

Heritage of Our Fathers

Preaching the Word of God with the Lutheran Confessions



Circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter, whose praise is not from man but from God.

Romans 2:29

Monastic Vows



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Trinity is a member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (www.clclutheran.org)



October 4, 2026

Pentecost 20

Serving Us Today

Organist: Kathy Conway

Greeter: Jeanne Helke

We Enter God's House and Prepare for Worship

Pre-service Meditation: *Psalm 84* (Hymnal p. 139)

Pre-service Prayer:

LORD God, I know my sins are many and great; and I know that I cannot earn your favor by what I do. Preserve my heart from ever falling into the trap of relying on myself for Your favor or looking to who I am or what I have done for salvation. Keep me running to Jesus my Savior and clinging to Your Word. Amen.

Order of Worship

(Worship Supplement pp. 1ff)

*When the congregation is asked to stand, please do so only if you are able.
You may remain seated if standing is difficult.*

Welcome to Worship

Hymn: 4 – God Himself Is Present

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (spoken): **Amen**

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

C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a fellow believer called by Christ to serve among you and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C (spoken): **Amen.**

C (sings): **Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

(WS2000 pp. 2-3)

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth.

Cong: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give you thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

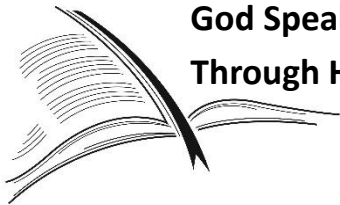
Prayer (Pastor)

Congregation (speaks): **Amen**

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 9:23-24

God Speaks to Us Through His Word



Human beings tend toward pride and boasting and when they do it is in themselves and their supposed

greatness—wealth, strength, accomplishments. Better and far more valuable than all of that is understanding and knowing the LORD.

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

Responsive Reading: Psalm 84:1-4

Pastor: Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,

Cong: for I am poor and needy.

P: Preserve my life, for I am godly;

C: save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

P: Be gracious to me, O Lord,

C: for to you do I cry all the day.

P: Gladden the soul of your servant,

C: for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 23:1-12, 23-28

The Scribes and Pharisees took great pride in themselves and in their obedience to their laws. This produced an outward “holiness” that they lorded over others and led them to look with disdain on anyone who wasn’t as great as themselves. Jesus exposed their

hypocrisy, for at the same time as they were manufacturing their own holiness, they were rejecting the true God and His Word.

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and treasure it!

C (sings): Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Confession of Faith: The Apostolic Creed

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

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.

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

Hymn: 378 – All that I Was, My Sin, My Guilt

The Sermon

Text: *Philippians 3:3-9*

For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

“My Boast Is in the LORD”

- I. Count all flesh-confidence as loss to know Christ
- II. Possess full righteousness by faith to be found in Christ

Congregation (sings): Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold me with Your free Spirit.

Hymn: 375 – If Thy Beloved Son, O God

Prayer



Thank-offerings may be left in the offering plate in the rear of the church, mailed to the church, or made electronically via the link on our website home page.

Offering Prayer (Congregation sings)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

(TLH 441:1-2)

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction (Pastor)

C (spoken): **Amen.**

Hymn: 52 – Almighty Father, Bless the Word

(following the two verses in the hymnal, we sing a final verse of praise)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him all creatures here below!
Praise Him above you heavenly host—
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Silent Prayer

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture references are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV®
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Welcome! to all who have gathered for worship this morning. We especially welcome guests and visitors—please sign our guest book in the north entry. We look forward to having you worship with us again!



This Week's Schedule

(If the Lord wills we shall do this or that)

Today (October 4)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Saturday

6:00-9:00 p.m. Young Adults @ Gethsemane (see below)

Next Sunday

 (October 11)

No Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Lawn Mowing this Week

Randy Estes



In Two Weeks...

October 17 – Return to Saturday worship schedule

October 17 – Church Council & Trinity Women's Circle meet after the worship service

News & Notes

The Pacific Coast Pastoral Conference meets this week—Tuesday through Thursday (noon) at St. John's Lutheran Church in Clarkston. Pastor Eichstadt will be attending, Lord-willing. He will still be reachable via cell phone (507-380-1068).

Young Adult Evening – Young adults (high school and college age) are invited to an evening of games and fellowship on **Saturday, October 10, 6:00-9:00 p.m.** The location is Mr. Jeff Karnitz's house. Come when you are able. If you plan to attend, an RSVP is helpful (650-468-3733 / karni42@gmail.com)

Seniofest October 13 – The Gethsemane Seniors will have their first monthly get-together of the season on Tuesday, October 13 beginning at 12:30 p.m. Oktoberfest is the theme—German sausages will be provided—potluck sides, salads and desserts. The program will be a little travel adventure through Germany (Pastor E.). Trinity seniors are invited and welcome to attend!

