



# Trinity 19

Grace Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

*"But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home."*

**Matthew 9:6**

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

[gordongrace.org](http://gordongrace.org) & [facebook.com/gracelutherangordon](https://facebook.com/gracelutherangordon)

Rev. Travis Sherman  
office@[gordongrace.org](mailto:gordongrace.org)  
Bible Classes: 9:00 A.M.  
Worship 10:00 A.M.



Date: Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
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Cell: 970-381-1670

**WELCOME!** We welcome our guests and visitors this morning and pray that your worship with us will be meaningful, blessed, and especially Christ-centered. We hope that you will worship with us again soon! If you do not have a church home, we invite you to consider making Grace Lutheran your church home.

**IN THE INTEREST of good pastoral care, Grace Lutheran Church practices close communion.** We believe, teach and confess that the one Holy Apostolic Christian Church throughout history and Holy Scripture teach that those who commune together should be one in faith and doctrine. For this reason, we reserve Holy Communion for those who are confirmed members of Grace Lutheran Church, and for confirmed members in good standing of sister LC-MS congregations. We respectfully ask those who are members of other church bodies to commune at the altar of their church, in accordance with their public confessions and under the care of their pastor.

## **THOSE who serve us:**

Elder.....  
Altar..... Piano/Organ...Kay Kruger  
Flowers ..... Courtesy.....  
Greeters.....  
Ushers .....  
Church Cleaner .....Lisa Johnson  
Church Secretary.....Leah Sherman  
Little Lambs Preschool Teacher .....Deb Evans

**REMEMBER in your prayers:** Jan Flueckinger, DeOnna Anderson, Bob Mills, Jim Kamerzell, Edna Schaer, Kristy Winter, Wynn Coon, Bonnie and Leonard Harris, Korbin Sommerville, Allison Judy, Joanie Burleigh, Sherry Rhoadarmer

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**We rejoice to be back in the house of the LORD!** What a blessing to be able to gather under the same roof, hear God's Word, receive His gifts, pray and sing His praises together.

At the same time, we will still take a few common sense precautions in an attempt to keep one another and our community healthy. Here at church, those precautions include the following things: 1) there will be no passing of the offering plate; 2) distribution of the Sacrament will be done individually; 3) when lining up for communion, we ask you to line up one family group at a time; 4) the communion vessels have been prepared in a sanitized environment, and arranged in a way that seeks to avoid cross-contamination.

This is something we are dealing with in our community and our congregation. We need to watch out for each other, help one another to care for our bodies and lives, encourage one another with the hope we have in Jesus' victory over death, and pray for ourselves and others that God would continue to lead and guide us.

## **NEXT SUNDAY IS OUR VOTERS' MEETING AND REFORMATION STEW!**

We still need people willing to serve as an elder, or on the board of trustees, and the board of education. We also need to elect a delegate to the Wyoming District Convention next May.

**Reformation Stew will go on as in years past, with a few minor changes due to the new directed health measures.**

**Our October mission project:** the Lutheran Women's Missionary League

## **STEWARDSHIP:**

**Matt. 21:43 – "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits."** The Pharisees were not bearing fruit. They were faithful to the letter of the Law in keeping the Sabbath, tithing, and all the rest, but they neglected the heart of God's will. The grace of God belongs at the center. Our giving and all our other good works flow forth from receiving God's grace and living in that grace on a daily basis.

**Budget for 2020: \$123,485**

**As of October 17<sup>th</sup>, we have received \$90,617.12**

**Special Offerings: Little Lambs \$38; LWML \$55; Odessa Elwood Memorial \$725**



**Hymn of Invocation: 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be**



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Tune and text: Public domain

*Please stand, as you are able*

*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.

*[Matthew 28:19]*



I will open my mouth in a | parable;\*

I will utter dark sayings | from of old,  
things that we have | heard and known,\*  
that our fathers have | told us.

We will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, | and  
his might,\*

and the wonders that | he has done.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*

and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Say to my soul, "I am your sal- | vation!"\*

When the righteous cry for help, the | LORD hears.

[The Lord] saved him out of all his | troubles;\*

this is God, our God forever and | ever.

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*

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

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep from us all things that may hurt us that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever You would have us do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading Jacob's Dream

*Genesis 28:10–17*

<sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! <sup>13</sup>And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. <sup>14</sup>Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup>Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



## **Gradual**    *Psalm 141:1–2*

O LORD, I call upon you; hasten | to me!\*

Give ear to my voice when I | call to you!

