



**CROWN OF LIFE** | LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

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*A Service of Worship and Praise*

**-We Gather as God's People to Worship Him-**

**Opening Hymn: B220** *What Child Is This*

*PLEASE STAND*

**Minister says:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation says:** And also with you.

**-Introduction to Worship-**

**M:** God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

**C:** Your mercies are new every morning.

**M:** Guide our steps by the light of your word.

**C:** Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

**M:** Better than life is your love.

**C:** Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!

**-We Prepare Our Hearts-**

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C:** Merciful Father in heaven, I know that I have been sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Forgive my sins and change my life.

**We sing:** *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after Thy will,  
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!  
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see  
Christ only, always living in me!

**M:** Jesus says to His people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**C:** Yes, I believe.

**M:** Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, it is my privilege to declare to you that your sins are forgiven. You are a dear child of God. Let's praise His name.

**We sing:** *No Other Name But the Name of Jesus*

*Chorus:* No other name, but the name of Jesus  
No other name, but the name of the Lord  
No other name but the name of Jesus  
Is worthy of glory, And worthy of honor  
And worthy of power and all praise!

His name is exalted far above the earth;  
His name is high above the heavens.  
His name is exalted far above the earth;  
Give glory and honor and praise unto His name.

*Chorus*

## **-We Pray Together-**

**M:** I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

**C:** My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**M:** He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber

**C:** My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**M:** The LORD will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life.

**C:** The LORD will watch over my coming and going, both now and forevermore. AMEN.

*BE SEATED*

## **-We Listen to God's Word-**

**FIRST LESSON:** *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

**3** Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup> "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

<sup>3</sup> Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.

<sup>4</sup> Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." <sup>5</sup> The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

## **We Sing:** *Thy Word*

*Refrain:* Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way  
Still, You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near  
Please be with me to the end.

### *Refrain*

I will not forget Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side  
I will love You to the end.

### *Refrain*

## **SECOND LESSON:** *II Corinthians 5:14-21*

<sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to

God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*PLEASE STAND*

**GOSPEL LESSON:** *Mark 1:14-20*

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

*BE SEATED*

## **Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day: R91** *The Star Proclaims the King is Here*

**Sermon: Fish and Evangelism** *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

*PLEASE STAND*

**Confession of Faith:** *Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

AMEN

*BE SEATED*

**Offering:** R83 (v1, 3, 4) *As with Gladness Men of Old*

**Prayers:** *The Lord's Prayer*

## THE SACRAMENT

**M:** Our Lord has given us a holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of His redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim His death until He returns.

**C:** Now have come the salvation and the power and kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

**We sing:** *Blessed Be The Lord God Almighty*

*Refrain:* Blessed be the Lord God Almighty  
who was and is and is to come.  
Blessed be the Lord God Almighty  
Who reigns forevermore.

Father in heaven, how we love you;  
We lift your name in all the earth.  
May Your kingdom be established in our praises,  
as your people declare Your mighty works.

*Refrain*

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**C:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*The members may come and receive Christ's body and blood.*



**Distribution Hymn: R313** *Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior*

**Thanksgiving Hymn: I Exalt Thee**

For thou O Lord, art high above all the earth  
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

For thou O Lord, art high above all the earth  
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord  
I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord.

**C:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in His true body and blood the pledge of Your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

**M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. AMEN.

**Closing Hymn: R79** *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

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<b><u>Serving at CoL:</u></b>	<b><u>Today</u></b>	<b><u>Next Sunday</u></b>
Music	Karis, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers		Edward, Jr.
Reader	Edward, Jr.	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Altar	Phelps	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Refreshments	Katherine	Ramona
Cleaning		<i>This Could Be You</i>
Mowing		<i>This Could Be You</i>

## CALENDAR

Wednesday	7PM Bible Class <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831357274">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831357274</a>
Thursday	10:30 AM Bible Class at Summerhouse, Slidell
Saturday	10 AM Confirmation Class
Sunday	10 AM Bible Class, Sunday School; 11 AM Worship
Jan 28	11 AM Memorial Service for Carolyn Martin

## **Birthdays**

4 Kyle Jefferson  
 12 Madonna Heier  
 13 Sarah Phelps  
 16 Elijah Sternhagen  
 20 Leslie Tallant  
 23 Katherine Jefferson

## **Anniversaries**

16 Luis and Marli Camargo  
 18 Jake and Virginia Shelley  
 22 Edward and Katherine Jefferson  
 28 Odie and Arva Moore

## MISSION NEWS

### **A picture is worth a thousand words**

A picture is worth a thousand words – in any language. Members of the Obadiah Lutheran Synod (OLS) in Uganda speak English, Luganda, Lusoga, and many other Bantu dialects. It is a challenge to communicate Scriptural truths across linguistic and educational barriers. It's even more challenging to explain abstract concepts like justification, redemption, and Christ's humiliation and exaltation to students in confirmation class. But a well drawn picture can tie timeless truth to a tangible target.

Rev. Dr. Terry Schultz is an experienced WELS missionary who creates print and music materials for WELS [Multi-Language Productions](#). Schultz supports WELS mission work around the globe. OLS President Maksimu Musa requested One Africa Team's assistance in training Sunday school teachers. One Africa Team turned to Schultz, who has graphically portrayed the Apostles' Creed with full color illustrations. He and Missionary John Roebke engaged 35 Sunday school teachers and OLS pastors with the task of translating these illustrations into lessons.

## **The pictures**

The 1531 edition of Martin Luther's Small Catechism contained 23 pictures printed from woodcut images. Like these images, Schultz's drawings help a teacher tell a simple story to explain a complex teaching. A courtroom scene depicts a young man standing before a judge with his accuser to one side and his attorney at the other. The next scene shows him standing before God, flanked by Satan and Jesus.

Another picture unfolds the drama of a kidnapping and payment of ransom. The next scene represents the divine story of Christ's redemption – not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood. A comic book panel of pictures illustrates each of the stages of Christ's humiliation.

A composite illustration presents the stages of his exaltation. Schultz carefully crafted each picture to maximize understanding and teaching. A teacher's manual with minimal text supplements each picture, bearing in mind the target audience's literacy level. WELS Multi-Language Productions has produced three booklets to date – one for each of the three articles of the Apostles' Creed. Schultz is finalizing the illustrations for the Sacrament of Baptism, with the other chief parts of the Catechism to follow.

## **The teachers**

Attendees began each day of the workshop with animated singing and dancing. In addition to performing local melodies, the group learned a few African American spirituals from Schultz. OLS pastors delivered inspiring devotional messages in English. Schultz infused his own energy into the workshop as he introduced each picture to the participants.

After this, the Sunday school teachers broke into smaller groups of three to five people. In each group, an OLS pastor walked through the concepts

behind the picture. Thirty minutes later, each small group took turns teaching the lesson to the larger audience. Some teachers appeared more confident than others, but by the week's end all of them had made significant improvement.

## Next steps

Unfortunately, time did not allow for Schultz to present all 45 teaching posters the group. The teaching posters and manuals remain with the OLS in Uganda. We encouraged the pastors to work through these materials with their Sunday school teachers. The pastors have a much better grasp on both Lutheran teachings and local culture.

Regardless if Schultz returns to Uganda, the OLS now has a powerful instrument for instructing youth and adults. Can you picture their faces gathered around Jesus' throne some day?

Please pray for those working in fields that are ripe for harvest. Share their story, engage with future news, and receive updates. Learn more about our mission fields in Africa and how the Holy Spirit is working faith in people's hearts.

*Written by Rev. John Roebke, world missionary on the [One Africa Team](#).*



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
II Corinthians 9:7*

