

**Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**

**Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

## **Welcome to Mt. Olive**

From all of us at Mt. Olive, welcome to worship. We are so glad that you have joined us today.

### **A Few Notes Before Worship**

- Restrooms are located in the entryway
- We love having children in worship! We realize that can sometimes be challenging. If your child becomes restless, the fellowship hall or the library (across from the restrooms) are great places to regroup.
- Baby changing stations are located in every restroom
- You are our guest. If there is something else we can help you with, please let an usher know. They will be happy to assist.
- Finally, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this worship folder or as noted in the blue hymnal located in your pew.

### **Assistive Listening System Available**

Our assistive listening system is available with the use of the free app, Listen EVERYWHERE (available for both Android and Apple devices). If you are interested in using Mt. Olive's assistive listening system, please pick up an informational card on the table in the entryway or ask an usher for assistance.

### **Rethinking Real Strength**

Most religions believe in a powerful God. It is assumed that God will use that strength for the benefit of his followers. That is a reasonable assumption, but it begs the question. What is real strength? It is easy to assume that real strength means exerting your will over another by using any means necessary, including force. But this week we see Jesus Christ demonstrate a different kind of strength.

We have come to Holy Week. It begins with Jesus humbly riding a donkey colt straight into the hands of his enemies. As the week progresses, it will appear that Christ's adversaries are the ones in a position of power and Jesus is in a position of weakness. Yet what Christ does this holy week—setting his divine strength aside, being passive in the face of death—would change the world. To do what Christ did for us and our salvation took real strength.

### **A Prayer Before Worship**

Dear Lord, I thank you for giving me this opportunity today to gather together with fellow believers to join in worship and praise. May my worship and meditation this day be pleasing in Your sight and be deserving of Your honor. Amen.

# Palm Sunday Procession with Palms

*Those processing gather in a convenient location and receive palm branches or fronds. The minister may begin the service at the entry of the nave and lead the procession. In this case he invites the congregation to stand and face the entrance to the nave.*

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## Confession

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**the maker of heaven and earth.**

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**Almighty God, merciful Father,**

**I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.**

**In what I have done and left undone,**

**I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.**

**I have not loved others as you command.**

**For this I deserve your punishment now and forever.**

**I am sorry for my sins.**

**I repent of them.**

**I beg for your mercy.**

## Absolution

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

**Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, during the weeks of Lent we have been preparing to commemorate our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. Today we come together to begin the solemn journey of Holy Week. Christ entered in triumph into his own city to complete his work as our Savior and to gain for us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We follow him in faith and praise him with joy.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest!**



## Reading

*Matthew 21:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup>“Say to Daughter Zion,  
“See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup>The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Let us pray.

God our Father, we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed as a king by those who shouted “Hosanna” and spread their clothing and palm branches in his path. Accept our praise and listen to our prayers as we rejoice in our triumphant King, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**


Let us go forth in peace,  
**in the name of the Lord.**

The procession begins. During the procession, the hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" is sung.


## Hymn

## 412 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, Re-deem - er, King,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring.



1 You are the King of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing you on high,  
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore you went;  
4 To you be - fore your pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
5 As you re - ceived their prais - es, ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, our good and gra - cious King.

*Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Theodulph of Orleans, c. 762–821*

*Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

**Be seated**

## Reading

*Zechariah 9:9–12*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>I will take away the chariots from Ephraim

and the warhorses from Jerusalem,

and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope;

even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

*Hebrews 12:1–3*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

The Word of the Lord.

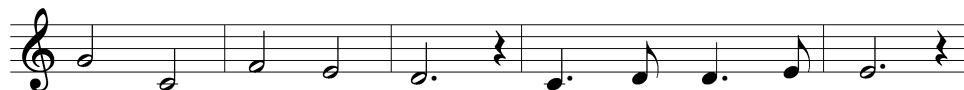
**Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn of the Day

## 423 *The Power of the Cross* sts. 1, Ref, 2-4, *Final Refrain*



1 Oh, to see the dawn of the dark - est day: Christ on the  
2 Oh, to see the pain writ - ten on your face, bear - ing the  
3 Now the day - light flees; now the ground be - neath quakes as its



road to Cal - va - ry. Tried by sin - ful men,  
awe - some weight of sin. Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought,  
mak - er bows his head. Cur - tain torn in two,



torn and beat - en, then nailed to a cross of wood.  
ev - 'ry e - vil deed crown - ing your blood - stained brow.  
dead are raised to life; "Fin - ished!" the vic - t'ry cry.



1-3 This the pow'r of the cross: Christ be-



came sin for us. Took the blame,



bore the wrath; we stand for - giv - en at the cross.

4 Oh, to see my name  
written in the wounds,  
for through your suff'ring I am free.  
Death is crushed to death;  
life is mine to live,  
won through your selfless love!  
(Final Refrain)

### Final Refrain

This the pow'r of the cross:  
Son of God—slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost!  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

*Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974*

*Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974*

*Text and tune: © 2005 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541*



# The History of our Lord's Passion

## The Gospel of Mark

*Mark 14-15*

<sup>1</sup>Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. <sup>2</sup>“But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

<sup>3</sup>While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

<sup>4</sup>Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup>It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

<sup>6</sup>“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup>The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. <sup>9</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup>They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

<sup>12</sup>On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

<sup>13</sup>So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. <sup>14</sup>Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ <sup>15</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

<sup>16</sup>The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>17</sup>When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. <sup>18</sup>While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

<sup>19</sup>They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don’t mean me?”

