



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

June 22nd, 2025
2nd Sunday after Pentecost

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A Service of Worship and Praise

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

OPENING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 321
Spirit Song

PLEASE STAND

Minister says: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

-We Lift Up Our Hands and Voices to God-

We sing:

In Moments Like These

In moments like these I sing out a song,
I sing out a love song to Jesus.
In moments like these I lift up my hands,
I lift up my hands to the Lord.

Singing, "I love you Lord," singing, "I love you Lord;"
Singing, "I love you Lord. I love you."

-We Prepare Our Hearts-

M: We stand here today before our Lord and Maker. He has created us to love Him and serve one another. But we have separated ourselves from Him with our sins. Let us be honest and confess to Him our sins.

C: Merciful Father, I confess that I am a sinner. I make no excuses. I have sinned against you by things I have done and the things I have not done. But I know that Jesus died for me. I stand before you in need of, and trusting in, your forgiveness.

We sing:

I Need Thee Every Hour

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises In me fulfill.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

M: It is my duty and privilege as a called servant of God to announce to you that you are forgiven. You have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ and stand before Him forgiven of all your sins, His child, and an heir of eternal life. Let's thank Him for His amazing grace.

We sing:

He Looked Beyond My Fault

Amazing grace shall always be my song of praise,
For it was grace that bought my liberty.

I do not know just why Christ came to love me so,
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary,
To view the cross where Jesus died for me;

How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul,
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

BE SEATED

-We Listen to God's Word-

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 43:8-13

⁸ Lead out those who have eyes but are blind,
who have ears but are deaf.

⁹ All the nations gather together
and the peoples assemble.

Which of their gods foretold this
and proclaimed to us the former things?

Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right,
so that others may hear and say, "It is true."

¹⁰ "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,
nor will there be one after me.

¹¹ I, even I, am the LORD,
and apart from me there is no savior.

¹² I have revealed and saved and proclaimed—
I, and not some foreign god among you.

You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God.

¹³ Yes, and from ancient days I am he.

No one can deliver out of my hand.

When I act, who can reverse it?"

We sing:

Order My Steps (v1)

Order my steps in Your Word dear Lord,

Lead me, guide me, every day,

Send Your anointing, Father, I pray.

Order my steps in Your word.

Please, order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy, My calling to fulfill.

Please order my steps, Lord, And I'll do Your blessed will,

The world is ever changing, but You are still the same.
If You order my steps, I'll praise Your name.

EPISTLE LESSON

II Timothy 1:3-10

³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

We sing:

Order My Steps (v3)

Bridle my tongue, let my words edify;
Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in Thy sight.
Take charge of my thoughts, both day and night.
Order my steps in Your word.
Please, order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy, My calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, Lord, And I'll do Your blessed will,
The world is ever changing, but You are still the same.
If You order my steps, I'll praise Your name.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 8:26-39

²⁶ They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" ²⁹ For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

³⁰ Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. ³¹ And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

³² A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission.

³³ When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, ³⁵ and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. ³⁷ Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

African-American Heritage Hymnal 143

His Eye is on The Sparrow

SERMON

How Can We Win This Fight?

Romans 7:12-8:1

¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

¹³ Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's 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.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

African-American Heritage Hymnal 270

Your Grace and Mercy

PLEASE STAND

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

M: Brother and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 157

To God be the Glory

Thanking God for sowers, waterers, and reapers

The Lord has given each of us our own work to do. I planted the seed. Apollos watered it. But God has been making it grow. So the one who plants is not important. The one who waters is not important. It is God who makes things grow. He is the important one. (1 Cor. 3: 5b-7; NIV).

For the past seven years I have had the privilege of helping you plant seeds, water both tender shoots and mature plants, and harvest souls for Jesus' sake. It's now time for another "farmer" to guide and foster this ministry. Occasions like this provide an opportunity to count blessings in the past and anticipate God's love in the future.

Some of the enduring memories I take from my time here are the comments from our students. They tell how our Bible studies have helped them come to know Jesus or know him better, or how they are eternally grateful for all the volunteers. For instance, William, a student in Arizona says: "I enjoy learning and these study guides bring me joy and shine God's light in this dark place I've put myself in. Thank you for all the encouragement!"