**Let my prayer be counted as incense be- | fore you,\*  
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening | sacrifice!**

## **Epistle**

*Ephesians 4:22–28*

<sup>22</sup>Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup>and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup>Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup>Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.    **C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## **Alleluia and Verse**

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 9:1–8*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

### **Jesus Heals a Paralytic**

<sup>1</sup>Getting into a boat [Jesus] crossed over and came to his own city. <sup>2</sup>And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” <sup>3</sup>And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” <sup>4</sup>But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup>For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk?’ <sup>6</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on

earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.”<sup>7</sup> And he rose and went home. <sup>8</sup>When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and  
invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all  
worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the  
Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our  
salvation came down from  
heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy  
Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us  
under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the  
Father.

And He will come again with  
glory to judge both the living  
and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no  
end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father  
and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

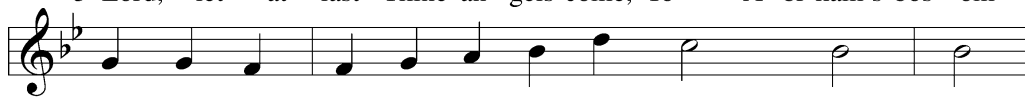
And I believe in one holy  
Christian and apostolic  
Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for  
the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of  
the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to  
come. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day: 708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from  
2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun-ty gave My bod - y, soul, and  
3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om



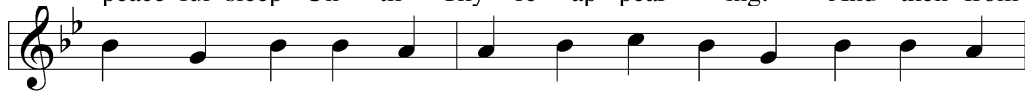
me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer - me. Earth  
all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,  
bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And



has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were  
grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy  
in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in



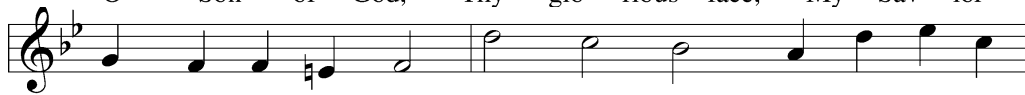
void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my  
lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false  
peace-ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from



heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.  
doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.  
death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious  
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my  
O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -



Lord, my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust Thy Word.  
Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy com - fort still af - ford.  
tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

## Sermon

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **C** Amen.

*Philippians 4:7*

## Offertory

*Psalm 51:10-12*



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

**[Offering at the back of church]** *[1 Cor. 9:14; Gal. 6:6-7; 1 Tim. 5:17-18]*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have given Your Church the authority on earth to forgive sins. Grant that we may always rejoice to receive the forgiveness announced and delivered by those men who have been called and ordained to serve in Christ's stead and by His

command, and, having been forgiven, give us hearts that are quick to forgive others. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty God, our Savior sent forth His Church to the ends of the earth to proclaim the Good News of salvation in Him. Continue to send workers into Your vineyard, and give us willing and generous hearts to support the preaching of Your Word in our community and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

