

Stand fast therefore in the liberty
by which Christ has made us
free, and do not be entangled
again with a yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1, NKJV



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As We Gather

As we gather for worship, today's sermon asks us to imagine a dying tree. Faced with its sickness, our first instinct might be to fix its appearance—to wire on fake leaves and make it look healthy from a distance. This is often how we approach our own sin, either through the exhausting work of religious performance or by simply ignoring the decay. The Law reveals that these efforts are useless; the tree itself is the problem. So, what is God's solution for a tree that is rotten to the core? In our text from Galatians, we will discover that God's cure is far more radical and freeing than simply helping us decorate a dying tree.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

451 – Stand Up! - Stand Up for Jesus

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, the Scriptures remind us to "stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free." Yet, if we are honest with ourselves, we know how often we fail, becoming entangled again with a yoke of bondage. Therefore, let us not hide from the God who knows our hearts, but "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Let us confess our sins to God our Father, trusting in His promise of forgiveness for the sake of His Son.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with all our heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have been called to liberty, yet we often use it as an opportunity for the flesh. Instead of bearing the fruit of the Spirit, we have yielded to the works of the flesh. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace, freed from your sins to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 85:8-10, 13

P I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints;

C But let them not turn back to folly.

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C That glory may dwell in our land.

P Mercy and truth have met together;

C Righteousness and peace have kissed.

P Righteousness will go before Him,

C And shall make His footsteps our pathway.

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.


GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)

All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). The third staff continues the melody: C3 (half), B2 (half), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (half), D2 (half), C2 (half). The fourth staff continues the melody: B1 (half), A1 (half), G1 (quarter), F#1 (quarter), E1 (half), D1 (half), C1 (half), B1 (half). The fifth staff continues the melody: A1 (half), G1 (half), F#1 (quarter), E1 (quarter), D1 (half), C1 (half), B1 (half), A1 (half). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

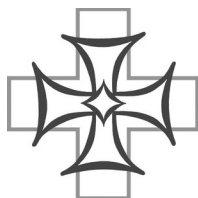
Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

⁹ Behold, the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ So he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” ¹¹ Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. ¹³ So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ And he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him: “Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. ¹⁸ Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.” ¹⁹ So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” ²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen’s equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.



Psalm of the Day

Psalm 16

- P** Preserve me, O God,
C **for in You I put my trust.**
- P** O my soul, you have said to the LORD,
C **“You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You.”**
- P** As for the saints who are on the earth,
C **“They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”**
- P** Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god;
C **Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, Nor take up their names on my lips.**
- P** O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
C **You maintain my lot.**
- P** The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places;
C **Yes, I have a good inheritance.**
- P** I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;
C **My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.**
- P** I have set the LORD always before me;
C **Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.**
- P** Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
C **My flesh also will rest in hope.**
- P** For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
C **Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**
- P** You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;
C **At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 9:51-62

⁵¹ Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, ⁵² and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. ⁵³ But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” ⁵⁵ But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. ⁵⁶ For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.” And they went to another village. ⁵⁷ Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” ⁵⁹ Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go

and preach the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” ⁶² But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Confession of Faith

Apostles' 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

336 – My God, Accept My Heart This Day

Sermon Text

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. ¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies,

outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.



Sermon

New Tree, New Fruit

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres-ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un-to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

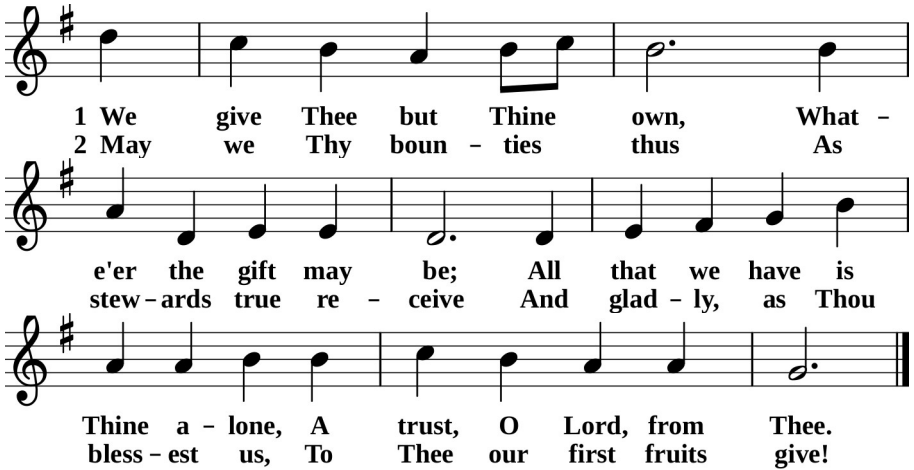
Hymn

764 – God of Grace and God of Glory

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew - ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