Trinity Worship Schedule Update: We will be shifting back to a Saturday worship schedule, beginning on October 17. The first two weeks in October will be Sunday services which Pastor Eichstadt will conduct in addition to the service at Gethsemane. For this reason, there will not be Bible Class on October 4 or 11, but we look forward to resuming regular before-worship Bible Class on October 17.



October Cleaners

Sanctuary: Estes / **North Entry:** Clark
Basement: Helke



News from around the Church of the Lutheran Confession

Call News: Pastor Timothy Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD, Zion Ev.

Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle, SD, is considering the call from the CLC Board of Missions to serve as Part-Time Missionary to Mexico / Pastor Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, is considering the call from the CLC Board of Missions to serve as Part-Time Missionary to India / Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA, and Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO, is considering the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD / Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, is considering the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI / Pastor Zachary Sippert of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. / Missionary Todd Ohlmann has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

Pray for Laborers--Current locations that are in need of pastor-trained men:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Our Redeemer, Red Wing | 2. Living Hope, Appleton |
| 3. Trinity, Spokane | 4. Holy Cross, Phoenix |
| 5. St. Paul's, Austin | 6. St. Luke's, Lemmon |
| 7. Mt. Zion, Detroit | 8. Messiah, Eau Claire (3rd pastor) |
| 9. Gift of God, Mapleton/St. Paul, Ponsford | |

Nepal Update: Pastor Raju and his brother Rajan have made three visits to the flood affected areas. They have also been working hard to contact all HCLC members affected by the August 26th flash flood. They report that the damage and destruction continues to have a severe impact on the country and on the members of the Himalyan Church of the Lutheran Confession – Nepal (HCLCN) congregations in the area. National reports now confirm over 1,400 deaths and more

than 6,000 people missing. Entire communities have been displaced, and many families are living in temporary shelters with limited resources. Of the fifteen HCLCN families that were mentioned in earlier reports, 28 deaths have been confirmed. Survivors have been scattered to Kathmandu, Nuwakot, and other cities where refugee camps have been set up or where relatives could take them in. Several HCLCN members are still missing. The HCLCN is working to provide help for 75 families who are living in tent camps in Pipaltar, Nuwakot. Some are injured, though exact numbers are not yet available. HCLCN pastors are holding small fellowship gatherings in the camp when possible. HCLCN has already delivered basic emergency supplies. Raju reports that government and NGOs have distributed some, but families still lack essential items such as hygiene supplies, clothing, bedding, kitchen utensils, and materials for rebuilding. The CLC Board of Missions has approved and sent the first installment of Kinship Humanitarian Disaster Relief Aid to assist with the rebuilding of 10-15 homes. Raju and Rajan plan to make another visit to bring more supplies this week. Please continue to keep the people of Nepal and our brothers and sisters in the HCLCN in your prayers as recovery efforts move forward.

Kinship Update: There are eight seminary students without a Kinship sponsor. These students attend seminaries in India, Nepal, Congo, and Tanzania. The cost of support ranges from \$35/month to \$60/month. To become a sponsor or for more information, please contact Dan Roehl at danroehl@hotmail.com or 507-381-2042

We Believe & Confess

It was claimed that monastic vows were equal to Baptism, and that by monastic life one could earn forgiveness of sin and justification before God. What is more, they added that monastic life not only earned righteousness and godliness, but also that by means of this life both the precepts and the counsels included in the Gospel were kept, and so monastic vows were praised more highly than Baptism.

The Augsburg Confession, Article XXVII
Translator Theodore G. Tappert / ©1959 Fortress Press

Since monastic vows are in direct conflict with the first chief article, they must be absolutely set aside. It is of these that Christ says in Matthew 24:5, “[For many will come in My name, saying,] ‘I am the Christ’ [and will deceive many].” Whoever takes the vows of monastic life believes that he is entering upon a mode of life that is better than that of the ordinary Christian and proposes by means of his work to help not only himself but also others to get to heaven. This is to deny Christ, etc. And on the authority of their St. Thomas, such people boast that a monastic vow is equal to Baptism. This is blasphemy.

The Smalcald Articles, Part III, Article XIV
Translator Theodore G. Tappert / ©1959 Fortress Press

Additional Reading in the Confessions: *The Apology of the Augsburg Confession*
Article XXVII



