



**CROWN OF LIFE** | LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

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## **A Service of Worship and Praise**

### **We Gather in God's Name**

#### **GREETING**

#### **OPENING HYMN**

#### **Christian Worship 120**

*What Wondrous Love is This?*

**Minister** says: We begin our worship in praise the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation** says: AMEN

#### **We Prepare our Hearts**

**M:** As believers in Christ, we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James, we are told, "Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for one another, so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

**C:** Lord, I pray to You because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from You and others by the sin in my life. I need Your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today, in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. AMEN.

#### **We sing:**

*Change My Heart*

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

|: You are the potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. :|

**M:** We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, "He has sent me to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin and restore sight to the blind, to give mercy to those whose lives are shattered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord." God gave His only son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord.

**C:** AMEN.

**We sing:**

*Lord I Lift Your Name on High*

|: Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from Heaven to Earth to show the way;  
from the Earth to the Cross, my debt to pay;  
from the Cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift Your name on high. :|

## **WE PRAY TOGETHER**

**M:** Almighty God, you are eager to grant your goodness...

**C:** ...and joyful in sharing your grace.

**M:** You invite us into your presence...

**C:** ...to worship you with all our hearts.

**M:** Breathe your holy Spirit on us...

**C:** ...so that our tongues are eager to shout your praise!

**M:** Breathe your Holy Spirit on us...

**C:** ...so that our mouths are ready to proclaim the good news of Your Son.

**M:** Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** AMEN.

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

### **FIRST LESSON**

*Acts 16:6-10*

<sup>6</sup> Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

### **We sing:**

*Shine Jesus Shine*

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness shining.  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me. Shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

### **SECOND LESSON**

*Revelation 22:12-17, 20*

<sup>12</sup> "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

<sup>14</sup> "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> Outside

are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

<sup>16</sup> "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*PLEASE STAND*

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

*John 17:20-26*

<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup> "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

*BE SEATED*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Christian Worship 167**

*Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense*

### **SERMON**

***Take the Free Gift!***

*Revelation 22:12-17, 20*

[insert text]

*PLEASE STAND*

### **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 and 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**

*Instrumental*

## THE SACRAMENT

**M:** Our Lord Jesus 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 the 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:**

*Glorify Thy Name*

Father, we love you; we worship and adore you.  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.  
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you; we worship and adore you.  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.  
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you; we worship and adore you.  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.  
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.

**M:** 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.

**C: AMEN**

FOR ALL OF US: Paul instructed in I Cor. 11:28: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." Questions like these help us examine ourselves:

- Am I sorry for my sin?
- Do I trust that Jesus has lived and died to save me from my sin?
- Do I believe that Jesus's body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?
- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God pleasing life?

*WELS and ELS members may come and receive Christ's body and blood.  
Proceed up the center aisle as directed by the ushers.*

FOR OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: *You may find that we regard Holy Communion with much greater seriousness than most churches today. The Bible teaches that communion is, among other things, a public statement of intimate unity and spiritual agreement with a church's teachings. Therefore, if you are unaware or unclear about what we teach and believe, you will want to compare your own beliefs with ours before communing with us. We are eager to establish this fellowship with you and look forward to your inquiry on how to enter into fellowship! Pastor Kramer is happy and ready to speak with you!*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**African-American Heritage Hymnal 257**

*There is a Fountain*

**THANKSGIVING:**

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

|: And now, let the weak say, "I am strong",

Let the poor say, "I am rich"

Because of what the Lord has done for us! :|

Give thanks!



**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.

## **PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers and Sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C:** AMEN

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**Christian Worship 157**  
*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

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## **2025 synod convention planning continues**

The 68th WELS biennial synod convention will take place July 21-24 at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn. Nearly 400 voting delegates—composed of pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and laymen—will attend, along with several dozen advisory delegates.

The *Book of Reports and Memorials* (BORAM), which contains the information to be considered by the convention, is now available online at [welsconvention.net/boram](https://welsconvention.net/boram). Hard copies of BORAM have been sent to all delegates, congregations, and male called workers.