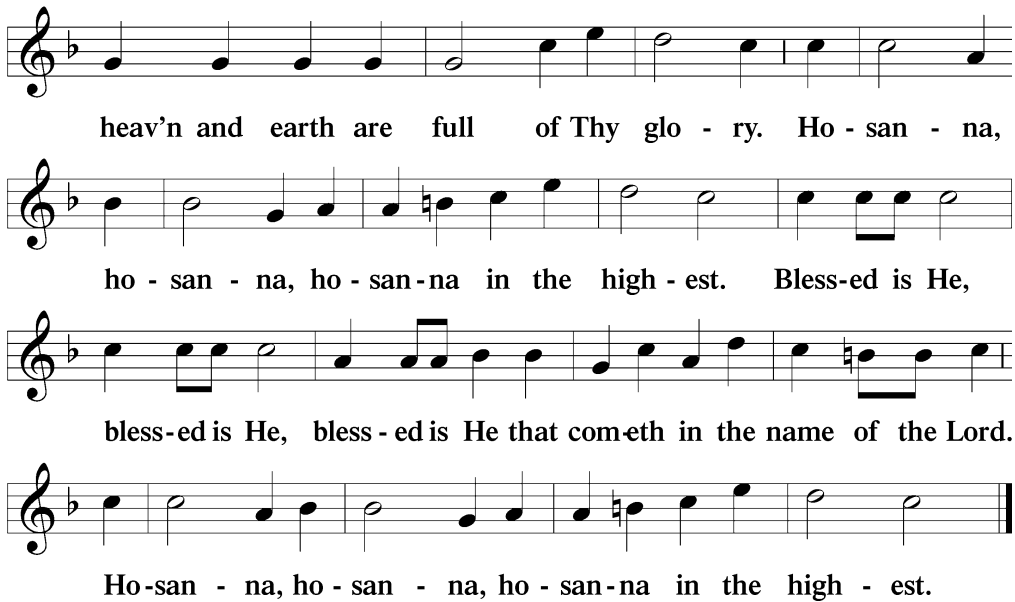
**P** Merciful Lord, You blessed Jacob with offspring as numerous as the dust of the earth. Give comfort to those who long for children but are unable to conceive. May they find in the Church a family to love and cherish. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Gracious Father, in the waters of Baptism, You rescued us from our fallen condition and adopted us as Your own children. Guide those who are seeking to adopt children of their own, that they may be a model of Your love, and give them patience and endurance as they work through the adoption process. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty God, we beg You, grant wisdom to all those whom You have placed in temporal authority, both in this country and throughout the world. Renew their diligence, that they would use their offices to serve their fellow citizens with justice and compassion. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Eternal Father, as the paralytic was brought to Your Son, Jesus, so, too, we bring before You in prayer all those suffering in any physical and mental anguish [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. According to Your will, grant them healing in this life, and give them faithful friends who will proclaim to them the forgiveness of their sins, so that they would face the trials of this life confident in Your love for them. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**





heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be Thy name,  
 Thy kingdom come,  
 Thy will be done on earth as it  
 is in heaven;  
 give us this day our daily  
 bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses
- as we forgive those who  
 trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into  
 temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom and  
 the power and the glory  
 forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20;  
 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- 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  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do  
 in remembrance of Me."

**P** 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.”

### **Pax Domini**

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** **Amen.**

### **Agnus Dei**

*John 1:29*

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. **Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Distribution**

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins. **Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins. **Amen.**

*We ask all who desire to receive communion to please read the communion statement at the front of the bulletin. For those approaching the Lord’s Table this day, we ask you to come individually or by family group.*

*Following Communion, the following is said:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** **Amen.**



## Distribution Hymn: 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and  
 2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could  
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had  
 4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They  
 ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For  
 giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And  
 ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus  
 man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those  
 by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a  
 guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the  
 pure de - sires The spir - it of the  
 mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred  
 poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.  
 Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.  
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.  
 guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.

5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled  
 Or we must die despairing,  
 Christ came and has God's anger  
 stilled,  
 Our human nature sharing.

He has for us the Law obeyed  
 And thus the Father's vengeance  
 stayed  
 Which over us impended.

6 Since Christ has full atonement  
made  
And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be  
glad  
And build on this foundation.  
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I  
plead,  
Your death is now my life indeed,  
For You have paid my ransom.

7 Let me not doubt, but truly see  
Your Word cannot be broken;  
Your call rings out, "Come unto  
Me!"  
No falsehood have You spoken.  
Baptized into Your precious name,  
My faith cannot be put to shame,  
And I shall never perish.

8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin  
And makes us conscience-stricken;  
But then the Gospel enters in  
The sinful soul to quicken.  
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and  
live;  
The Law no peace can ever give,  
No comfort and no blessing.

9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone  
And rests in Him unceasing;  
And by its fruits true faith is known,  
With love and hope increasing.  
For faith alone can justify;  
Works serve our neighbor and  
supply  
The proof that faith is living.

△10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise  
To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by His grace;  
All glory to His merit.  
O triune God in heav'n above,  
You have revealed Your saving love;  
Your blessèd name we hallow.

### Distribution Hymn: 814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join  
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie  
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;  
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



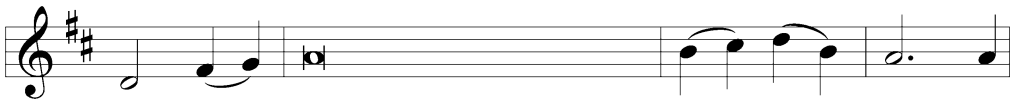
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.  
 For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!  
 'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.  
 He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good; 6 His wondrous works and ways  
 He gives the sufferers rest. He made by Moses known,  
 The Lord hath judgments for But sent the world His truth  
 the proud and grace  
 And justice for th'oppressed. By His belovèd Son.

