, Jake O'Brien

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Carlo Cimino, Ely Cooney

ALTAR GUILD – Pam Masiroff

BREAD BAKER – Cathie Dugan

USHERS – Richelle Denning, Linda Graffius, Natalie Montero

**ት ት** ተ

**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents, Roberta and William Braendel, and our brothers, John and Robert by the Braendel family.

**Columbarium flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the Reformation and in loving memory of Pastor J. David Mumford, II and John Mumford, III by Mary Mumford.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Bill Kent, by Janet.

Rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of a baby boy born Tuesday, October 24, 2023 to Molly and Jonathan Gaber.

**Salvadoran artist** Christian Chavarria created a vibrant 2m-high cross for the joint Reformation commemoration, replete with meaning for both Catholics and Lutherans. Dirk Lange, seconded to the LWF as worship coordinator for the Twelfth Assembly and ecumenical commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, says the significance of the design lies in its depiction of God's creative and sanctifying work. The artist explains of the cross: "Despite their race, culture, skin color or age, they are together and invited to the table of the Lord." There is so much more meaning in the depictions on the cross. The themes of the joint document *Conflict to Communion* which was jointly penned by the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation are replete across the cross. For all the history, story, and meaning of the Salvadoran Cross, visit: lutheranworld.org/news/Salvadoran-cross.

**Thank you** to the **Mercyhurst Liturgical Dance Ensemble**, under the leadership of C. Noelle Partusch, for providing an extra visual component to our celebration of the Reformation during the 10:30 service this morning.

# **Today's Events**

**ELCA World Hunger** is able to reach communities in need by working with Lutheran congregations in the United States. As members of the ELCA we are called to help. This morning your gifts to ELCA World Hunger will help make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. Your donations may be placed in the offering plate marked "World Hunger". Thank you.

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

# Worship

**The Prelude** brings us together for the beginning of our worship service each Sunday morning. Our worship time together concludes when the Postlude is complete. We ask that the chancel area remain unoccupied during these times of music as live video streaming continues through the entire worship service. Thank you.

# Stewardship

The new church year ends on November 26, Christ the King Sunday. Our tradition at Luther Memorial has been to pause on that Sunday to consider our financial support of ministry for the coming year and to submit a commitment of our intention to do so. We urge you to complete a pledge card and return to church on or by November 26. Our worship service on that Sunday will include a prayer of dedication of all commitments. God has blessed Luther Memorial Church beyond measure and God rejoices in our promise to participate in God's mission through our worship offerings.

# Where Is Pastor Jay?

**Pastor Jay** would love to meet with you! You don't just need to have an emergency to have a great chat. If you want to get together, because Pastor Jay is often away from his desk doing other pastorly things, you should probably call the church office or e-mail Pastor Jay directly at <u>JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org</u>. However, if you just want to drop in on him, for the week of October 30, Pastor Jay's drop-in hours will be Monday from 9-10:30am at Pressed Coffee Shop (8<sup>th</sup> and Greengarden) OR Wednesday from 4-5:30 in the office.

# **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**OWLS** are getting a head start on Christmas on November 21 when Pastor Jay joins us and shares the history of Chrismons. We may even get a little creative and make one of our own. Join us from 11:00am – 1:00pm as we discover some interesting facts about the Chrismons we use to decorate our church trees. All are asked to bring a bag lunch. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes by Friday, November 17.

Magic Fingers Grace Group gathers in the parlor the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month for knitting and crocheting. We'll be meeting and visiting on November 14 and 28 from 10:00am-12:00 noon for a creative and fun morning. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**Cash Bingo** will be held Sunday, November 5. Doors open at 12:00 noon with Bingo beginning at 12:30pm. All games are cash prizes of \$50. Tickets are \$20 each and available on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the week. Proceeds will benefit our youth traveling to the National Youth Gathering in 2024.

