

# *Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church*

## *The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

**A BIBLICAL, CONFESSIONAL AND TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION IN THE  
CHICAGO REGION COMMITTED TO MINISTERING TO SINNERS  
WITH THE FORGIVING PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

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## THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 16, 2020

✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

Setting 3



**A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME** to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called "Divine Service" - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

By her persistent prayer that Jesus would have mercy and help her (Matt. 15:22, 24), and even in the face of His initial silence and apparent rejection (Matt. 15:23–26), the Canaanite woman boldly confessed her faith in Him (Matt. 15:27–28). Her beautiful example encourages us to cling to the words and promises of the Gospel, even in the face of the Law that accuses and condemns us. *“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable”* (Rom. 11:29), and His Law *“has consigned all to disobedience”* for the very purpose *“that he may have mercy on all”* (Rom. 11:32). Hence, the woman’s faith and hope were not disappointed, but her prayers were answered in the mercy of Christ. Not only does He grant us the crumbs from His table, but He also feeds us with *“the children’s bread”* in the house of His Father (Matt. 15:26–27). He has brought us to His *“holy mountain,”* and He makes us joyful in His house, where He hears our prayers and accepts our sacrifice of praise upon the altar of His cross (Is. 56:7).

### ***Prayer before Worship***

Lord God, heavenly Father, grant us, we beseech You, by Your Holy Spirit, that He may strengthen our hearts and confirm our faith and hope in Your grace and mercy, so that, although we have reason to fear because of our conscience, our sin, and our unworthiness, we may nevertheless, with the woman of Canaan, hold fast to Your grace, and in every trial and temptation find You a present help and refuge; through Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

- |          |                                                                                          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>P</b> | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the pastor                      |
| <b>C</b> | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the congregation                |
| <b>✠</b> | designates the parts of the liturgy where the sign of the cross may be made              |
| <b>△</b> | designates a hymn that ends with a Trinitarian stanza; please stand for the final stanza |

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION

#### 779 Come, My Soul, with Every Care



1 Come, my soul, with ev - 'ry care, Je - sus loves to an - swer prayer;  
2 Thou art com - ing to a King, Large pe - ti - tions with thee bring;  
3 With my bur - den I be - gin: Lord, re - move this load of sin;  
4 Lord, Thy rest to me im - part, Take pos - ses - sion of my heart;



He Him - self has bid thee pray, There - fore will not turn a - way.  
For His grace and pow'r are such None can ev - er ask too much.  
Let Thy blood, for sin - ners spilt, Set my con - science free from guilt.  
There Thy blood-bought right main - tain And with - out a ri - val reign.

- 5 While I am a pilgrim here,  
Let Thy love my spirit cheer;  
As my guide, my guard, my friend,  
Lead me to my journey's end.
- 6 Show me what is mine to do;  
Ev'ry hour my strength renew.  
Let me live a life of faith;  
Let me die Thy people's death.

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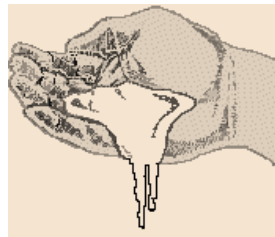
### INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19-20

*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.



## CONFESSION OF SINS

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; 32:5

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

## HOLY ABSOLUTION

John 20:19-23

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**



## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### Introit

*Psalm 28:1-2, 6-7; antiphon: Psalm 28:8*

*The 28<sup>th</sup> psalm is a psalm of prayer that David prayed against Saul and similar enemies. He prayed especially against this evil: that they spoke well to him and acted friendly at times, yet attempted to kill him—as afterward Absalom also attempted. Joab acted the same against Amasa and Abner, so that David was concerned lest God hold him accountable for this, and therefore he prayed that he might not be carried off with the godless. We can pray this psalm against the tyrants and against the rebellious spirits. For the tyrants portray themselves as friendly, yet in daily machinations they seek ways to kill and destroy. The rebellious spirits praise God's glory, Word, and worship in highest measure; they want to help all the world and are extraordinarily humble. Yet for all of that, they seek the corruption of souls and are, under sheep's clothing, ravening wolves.*

*[Reading the Psalms with Luther, pp. 68-69]*



**A** The LORD is the strength of his | people;\*  
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

**C** To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not | deaf to me,\*  
lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down  
| to the pit.

Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | you for  
help,\*  
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctu- | ary.

Blessèd | be the LORD!\*  
for he has heard the voice of my pleas for | mercy.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts,  
and | I am helped;\*  
my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to him.

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..