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*Luke 2:29-32*



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



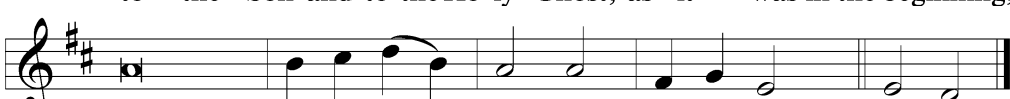
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

*Psalm 107:1*

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

**A** 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. **C** Amen.

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spirit. *2 Timothy 4:22*

## Benedicamus

*[Psalm 103:1]*

**A** Bless we the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen, amen, amen.

## Hymn to Depart: 797 Praise the Almighty



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!  
2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;  
3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er  
4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,  
△ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and  
Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their  
Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -  
Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the  
Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as  
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark  
 va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in  
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful  
 be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and  
 grave en - gulf's its prey. Since mor - tals can no  
 hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in  
 God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren  
 heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.  
 help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.  
 Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.  
 in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.  
 an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service III from Lutheran Service Book

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## Mites for Missions

Next Sunday we will be collecting the LWML mite boxes. Please join us in making these offerings of thanksgiving to the Lord! Based on the Bible account of the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-43), the Mite Boxes are intended for the regular contribution of our "mites"—offerings above and beyond what we normally give to support our congregation and synod. Since 1942, the LWM has collected over **127 million dollars**. These coins continue to make a difference around the world. Thank you for contributing to the Mite Box and providing the opportunity for us to spread the Gospel to the world.

**A Bible Study on the Book of Revelation** has begun. Many things about this year have put the book of Revelation on people's minds. Maybe you've seen a YouTube video or a Facebook meme that talks about it. So what is the book all about? Who are the four horsemen, what is the mark of the beast, what is an anti-Christ? We'll explore these questions, focusing on the glorious victory of Jesus and the comforting promises He makes throughout Revelation. **We will meet on Sunday mornings at 9am in the Fellowship Hall.**

## Loving God with all our heart, mind, strength and life, and our neighbor as ourself.

One of the issues on the ballot has to do with the introduction of legalized gambling to Nebraska. Before you vote, consider the issue at hand according to the word of your God and the well-being of your neighbor.



Here are six things to consider:

### 1. Gambling encourages the sins of greed and covetousness.

*The New Testament warns against trusting in riches and against thinking the meaning of life is getting more money. Luke 12:15; Romans 1:23-25; Colossians 3:5; Romans 1:29; 1 Timothy 6:9-10. Gambling teaches us to grasp for our neighbor's wealth, in violation of the ninth and tenth commandments.*

### 2. Gambling promotes the mismanagement of the possessions God entrusts to us.

*God gives us our money and possessions in order to care for the needs of our life, as well as that of our family. He also regularly asks us to use them for the good of our community and the needy in our midst. Luke 12:1; Matthew 22:37-39 Gambling, by the very nature of the games almost always leads to the squandering of the gifts that God provides. Gambling teaches us to rely on luck and chance, rather than our heavenly Father who works all things for our good. Romans 8:28.*

### **3. Gambling undermines our absolute reliance on God for His provision.**

*The whole point of gambling is “hitting the jackpot” and hoping for a future windfall. This teaches us to be discontented with our present conditions, and God’s Word says this is a failure to keep the First Commandment. Hebrews 13:4; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; Philippians 4:10-13.*

### **4. Gambling works at cross purposes with a commitment to productive work.**

*God calls us to fruitful work. The Bible says that we are not to be slothful or lazy. Proverbs 10:26; 19:24; 21:25; 22:13; 26:14; Ecclesiastes 10:18. Idleness brings poverty to the lazy person (Proverbs 6:6-11) and robs our neighbors of the help they should be able to expect from us. Fruitful and diligent work is a sign that we care about the good of others. Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:11; Titus 3:1; 1 Corinthians 4:12. Gambling promises financial reward without work, and tempts people to laziness and neglecting work. It places financial strains on families and communities.*