# **Faith Formation**

**B.A.D.** (*Bible After Dark*) will be held on November 1 at 6:30pm at the Brewerie. Join together with folks from Mt. Calvary as we share in Bible Study and fellowship (with some adult beverages if you would like). Every <u>first</u> Wednesday, we will gather to share from *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups* and discussion of what these stories we learned in Sunday School still mean for us today. RSVP is not necessary but helpful. Let Pastor Jay or the church office know if you're interested.

**ALT Worship** (*A Lutheran Table*) will gather on November 8 at 5:30pm. The service will be about 60 minutes and center around sharing a meal. We will begin by preparing the meal and the worship space together and end with dessert and clean-up. All part of the worship experience. We will also share in Communion. Come on out for something new and a unique encounter with the Divine!

**Dinner With Our Flock,** a relaxed evening together, will be held on Wednesday, November 15. At 5:30 we gather for dinner; the main dish is provided, please bring a dish to share. A Bible lesson and a craft or activity will be held following our meal. Held the third Wednesday of the month, this is a wonderful time for everyone.

# St. Lucia Festival

**St. Lucia Festival** will be held Sunday, December 10 at 4:00pm in our main church. To make this a spectacular program three rehearsals will be held on the following Sundays at 11:45am; November 19, November 26 and December 3. Numerous roles are available for our young children and youth such as Lucia's Attendants, Baker Boys, Swedish Boys and Girls, Tomte and Narrators. Please contact Lynnette Gustafson, 814-464-3827; Cheryl Brown, 814-897-8118; Pat Bellingham, 814-528-5675; or the church office for more information.

# **Paving Project**

**Parking** has improved dramatically with the addition and improvements made over the last few weeks. We continue to ask for your financial support as our Capital Campaign moves forward. Additional commitments are needed as we look to fulfilling our financial goal. Your help and all that you do at Luther Memorial is appreciated; thank you.

# **Stump the Pastor**

**You will notice** a stand in the parlor lobby with many tree stumps on it. You (whoever you are of all ages) are invited to use these to try and stump Pastor Jay. You may ask your question anonymously or you can put your name on the stump. Either way, look for Pastor Jay's response once your stump "sprouts" a tree!

# **Holiday Goodies**

**Goodies** for Thanksgiving are available to order through Sunday, November 5. Pies, pepperoni balls, pastas and more will satisfy everyone coming to visit. Order forms are available at the hospitality tables. Guaranteed delicious from Stanganelli's. Checks are to be made payable to LYO; payment is due when order is placed. Pick-up will be on Sunday, November 19.

**Hamloaf** is back for Christmas and a variety of sausage flavors are available as well. Hamloaf is wonderful for an easy meal. Orders will be accepted through Sunday, December 3 with pick-up on Sunday, December 17. Keeping it local, Gahr's Hamloaf is located in Franklin, PA. Order forms are available at the hospitality tables and the church and school offices.

# **Community Outreach**

**Our youth** are gathering needed items which will be given to the City Mission as a Holiday Donation. Contributions will be accepted through Wednesday, November 15 and may be placed in the marked box located near the parlor. Items needed are: cough drops, hand sanitizer, tissue packs, toothbrushes, scarves, soap, shampoo conditioner, razors, socks, hats, gloves. Thank you.

Sisters of St. Joseph will be offering a Thanksgiving dinner by delivery only on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. There is no cost to receive a meal, although monetary donations are appreciated. Sit down and take-out meals will not be provided. To receive a meal, please call 814-836-4198 on Tuesday, November 14 from 9:00am – 12:00 noon. This will be the only day that reservations for meal delivery will be accepted.

# **Church Women United**

**World Community Day** began in 1943 as a day set aside for the study of peace and justice by church women worldwide. All women are invited to join us on Sunday, November 5 at 2:00pm at Lamb of God Lutheran Church, 606 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, as we welcome Kristy Mazza, a long time mentor with Urban University, as our guest speaker. She will describe this program and share the impact that she has seen on our Erie youth. All women are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

# **Items to Note**

In case of an emergency and unable to reach Pastor Jay, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.

