

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

904 Bluff Street Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

A traditional, liturgical, Biblical congregation in the heart of Cedar Falls ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Christ.

Rev. Michael R. Knox, Pastor
(319) 231-9761

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor
(319) 389-5526

Matthew Baker, Vicar
(605) 342-0259

Church Office: 266-2509

Email: orlc@cfu.net Website: theforgivenessplace.org

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023

TO OUR VISITORS We rejoice that you have joined us this morning to hear the Word of God, receive His gifts of life and salvation, and to respond to His faithfulness with "Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" *Ephesians 5:19*

- ✘ *Please take the time to fill out the Communion Registration/Visitors' Cards which are in the small card holders on the pew.*
- ✘ *Please read the announcement below regarding Communion.*
- ✘ *Guests who will not be communing may place the Visitor's card in the Offering plate.*
- ✘ *Guests who intend to commune are asked to announce this intention to the Elder and give the card to the Usher as they come forward to receive communion.*

OUR REDEEMER PRACTICES CLOSED COMMUNION



The Sacrament of the Altar is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink, instituted by Christ Himself. As we receive this Sacrament, the oneness of fellowship at the Altar (I Corinthians 10:17) presupposes a oneness in doctrine with the Apostles (Acts 2:42). 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 Our Redeemer 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 Knox, Pastor Saunders, or Vicar Baker about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation.

THOSE SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Stephen Hoffman **Service Assistant:** Logan Baker

Organist: Roxann List **Ushers:** Dean Fink, Dusty Greiman

Tellers: Stephen Hoffman, Dean Garms **Shut-Ins:** Becca Barber



TODAY IS THE 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST This is the second to last Sunday in the Church Year. This is the second of three Sundays at the end of the Church Year when the end of the world, Christ's visible appearing in glory for judgment, and the final consummation of God's eternal kingdom take center stage.

The Psalmist prays, **"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I put my hope."** (Psalm 130:5) It is obvious that here, with all of humanity, the Psalmist is hoping and waiting for something better! Unfortunately, for many this "something better" is merely deliverance from the crosses we must bear in the

midst of the current tribulation. This is called, "The Theology of Glory" or also known as "health, wealth, and prosperity religion." Christ has not promised that He would remove your cross, at least not in this life. To the contrary, Jesus calls you to rejoice in your crosses as a sign of your place in God's kingdom. This is the difference between walking by sight and faith. The crosses that you bear now lead you to complete trust in God's grace and mercy.

The Gospel for today contains unsettling words as Jesus, in a parable, describes the day of judgment. **"For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."** If that were not enough, Jesus concludes the parable with this stern warning, **"And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**

By faith, the people of Christ's Church trust that through the work of Christ, and that work alone, they are the ones that "have." You have been given life and forgiveness. You have been given the right to be called "sons of God" and heirs of the heavenly kingdom. You have been given the promise of Baptism and the blessings of your Savior's body and blood.

You lack nothing, and so you wait! But to wait is not the same as sitting idly. As the Church waits, she occupies Her time with the things of God, that is, the things which God has given to sustain Her in Her journey. In the Hymn of The Day, Samuel Stone puts it this way in his beloved hymn, *The Church's One Foundation*,

**One holy name She blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope She presses with ev'ry grace endued.**

"With ev'ry grace endued" means that the Church has everything she needs to reach her final objective. To be endued means to be blessed, and certainly, you have been blessed. You have been washed by Christ in Holy Baptism and blessed with God's holy name. You have been taught by Christ in His Holy Word and you have been fed by Christ with the holy food of His body and blood. Therefore you wait and, with the Psalmist, you join in praying, **"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I put my hope."**

I. THE PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LSB #790

Cong. 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 Cong. 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 Choir 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
 Choir 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 Cong. 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His

tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Stand/Remain Standing

Invocation

P/V: In the name of the Father and of the (✱) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C: **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

P/V: 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. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P/V: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P/V: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** *Psalm 32:5*

P/V: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

P/V: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to be the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: **Amen.** *Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit



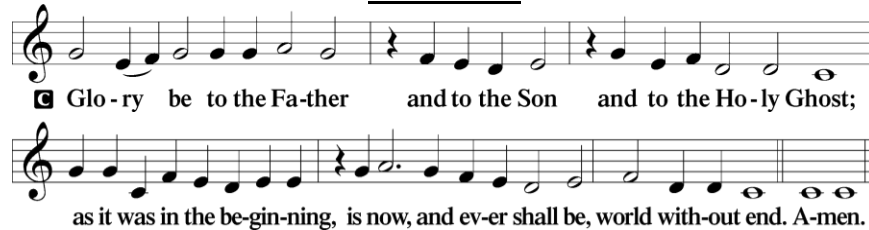
Cantor: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your | righteousness!

