

September 13 & 14, 2025

SERVICE OF THE WORD

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we welcome Rev. James Pope, executive editor of our *Forward in Christ* magazine. Rev. Pope served as a parish pastor for 19 years and a Martin Luther College professor for 21 years. He authored "Light for our Path," a question and answer feature in *Forward in Christ*, for six years and was the responder of questions submitted to the synod's website for eight years. Since January 2023, he has served as the executive editor of *Forward in Christ*, the official magazine of WELS.

OPENING HYMN

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Hymn 520

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of your name.

The name of Jesus calms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; he sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood avails for me.

See all your sins on Jesus laid; the Lamb of God was slain.
His life was once an off'ring made that you might live again.

To God all glory, praise, and love be ever, ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav'n.

INVOCATION

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

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

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 am altogether 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: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN (No Introduction)

“O Taste and See”

O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessèd are they who take refuge in him.

Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Your faithfulness continues forever. O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessèd are they who take refuge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the church, you have united us in faith and worship to make disciples of all nations and nurture believers for lives of Christian service. Guide our leaders, and help them fulfill their responsibilities with patience and understanding. Keep the congregations of the synod faithful to your Word, and give them a willingness to support the worldwide mission of your church to the glory of God; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Philippians 1:3–11

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 100A

Refrain



En - ter his gates with thanks-giv - ing.

Tone



Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth.

Worship the LORD with / gladness;
come before him with / joyful songs.

Know that the / LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and / we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his / pasture. *Refrain*

Refrain



En - ter his gates with thanks-giv - ing.

Tone



Enter his gates with thanks- / giving
and his / courts with praise;
give thanks to him and / praise his name.

For the / LORD is good
and his love endures for- / ever;
his faithfulness continues through all gener- / ations.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 136:1

Alleluia. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 17:13–21

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

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 OF THE DAY

“We Are Called to Stand Together”

Hymn 903

We are called to stand together with the saints of ages past,
with the patriarchs and prophets in the faith they once held fast;
promises and hopes they treasured now we find fulfilled at last!

Those whom Jesus called apostles journeyed with him side by side,
heard his teaching, felt his power, saw the way he lived and died;
then the news of resurrection they delivered far and wide.

Thro' the intervening ages round the world the gospel spread:
faithful heralds took the message, guided where the Spirit led;
so the body grew in stature, serving Christ, the living head.

Now in many tongues and cultures songs of celebration ring;
millions who confess our Savior honor him as Lord and King
and, for courage, grace, and guidance, ev'ry day their prayers they bring.

To each coming generation tell the truth, persuade, explain,
till the time when time is ended, till the Savior comes again—
till the saints are all united under Christ's eternal reign!

SERMON

Job 19:23–27

“Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll,
that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;
I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!”

HYMN

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

Hymn 441 vs. 1-5

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my everliving head!

He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;
he lives all-glorious in the sky; he lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

OFFERING

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

Hymn 441 vs. 6-8

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same.

Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

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