**Daylight Saving Time** ends Sunday, November 5. Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 4.

### WEEKLY READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

October 30 – Psalm 119:41-48; Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25; James 2:8-13

**October 31 – The Ever-Reforming Church** – By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free. -- Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

November 1 – The Feast of All the Saints – The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year. -- Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; I John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 2 – Commemoration of the Faithful Departed -- It is appropriate the day after the celebration of the festival of All Saints, to remember those who, while no less members of the body of the redeemed in Christ, are unknown to the wider fellowship of the faithful. They are still members of the mystical Body of Christ and still held in love by the living; death does not break the communion. Remembering d fulfills the natural instincts of human hearts and binds together the whole family of Christ on earth and in paradise. — Wisdom 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 130; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 6:51-58

**November 3 – Martin de Porres, Renewer of Soceity, 1639 –** *Martin was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed Black woman from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs. – Micah 6:6-8; Psalm 9:1-10; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Luke 6:20-31* 

**November 4** – Psalm 43:; Malachi 1:6-2:9; Matthew 23:13-28

# - PRAYER LIST -

Our Members:					
Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Ann Flick	Rose-Marie Rose		
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon	Pat Gilbert	Phil McAfee			
	Friends an	d Family:			
Mitchell & family	Jean C.	Jeannette Bowers	Ian Minner		
Carol E.	John Semonis	Jeff Granger & family	Nick		
Howie	Melissa	Jim Berger	Jane Rose		
Allison, Audree & family	Melissa Pierce	Scot & Robin	Mark Hadzega		
Cindy B.	Scott Coleman	Bonnie Ford	Suzie Hosterman		
Doug & Jenine	Doug Blum				
	Our Military Servi	ce Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner		Alli Brown		
Ben Dixon					

We Congratulate our youth on their confirmation this morning. They have gathered each Sunday since September 17 to prepare for their confirmation. They have studied The Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther, Communion and Baptism.

Carlo Cimino

### **Meet Our Confirmation Students**

Carlo's favorite Bible verse: Hebrews 12:1

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer"

SCHOOL: Fairview High School

FAVORITE ACTIVITY: Hang out with friends

FAVORITE LUTHER MEMORIAL MEMORY: Super Wednesdays with Nanny

FUTURE PLANS: Pursue excellence in whatever path I decide to take



Ely's favorite Bible verse: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

SCHOOL: Cathedral Preparatory School FAVORITE ACTIVITY: Play water polo

FAVORITE LUTHER MEMORIAL MEMORY: Receiving his third grade Bible FUTURE PLANS: Attend college and purse a career in the medical field





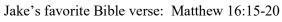
Chloe's favorite Bible verse: Matthew 7:1 "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged."

SCHOOL: Cathedral Preparatory School

FAVORITE ACTIVITY: Work out

FAVORITE LUTHER MEMORIAL MEMORY: Camp Lutherlyn FUTURE PLANS: Forensic psychologist or a veterinarian

Chloe Meucci





<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SCHOOL: Mercyhurst Prep

Jake O'Brien

FAVORITE ACTIVITY: Hang out with friends

FAVORITE LUTHER MEMORIAL MEMORY: First Holy Communion

FUTURE PLANS: Unsure at this time

# CALENDAR

# MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31** 

6:30pm Bible After Dark (Brewerie) WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 1:00pm Grief Support Group 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 11:30am LMA Dismissal 1:00pm SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 **Anniversary Gathering** 

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Worship with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

**Bibles** will be presented to our third grade children during the 10:30am service.

Cash Bingo will be held beginning at 12:30pm; doors open at 12:00 noon.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023 ASSISTING IN WORSHIP				
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Pam Masiroff		
	10:30am	Stan Rose		
Communion Assistant	10:30am			
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer		
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp		
Greeter	8:15am	Mike Hedlund		
	10:30am			
Video Streaming	10:30am	Gina Snider		
Counters	10:30am	Dave Kinzig, Natalie Montero		