Cong: **Enter not into judgment with Your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore You.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | You have done;*
I ponder the work | of Your hands.
I stretch out my | hands to You;*
my soul thirsts for You like a | parched land.
Teach me to do Your will, for You | are my God!*
Let Your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!
For Your name's sake, O Lord, pre- | serve my life!*
In Your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!**

Cantor: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your | righteousness!

(Ps. 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: Ps. 143:1)

Gloria Patri



Kyrie

Mark 10:47



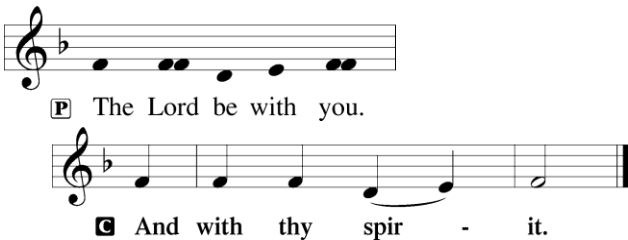
Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: 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.

The Salutation



The Lord be with you.
And with thy spir - it.

II Timothy 4:22

The Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray: Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated

The Old Testament

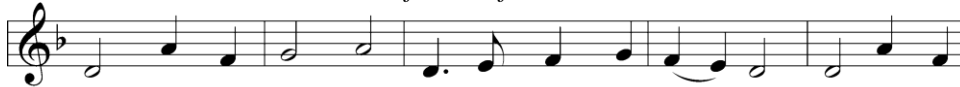
Zephaniah 1:7–16

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn

“Lord of Our Life” LSB #659



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our
2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your
3 Lord, be our light when world - ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our
4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their
shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.
hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Epistle

I Thessalonians 5:1–11

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Alleluia/Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Watch | therefore, *

for you know neither the day | nor the hour.

(Matthew 25:13)



C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14–30

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Matthew, the 25th chapter.



Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The 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

The Hymn of The Day

"The Church's One Foundation" #644



1 The Church's one foun-da-tion Is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E-lect from ev-'ry na-tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der The world sees her op-pressed,
4 Through toil and trib-u-la-tion And tu-mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u-nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre-a-tion By wa-ter and the Word.
Her char-ter of sal-va-tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a-sun-der, By her-e-sies dis-tressed,
She waits the con-sum-ma-tion Of peace for-ev-er-more
And mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho-ly bride;
One ho-ly name she bless-es, Par-takes one ho-ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep-ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious Her long-ing eyes are blest,
O bless-ed heav'n-ly cho-rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press-es With ev-'ry grace en-dued.
And soon the night of weep-ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic-to-rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be-fore us, May see You face to face.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

Stand

The Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



☐ 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.

The Prayers

Various Petitions are prayed. Each petition will conclude with the response:

P: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

The Congregation, gathered for worship in person, will now be receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. This most significant portion of the Divine Service, when our Lord Jesus Christ draws near to His people with His flesh and blood, will not be streamed. Members desiring to receive the Sacrament who are unable to be present in the Church will be visited by one of our pastors to bring them the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Those who have joined us online for the Service of the Word are now encouraged to pray the 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.**

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Please call Pastor Knox (319/231-9761) if you would like to receive a Pastoral visit.

✠ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✠

Sun. 11/19	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class
	1:30 p.m.	Regular Voters' Meeting
Mon. 11/20	6:30 p.m.	Corporate and Individual Confession and Absolution
	7:00 p.m.	Board of Elders
Tue. 11/21	7:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Service at Peace-Shell Rock
Wed. 11/22	10:00 a.m.	Book Club (Not meeting Thanksgiving week)
	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	5:25 p.m.	Adult Choir
Sat. 11/25	6:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Service
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
Sun. 11/26	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class (No Sunday School)

HYMNS/READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, November 26 - The 26th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 29)

Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46

Processional: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds..... 465

Gradual: Father, We Thank Thee 652

Hymn of the Day: In the Very Midst of Life..... 755

Distribution: Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face 631

Distribution: Jerusalem the Golden..... 672

Recessional: Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng 813

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. They are currently studying the Book of Revelation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. Parents, the children are beginning to work on music and recitations for the Christmas Music Festival on December 17. There will not be Sunday School on Sunday, November 26.

WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. to study the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday. It is a way to prepare for the coming week's Divine Service.