### **5. Gambling is a potentially addictive behavior.**

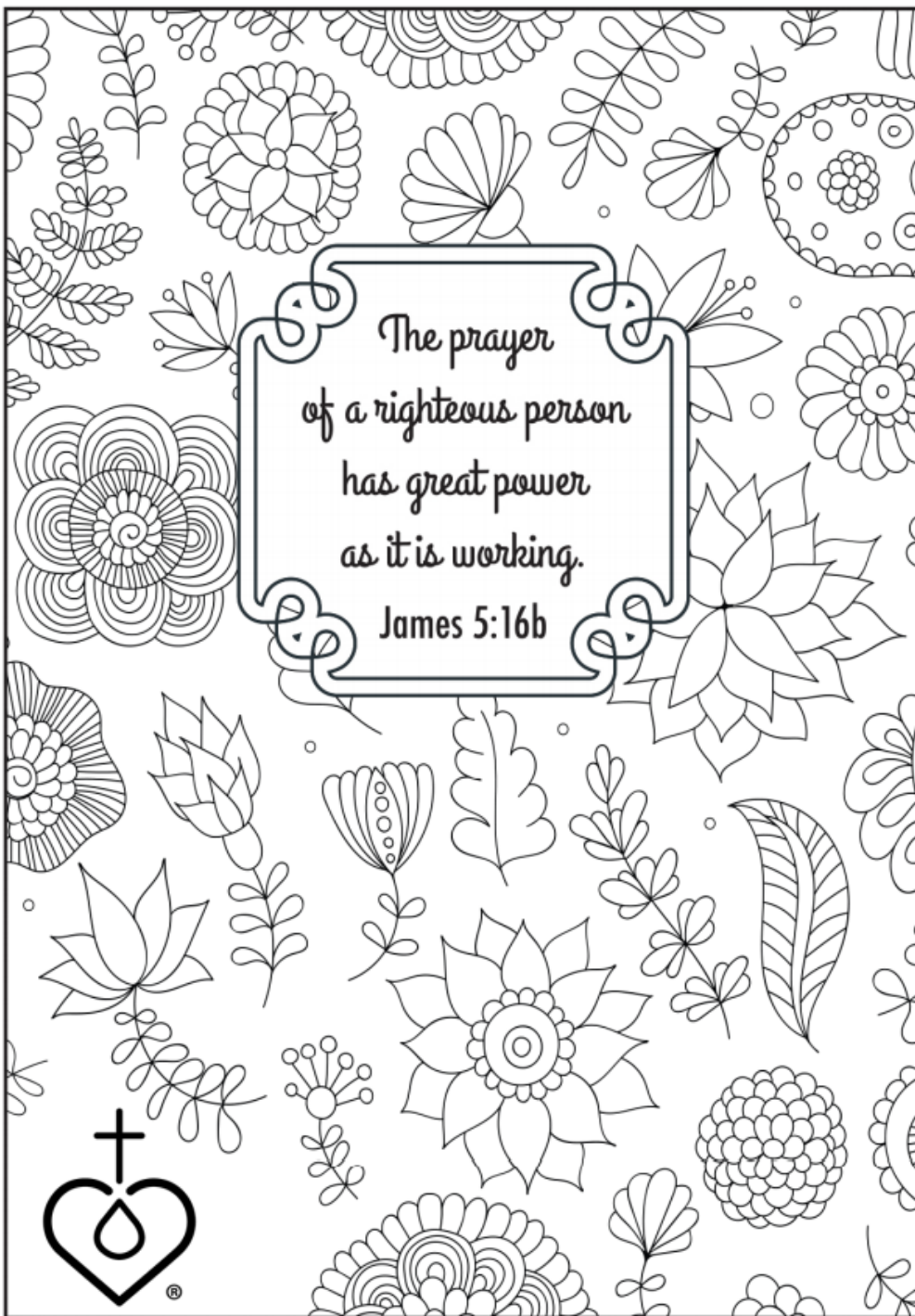
*Greed has the potential to bring a person under ungodly and demonic influence. That is, a person’s life becomes about serving the god “mammon” rather than the One, True God (Matthew 6:24). We usually call this state of being “addiction.” Not everyone who gambles has this happen, but the danger is very real.*

### **6. Gambling threatens the well-being of our neighbor and fights against the common good of our communities.**

*Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. He warns us that temptations must come, but says “woe to the one through whom they come.” When we consider the spiritual problems that gambling brings, along with the problems of bankruptcies, fraud, embezzlement, debt, organized crime, drugs, prostitution, corruption, etc., that gambling brings with it, we see what great stumbling blocks we would set before our neighbor.*

Let us weigh these considerations and then as St. Paul enjoins us “look carefully how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise...because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16).

*Adapted from the LCMS report “Gambling,” CTCR, 1996.*



The prayer  
of a righteous person  
has great power  
as it is working.

James 5:16b