<sup>20</sup>“It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup>The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

<sup>23</sup>Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

<sup>24</sup>“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. <sup>25</sup>“Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

<sup>26</sup>When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>27</sup>“You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written:

“ ‘I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep will be scattered.’

<sup>28</sup>But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

<sup>29</sup>Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

<sup>30</sup>“Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

<sup>31</sup>But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

<sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”

<sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

<sup>35</sup>Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

<sup>37</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>39</sup>Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup>Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

<sup>43</sup>Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

<sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” <sup>45</sup>Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. <sup>46</sup>The men seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>47</sup>Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>48</sup>“Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup>Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” <sup>50</sup>Then everyone deserted him and fled.

<sup>51</sup>A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, <sup>52</sup>he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

<sup>53</sup>They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. <sup>54</sup>Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

<sup>55</sup>The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. <sup>56</sup>Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

<sup>57</sup>Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: <sup>58</sup>“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” <sup>59</sup>Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

<sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

<sup>62</sup>“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

<sup>63</sup>The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. <sup>64</sup>“You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. <sup>65</sup>Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

<sup>66</sup>While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup>When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

“You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

<sup>68</sup>But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.

<sup>69</sup>When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” <sup>70</sup>Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

<sup>71</sup>He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”

<sup>72</sup>Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

<sup>1</sup>Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

<sup>2</sup>“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

<sup>3</sup>The chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

<sup>5</sup>But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. <sup>7</sup>A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. <sup>8</sup>The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

<sup>9</sup>“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, <sup>10</sup>knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

<sup>12</sup>“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

<sup>13</sup>“Crucify him!” they shouted.

<sup>14</sup>“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

<sup>15</sup>Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. <sup>17</sup>They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup>Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. <sup>20</sup>And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. <sup>22</sup>They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). <sup>23</sup>Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>The written notice of the charge against him read: The King of the Jews.

<sup>27</sup>They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup>come down from the cross and save yourself!” <sup>31</sup>In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! <sup>32</sup>Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

<sup>33</sup>At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

<sup>35</sup>When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

<sup>36</sup>Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

<sup>37</sup>With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

<sup>38</sup>The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

<sup>40</sup>Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <sup>41</sup>In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

<sup>42</sup>It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, <sup>43</sup>Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. <sup>44</sup>Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup>When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

## God's Word In Our Lives

### Rethinking Real Strength

*Hebrews 12:1–3*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**Rethinking  
Religion**

# Welcome!

## Worship Registers

*We're so glad you could join us for worship today and would love to have a record of your visit!*

*Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!*

*Use the QR Code below for an online worship register*



# Confirmation

*The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:*

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven. I now ask each of you:

Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshiping with you today?

**I am.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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



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

**Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**I do reject him.**

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

**I do.**

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

**I do.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

*The pastor speaks to the congregation:*

Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

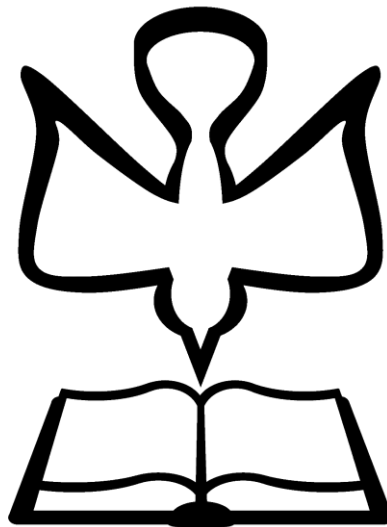
Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



## Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom

and the power and the glory

forever and ever. Amen.

*The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:*

I now invite each of you to come forward to receive a blessing from the Lord and a word of encouragement from the Scriptures.

*Those being confirmed may approach the altar in turn and may kneel. The minister may lay his hand on the head of each and speak one of the following blessings. A passage from the Scriptures may also be read.*

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your heart and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

The Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, renew and increase in you the gift of the Holy Spirit for your strengthening in faith, your growth in grace, your patience in suffering, and for the blessed hope of eternal life.

The God of peace sanctify you through and through and keep you blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The minister says:*

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

*Those who have been confirmed may be seated.*

# Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

# Hymn

*707 Cling Tightly to the Word of God*



1 Cling tight - ly to the Word of God and Christ's dis -  
2 Re - - call in faith the pre - cious gift of your bap -  
3 For just as God raised up his Son from death by  
4 Be strong! Stand firm! Come, walk the path that saints be -



ci - ple be, for then, be - lov - ed, you will know the  
tis - mal day, when you were joined to Je - sus' death that  
his great might, so too, in Christ, we now may live as  
fore you trod, with read - y feet to bring good news of



truth that sets you free, the truth that sets you free.  
washed your sins a - way, that washed your sins a - way.  
chil - dren of the light, as chil - dren of the light.  
Christ, the peace of God, of Christ, the peace of God.

5 Know that his body and his blood  
will feed your hungry soul  
like manna in life's wilderness,  
until you reach your goal,  
until you reach your goal.

6 Now fix your eyes on Jesus Christ;  
“Come, follow me,” says he.  
“Deny yourself, take up your cross;  
come, lose your life for me,  
come, lose your life for me.”

*Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955*

*Tune: Amanda Husberg, 1940–2021*

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