50 – Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule		
June 29	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
July 6	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Quarterly Voters' Meeting
July 13	8:00 am	Orlando Worship Service
	10:15 am	Winter Haven Worship Service
July 14-18	9:00 am	Vacation Bible School

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **July 6** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **August 3** – Education/Elders
- **September 7** – Trustees/Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield. May the Lord strengthen their faith, grant them His peace, and assure them of His abiding presence.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her!" So begins the prophet Isaiah in next Sunday's Old Testament reading. He paints a beautiful picture of a mother nursing and comforting her beloved children, an image of the peace and security God provides. But what is this "Jerusalem" for us today? It is the Church, our spiritual mother, through whom God pours out His peace "like a river." In a world filled with uncertainty, come and hear the good news of a God who comforts His people and promises that our spiritual home is alive and well. We look forward to exploring the riches of Isaiah 66:10-14 with you.

All Aboard for Vacation Bible School: Join us this summer for an exciting week of adventure at our "Making Tracks" Vacation Bible School, July 14–18, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am each day! Children ages 4–12 are invited to come along as we explore how Jesus guides us through life and leads us safely to heaven. Each day will be filled with:

- Christ-centered Bible lessons
- Creative crafts and active games
- Joyful singing and tasty snacks

We encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids, and classmates—any child who would be blessed by a fun and faith-filled week learning about Jesus!

Register today at www.winterhavenlutheran.com/vbs, or speak with Pastor Sauers for more information.

Spokesman and Daily Rest Subscriptions: Renew your Lutheran Spokesman (\$20) and Daily Rest (\$15) group subscriptions for next year.

To start or continue your subscription, please speak with Pastor Sauers by tomorrow.

Current subscribers: Please check the posted list to confirm or update your information. Payments can be made through your church offering. All updates are due by June 30, 2025.

ManUp! Men's Retreat 2025: Calling all men (18 and older)! Get ready for ManUp!, a powerful time of biblical encouragement, fellowship, and growth.

- **When:** September 25-28, 2025
- **Where:** Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI

This year's theme is **Ephesians 2:8-10**: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (ESV)

Join us for impactful Bible study, leadership training, team building, and worship. Plus, enjoy exciting activities like rock climbing, hiking, arrow tag, mountain biking, a trivia challenge, grilling, bonfires, and music!

Register at <https://manup.clclutheran.org/registration/>

CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal: Eight CLC Mission Helpers are currently in Nepal proclaiming the simple Gospel message to children in Himalayan villages where Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession congregations and preaching stations are located. You can read the trip blog and see pictures at: www.2025clcmhtnepal.blogspot.com.

CLC Call News: Leah Baumann has returned the one-year call to teach part-time at St. John's Lutheran School, Okabena, MN. Leah is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has returned the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Mark Tiefel of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has resigned his call to Peace Thru Christ

Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI, and has stepped down from the pastoral ministry. <> Pastor Tom Naumann of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Rebecca Buck of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac, WI. <> Erin Franson has received the call to serve as the female Mentor at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College <> Mr. Rick Mariner has accepted the call to serve as principal of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN.

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

June 30 - July 5, 2025

Monday - *Matthew 5:13*

Jesus calls His followers salt. Now, salt has certain abilities, like enhancing flavor. But if it loses it's abilities, it is good for nothing, no matter what it is called. Lord, help us to be what You made us!

Tuesday - *Matthew 5:14-16*

Jesus, the light of the world (John 8:12), also calls His followers "light." He does not want us to be dark or hidden, but rather to live among people in such a way as to glorify our God and Father.

Wednesday - *Acts 3:1-9*

Peter and John have no money to give a lame beggar, but give him health in Jesus' name. The man enters the temple, walking, jumping and praising God. The people see and God is glorified!

Thursday - *Numbers 21:4-9*

The peoples' complaints against God call forth His judgment. When they seek His mercy, their lives are spared through looking at a bronze snake lifted up on a pole (compare John 3:14).

Friday - *Job 36:26-33*

Elihu answers human complaints against God by pointing to God's goodness and power in gathering up drops of water to provide rain, how His lightning shines to the depths, and His thunder warns.

Saturday - *Job 37:1-13*

When we hear the voice of thunder, and see the lightning fill the sky, when we see the clouds swirling, and the rain and snow falling at God's direction, who are we to sit in judgment on Him?