**A** The LORD is the strength of his | people;\*  
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

## KYRIE — *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

- C** (sung) **Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS — *Glory to God in the Highest* Luke 2:14; John 1:29

- P** Glory be to God on high:
- C** (sung) **And on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

**O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

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

**That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.**

**Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,**

**art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**



## SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** (sung) **And with thy spirit.**

- P** Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** (sung) **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 56:1, 6-8*

Thus says the LORD:

"Keep justice, and do righteousness,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

"And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,  
and holds fast my covenant—  
these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples."

The Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,  
"I will gather yet others to him  
besides those already gathered."

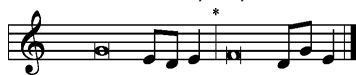
**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalms 34:9, 19, alt.*

**A** Fear the LORD, | you his saints,\*  
for those who fear him lack | nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*  
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.



## Epistle

*Romans 11:1-2, 13-15, 28-32*

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection means the

reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.

For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all..

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**ALLELUIA**

**C** (sung) **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 15:21-28*

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

**C** (sung) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** (sung) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**



## **Nicene Creed**

**☩ 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

## Hymn of the Day

### 615 When in the Hour of Deepest Need



1 When in the hour of deep - est need We know not  
2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may  
3 For You have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil - dren's  
4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our



where to look for aid; When days and nights of  
meet be - fore Your throne; To You, O faith - ful  
cries in time of need Through Him whose name a -  
woes be - fore You lay; For sore - ly tried, cast



anx - ious thought No help or coun - sel yet have brought,  
God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.  
lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.  
down, we stand, Per - plexed by fears on ev - 'ry hand.

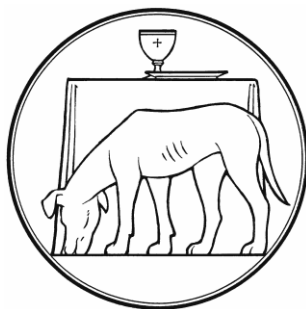
5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;  
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.  
Be with us in our anguish still;  
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

6 So we with all our hearts each day  
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,  
Then walk obedient to Your Word,  
And now and ever praise You, Lord.

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## Sermon

Stand



## OFFERTORY

*Psalm 51:10-12*

**C** (sung) **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

**OFFERING (YOU MAY PLACE YOUR OFFERING IN THE PLATES IN THE  
BACK OF THE NAVE AS YOU ARE LEAVING.)**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

*After each petition:*

*After the final petition:*

**P** let us pray to the Lord

... one God, now and forever.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Amen.**

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

## PREFACE

*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** (sung) **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** (sung) **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C** (sung) **It is meet and right so to do.**

## PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary..... evermore  
praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS — *Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

- C** (sung) **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory;  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is ☩ He  
that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- P** 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.
- C** (sung) **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*

## PAX DOMINI — *The Peace of the Lord*

*John 20:19*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** (sung) **Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI — *Lamb of God*

*John 1:29*

- C** (sung) **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.**

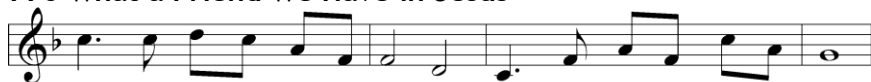
**Dear Visitors and Friends:** As the first Christians devoted themselves to the Lord's Supper, they also devoted themselves to the Apostles' Doctrine (Acts 2:42). The two went hand in hand. As we devote ourselves to the Lord's Supper today, we also want to be faithful to the Apostles' Doctrine.

For this reason, the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **Thank you for your understanding.**

## DISTRIBUTION

*hymns are sung as needed*

### 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum-bere'd with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?  
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

Tune and text: Public domain

## 613 To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All

1 To Thee, om - ni - scient Lord of all, In grief and shame I  
 2 O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray: O cast me not in  
 3 O Je - sus, let Thy pre - cious blood Be to my soul a

hum - bly call; I see my sins a - gainst Thee, Lord,  
 wrath a - way! Let Thy good Spir - it ne'er de - part,  
 cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest a - way,

The sins of thought and deed and word. They press me  
 But let Him draw to Thee my heart That tru - ly  
 But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my

sore; I cry to Thee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
 pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
 house at peace with Thee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text and tune: Public domain



## 823 May God Bestow on Us His Grace



1 May God be-stow on us His grace, With bless-ings rich pro-  
 2 Thine o-ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev-ry  
 Δ 3 O let the peo-ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in-  
 vide us; And may the bright-ness of His face  
 na-tion; And all the world with joy shall raise  
 creas-ing; The land shall plen-teous fruit bring forth,  
 To life e-ter-nal guide us, That we His  
 The voice of ex-ul-ta-tion. For Thou shalt  
 Thy Word is rich in bless-ing. May God the  
 sav-ing health may know, His gra-cious will and plea-sure,  
 judge the earth, O Lord, Nor suf-fer sin to flour-ish;  
 Fa-ther, God the Son, And God the Spir-it bless us!  
 And al-so to the na-tions show Christ's rich-es with-out  
 Thy peo-ple's pas-ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and  
 Let all the world praise Him a-lone, Let sol-emn awe pos-  
 mea-sure And un-to God con-vert them.  
 nour-ish, In righ-teous paths to keep them.  
 sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A-men!"