THE VICAR'S BIBLE STUDY This Fall Vicar Baker meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 9:00 a.m. The class also meets at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings of the same week at Peace in Shell Rock. In November the class will meet again on the 27th and 28th.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet for Bible Study with our Vicar on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. (There will be food on Wednesdays at 6:15) On Sunday mornings the youth will be studying 1 Corinthians, comparing the experience of the Christians in largely pagan Corinth with our circumstances today. On Wednesdays the youth will choose topics to discuss with Vicar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Dave and Connie Knoch in memory of Connie's sister and in grateful recognition of God's many blessings. *"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."* Psalm 103:2

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION The regular time for Corporate Confession and Absolution, on the 3rd Monday of the Month, will take place tomorrow, Monday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. Time for Individual Confession and Absolution will be available after the Service of Corporate Confession and is available by appointment as well. Please call Pastor Knox or Pastor Saunders to make those arrangements.

THE MEN'S CHOIR will sing again during Advent. Men – if you would like to sing with them next time, they have short rehearsals following Bible study on Sunday mornings. Please speak with Vicar Baker if you are interested in singing.



UPDATED PHOTO DIRECTORY Sometime after the New Year we will be printing a new

Congregational Photo Directory. If you would like to update your photo, Tammy will be taking photos for the next several weeks in the lower level of the Education Wing during refreshment time.

REGULAR VOTERS' MEETING The Congregation will hold a Regular Voters' Meeting this afternoon - Sunday, November 19 at 1:30 p.m. Normal matters of business will be taken care of including receiving reports from Officers and Boards, Election of Officers, and establishing the Budget for 2024. The proposed Agenda, proposed Budget, and Minutes of the previous meeting are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

ELECTIONS FOR SEVERAL OFFICES will take place at the Voters' Meeting. The Nominations Committee has prepared the following slate of Nominees.

President - Doug Nefzger	Vice President - Stephen Hoffman
Christian Care - Char Strub	Financial Secretary - Greg Gerjerts
Stewardship - Dave Kmoch	Endowment Committee - David Jackson
Elders (2) - Ryan Thornton, Alan Czarnetzki	
Trustees (2) - Brad Bovy, Dusty Greiman	

*Give thanks
unto the LORD
for he is good:
for his mercy
endureth forever.*
PSALM 107:1

A THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22nd at Our Redeemer. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Peace Lutheran on Tuesday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m. You are encouraged to keep the worship of God a part of your observance of our Country's National Day of Thanksgiving.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES will begin on Wednesday, December 6 with services at Noon and 6:30 p.m. Services will be held on December 6, 13, and 20. This year throughout Advent we will focus our attention on the words of the Epistle readings for the week. Advent Services will also be held at Peace Lutheran on Tuesday evenings of the same week at 7:00 p.m.



TEXT BLAST INFORMATION Included with your bulletin last Sunday, and available in the Narthex today, is an information sheet provided by the Communication and Outreach Committee. (Printed on Green paper) Our Redeemer uses a computer software program entitled "Church 360" to keep track of membership, record offerings, and track church attendance. A new feature was recently added which allows congregational leadership to send a text message to the congregation in the event that important or last minute information needs to be provided quickly. If you would like to be included in this text message service please fill out the form and place it in the proper container in the Narthex or Parish Hall.

OUR REDEEMERS ANNUAL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DINNER will be held on Saturday, December 3 with social time beginning at 4:30 p.m. Each family is asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. A free-will donation will cover the main meal. The Union High School Carolers will be singing for us. There will also be some additional entertainment. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend. Invite your friends and neighbors. Help is needed in preparing the meal, especially on Saturday morning, please add your name to the volunteer sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or speak with Judy Fink, Cheryl Nissen or Sandy Stone. This will be an enjoyable evening for all.



FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC On Sunday, December 17th, at 4:00 p.m. the congregation is invited to celebrate the Christmas Gospel in Word and Song. The festival will include Advent and Christmas music sung or played by instrumentalists, vocalists, the Sunday School students, the Adult Choir, and the congregation. This is an expansion of what we might have thought of as the Children's Christmas program.

It is important for our Sunday School students to be regular in their attendance because they are starting to work on recitations and music for this music festival.

COOKIES AND COCOA Mark your calendars! December 17th There will be "Cookies and Cocoa" after the Christmas Music Festival. There is a sign up list to bring cookies, hot chocolate, plates, etc. downstairs in the Parish Hall. Contact Michaela Knox with any questions.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES

In an effort to keep the members of Our Redeemer aware of our financial condition as a congregation, the following is provided by the Board of Stewardship and the Financial Secretary.

Offerings so far in 2023 are 7% below our budget. With only 2 months left in 2023, some projects planned for 2023 may have to be delayed or cancelled. Please prayerfully consider increasing your donations to reduce the gap.

- Giving/income Year to Date \$192,137.21 (*through October*)
- Budget Year to Date: \$206,800
- Difference: -\$14,662.79