Another memory I take with me is the love and dedication of all our volunteers, donors, and staff. Thank you all for your support and service to the Lord that was not in vain. It was especially gratifying to see the enthusiasm of our volunteers as they labored into their 80's, 90's and even 100's. One of my great joys was providing an opportunity for meaningful kingdom work for seasoned Christians who don't have other options. I'll also remember the faces of our volunteers who finished their race here and heard their Savior say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Our verse reminds us that there is only one thing that truly matters, Jesus our God and Lord. He gave us the work to do and blessed it. And there is much left to do. I pray our ministry masters and greatly expands digital delivery of God's saving Word. I pray that our ministry increases visits to current inmates and mentoring former ones.

As John the Baptist said: "He must become greater; I must become less." (John 3:30, NIV) I commend this ministry and all of you in Jesus' harvest field into the nail-scarred hands of him who desperately loves us and

those we serve. Trust Jesus as you continue to support and serve in his name.

Dave Hochmuth, WELS Prison Ministry administrator

Medicine opening doors for ministry

When we arrived in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, we went straight from the airport to the hospital. No, we weren't in need of a doctor. But we were there to see one—a doctor who's also planting a new church in that city.

Eduardo Milanese is a maxillofacial surgeon who started studying with *Academia Cristo* five years ago. As he advanced through his studies, by God's grace he was able to gather a group to study God's Word with him in his home city of Cochabamba. The group grew and is now a church that belongs to WELS' sister synod in Latin America, *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional*. Eduardo leads them every Sunday in worship.

But last year, God opened a door for Eduardo to start another medical practice in Santa Cruz, Bolivia's largest city. Eduardo saw that as an open door for the gospel too. Medicine and ministry go hand in hand for him; each patient is an evangelism prospect. As he treats them, he can't help but share the gospel with them.

And the gospel is bearing fruit in Santa Cruz. When we got to the hospital, Eduardo introduced us to Luis. Luis was in recovery. The day before, Eduardo and his wife, Ingrid—also a surgeon—had removed a tumor from Luis' face. The surgery saved his life. But the more important work happened in the weeks leading up to it. Eduardo had been sharing God's Word with both Luis and his family—and the Holy Spirit had worked saving faith in their hearts.

They aren't the only ones. After changing out of their scrubs, Eduardo and Ingrid took us to meet the rest of the group God is gathering in Santa Cruz. More than 30 souls came together for worship. Eduardo led the service. Two leaders of *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional* who were traveling with me—Pastors Henry Herrera and Julio Ascarrunz—shared the Word with them. Many in attendance were Eduardo's former patients and their families. Others were friends and colleagues. All were eager to hear the good news of forgiveness in Christ.

Eduardo travels weekly between his practices in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. But he can't be in both places at once. So, he's encouraging men in both groups to take the same path he did and study in *Academia Cristo*, where they'll receive training to help lead worship and Bible studies when he can't.

In the meantime, he'll continue in both of his callings—saving lives as a surgeon and sharing the soul-saving gospel.

Written by Abe Degner, missionary on the One Latin America Team

Faces of Faith – Hakim

Hakim Kon came to Canada in December 2022 to be with his wife, Nyariek. It wasn't the first time God turned his life upside down. As a young man, he was impacted by the violence in South Sudan but decided long ago that he wanted to use his life to reach others with the words of God's mercy. When he got to Canada, he was welcomed by the South Sudanese community and found our WELS mission church in Surrey, serving people from the Nuer tribe.

Hakim had a background in theological training, so after getting confirmed in the summer of 2023 while trying to get settled with his wife in a new country and pursue a cybersecurity degree, God turned his life upside down again. This time it was the request of his new congregation to be an elder and to consider training in our Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI).

Hakim is learning what it means that Jesus gives some to be pastors and teachers to build and equip his church for works of service. This new husband, new immigrant, new student, and new worker (and very recently new father!) is adding "PSI student" to his list of vocations as he is equipped to lead in the church. But Hakim believes it is more than worth it: "I focus on the Lord because he continues to surprise me from time to time. His mercy and love changed my life. I have that confidence that he can use me to change others' lives."

Written by Geoff Cortright, pastor at [Saviour of the Nations Lutheran Church](#) in Vancouver, BC

<u>Serving at Col.:</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Pastor	David Sternhagen	Daniel Kramer
Music	Katherine, Elijah	Karis, Elijah
Ushers		
Reader	Elijah	Seth
Altar		
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments		
Cleaning		
Mowing		

CALENDAR

Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Jul 13	Council, Ladies Guild Meetings
Jul 20	Q2 Congregational Meeting
Jul 21-25	Camp South, Covington, GA
Jul 28-Aug 2	VBS: Wonder Junction



*"...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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CROWN OF LIFE