

## Announcements

***We Are the Church Together and Apart*** | 2021 Stewardship Appeal

**Gathering Hymn** | *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* ELW 504

*A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.*

*No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son adored. He holds the field victorious.*

*Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgement will prevail! One little word subdues him.*

*God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!*

## Confession + Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

**Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgement on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your

sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

### **Greeting**

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**

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

### **First Reading | Romans 3:19-28**

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. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

### **\*Gospel Reading | John 8:31-36**

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 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?’”

Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

### **Sermon**

## Hymn of the Day | *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

ELW 517

*Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise eternally.*

*O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.*

## Apostles' Creed

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

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.

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

## \*Prayers of Intercession

... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## \*Lord's Prayer

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

## \*Final Blessing

For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us, **thanks be to God!**

For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us, **thanks be to God!**

For all the Spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us, **thanks be to God!**

The blessing of God, Father, Son, and + Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sending Hymn | Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone**

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, Was blind, but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed*

[Chorus]

*My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy rains, unending love, amazing grace*

*The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures*

[Chorus]

*The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below will be forever mine*

[Chorus]

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Welcome to worship, we are glad you are here! Thank you for following the required health and safety guidelines.

***Congratulations*** to our youth who will be confirmed at a special service today at 11:30am. These young folks have worked hard, and waited a little longer for this very special day in their

faith journey. Please hold the following students in prayer as they reach this important milestone: Jordyn Berg, Dylan Hollom, Delanie Lobatos, Adam Schley, Riley Thelemann, and Sami Tiede.

There will be a *county-wide food distribution* this Wednesday, October 28th from 4:00 - 5:30pm at the Le Sueur County Fairgrounds.

Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic will be held Monday, October 26th 1-5 pm at the Le Center Ambulance Hall. Anyone 8 years and older is eligible for the vaccine.