Some of the important items to be discussed or decided at the convention are:

- The declaration of fellowship between WELS and the Africa Mission Evangelism Church (AMEC) of Tanzania. Discussions have been taking place with representatives of AMEC for several years, and those discussions have determined that WELS and AMEC are united in doctrine and practice.
- Two proposals to change the way synod officers are elected. Both proposals involve seeking nominations prior to the convention and publicizing the final ballot in early summer before the convention convenes. This would give delegates an opportunity to learn more about the candidates and would also give nominees time to think about their decision, if elected, in advance of the actual election.
- The synod will have the opportunity to adopt a new long-range strategic plan entitled "Christ through us," which will serve as a guide for the synod as it carries out its mission over the next ten years.
- Elections will be held for various positions, including first vice president and recording secretary.
- Every area of ministry will report on its work during the past year and outline plans for the future.
- The convention essay will be delivered by Rev. Joel Otto, professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., focusing on the 175-year history of the synod. Prof. Paul Koelpin will also give an evening presentation on the history of Martin Luther College.
- Several memorials (requests for convention action) will also be considered.

We pray that God will bless the decisions of the convention and will provide delegates with important information they will be able to share with their own congregation and congregations in their area.

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder

## **Virtual high school celebrates first graduation**

Amazing Grace Virtual Academy (AGVA), a fully accredited online WELS high school, celebrated a milestone May 15 with its first graduation of fully online learners.

Three students graduated high school in a virtual ceremony, participating from their homes in South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

"This milestone to be able to issue high school diplomas to its first graduating class is yet another example of how AGVA has been extremely blessed by a gracious God over its first 14 years of existence," says Dr. James Grunwald, AGVA's executive director.

Amazing Grace Virtual Academy (known for a time as ALHS Online) has been offering high-quality online courses since 2011 to supplement the class offerings of WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod high schools and elementary schools. With more inquiries from families who didn't have the opportunity to send their children to one of WELS' 30 Lutheran high schools, the academy decided to expand its offerings, enrolling its first full-time students in 2022. Currently 18 students are taking classes full time and 381 are taking individual courses.

The academy serves a diverse student population, including Lutheran school students whose schools don't offer all of the courses that meet their learning interests or specific course needs, home-schooled students, students from public schools seeking additional courses, and learners with medical or personal constraints that limit traditional schooling.

Grunwald is stepping down as the academy's full-time executive director this year but will continue to serve part time through June 2026. "Being a part of AGVA since its beginning 14 years ago and working with extremely dedicated students, partner schools, instructors, and fellow administrators has been a true blessing," he says. "To God be the glory!"

Learn more at [amazinggraceva.org](https://amazinggraceva.org). Read more about AGVA's first graduation at [forwardinchrist.net/online-partnership](https://forwardinchrist.net/online-partnership).

| <b><i>Serving at Col:</i></b> | <b>Today</b>  | <b>Next Sunday</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Music                         | Karis, Elijah | Karis, Elijah      |
| Ushers                        | Keith, Seth   | Lee                |
| Reader                        | Mike          | Edward, Jr.        |
| Altar                         |               |                    |
| Streaming                     | Noah          | Noah               |
| Refreshments                  | Linda         | Katherine          |
| Cleaning                      |               |                    |
| Mowing                        | Keith         | Randy              |

## CALENDAR

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wednesday    | 7:00 PM Online Bible Class          |
| Sunday       | 10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School |
| Sunday       | 11:00 AM Worship                    |
| Jun 8        | Council, Ladies Guild               |
| Jul 21-25    | Camp South, Covington, GA           |
| Jul 28-Aug 2 | VBS: Wonder Junction                |

| <b>OFFERING</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Budget</b> | <b>%Budget</b> | <b>Projected</b> |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Last Week       | \$1,657.32   | \$2,710.40    | 61.1%          |                  |
| May             | \$9,254.32   | \$11,745.08   | 78.8%          | \$9,254.32       |
| Qtr-to-Date     | \$19,812.70  | \$35,235.25   | 56.2%          | \$29,409.77      |
| Year-to-Date    | \$65,383.77  | \$140,941.00  | 46.4%          | \$156,693.02     |



*"...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*

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