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*Stand*

### DISMISSAL

- P** The eating and drinking of your Savior's sacred body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the one true Christian faith unto life everlasting. Depart in the joy of His Peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**C** (sung) **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace  
according to Thy Word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou has prepared before the face of all people,  
a Light to lighten the Gentiles  
and the Glory of Thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING**

*Psalm 107:1*

**P** Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good,

**C** (sung) **and His mercy endureth forever.**

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**P** 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, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** (sung) **Amen.**

**SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** (sung) **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** (sung) **Thanks be to God.**

**BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

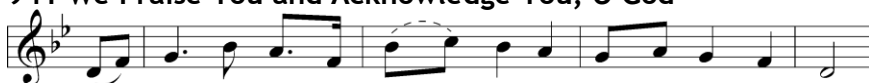
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you  
peace.

**C** (sung) **Amen, amen, amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN

### 941 We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,  
 2 The band of the a-pos-tles in glo-ry sing Your praise;  
 3 You, Christ, are King of glo-ry, the ev-er-last-ing Son,  
 4 You sit in splen-did glo-ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing, by all the earth a-dored.  
 The fel-low-ship of proph-ets their death-less voic-es raise.  
 Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res-cue ev-'ry-one:  
 Up-hold-ing earth and heav-en by forc-es You com-mand.



To You all an-gel pow-ers cry a-loud, the heav-ens sing,  
 The mar-tys of Your king-dom, a great and no-ble throng,  
 You laid a-side Your glo-ry, were born of vir-gin's womb,  
 We know that You will come as our Judge that fi-nal day,



The cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim their prais-es to You bring:  
 Sing with the ho-ly Church through-out all the world this song:  
 Were cru-ci-fied for us and were placed in-to a tomb;  
 So help Your ser-vants You have re-deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth;  
 "O all-ma-jes-tic Fa-ther, Your true and on-ly Son,  
 Then by Your res-ur-rec-tion You won for us re-prieve—  
 May we with saints be num-bered where prais-es nev-er end,



Your maj-es-ty and glo-ry fill the heav-ens and the earth!"  
 And Ho-ly Spir-it, Com-fort-er— for-ev-er Three in One!"  
 You o-pened heav-en's king-dom to all who would be-lieve.  
 In glo-ry ev-er-last-ing. A-men, O Lord, a-men!

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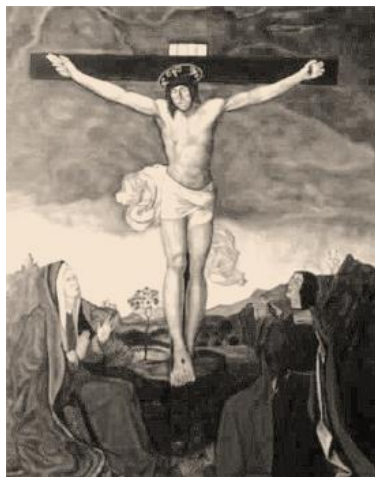
✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠

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The Lutheran Church has always retained ceremonies that support the Gospel—the good news that we are saved by *grace alone* through *faith alone* in *Christ alone*. Such laudable ceremonies include making the sign of the cross in remembrance of Holy Baptism. Those places in the service where Lutherans have traditionally made the sign of the cross are marked with a cross (✠).

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Without faith all other things are acts of presumption and desperation. The just person lives not by his attitude but by faith. For this reason, you should not harbor any doubt on account of your unworthiness. You go to the sacrament because you are unworthy and so that you may be made worthy and be justified by him who seeks to save sinners and not the righteous [Cf. Luke 5:32]. When, however, you believe Christ's word, you honor it and thereby are righteous.

God has commended this faith to us in many ways in the gospel. First, when he said to the woman of Canaan: "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you have believed" [Matt. 15:28]. This shows that not faith in general is meant here, but the special faith which was concerned with the daughter who was to be healed in answer to her mother's prayer. For she boldly believed that this would be done, that Christ could and would do it, and so her prayer was fulfilled. She never would have obtained this, however, if she had not believed. Therefore, she was made worthy of this answer to her prayer, not by her attitude, but by faith alone.

+ Martin Luther +