

Installation Reverend Benjamin Micheel July 12, 2020



Christ Lutheran Church 3509 SW Burlingame Rd. Topeka, KS 66611 785-266-6263 www.christlcms.org Rev. Ben Micheel, Pastor Amanda Adams, DCE Chris Francik, TLS Principal



Once the bell has stopped ringing, rise and face the back of the church.

Divine Service Setting One, page 151

+ Confession and Absolution +

Confession, to confess to God our sins and sinful nature. Absolution, "To absolve of sin and wrongdoing," more specifically, to affirm God's forgiveness to all who sincerely confess their sins to Him.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Exhortation 1 John 1:8–9 LSB 151

- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination. Consider: Have you loved God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength? Have you loved your neighbor as yourself?



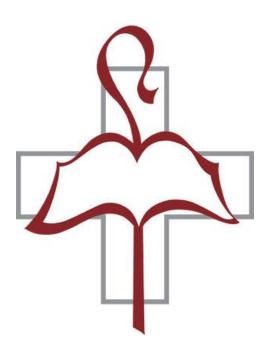
Confession of Sins LSB 151

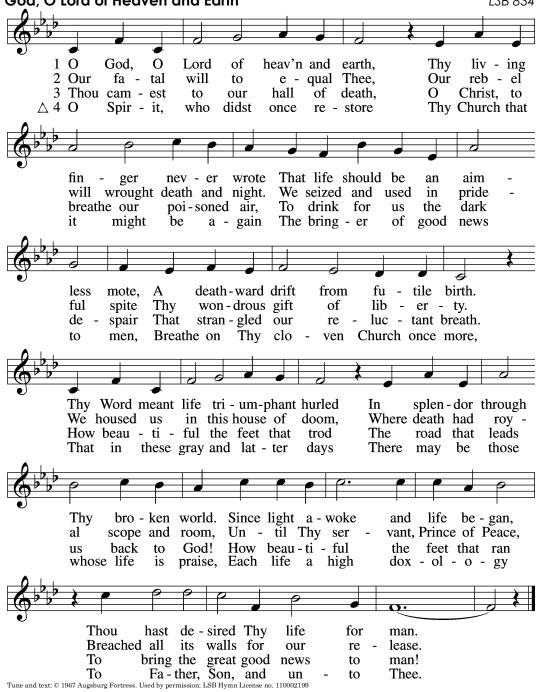
- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23] LSB 151

- 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 and ordained 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.
- C Amen.





Kyrie Mark 10:47 LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.

O Lord, the God of all grace, You have called Your Church to minister in the name of Your Son, our great High Priest. By Your Word and Spirit inspire men to offer their lives for the sacred ministry that, ministering in the name of Christ, they may draw many to Your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Sit

Reading

Augsburg Confession, Article 4

P Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merit, or works. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight (Romans 3 and 4).

Reading

Augsburg Confession, Article 5

P So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacrament was instituted. Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake. This happens not through our own merits, but for Christ's sake. Our churches condemn the Anabaptists and others who think that through their own preparations and works the Holy Spirit comes to them without the external Word.

Reading

Augsburg Confession, Article 14

P Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call.

Thus far the readings from the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.



- 5 The words which absolution give Are His who died that we might live; The minister whom Christ has sent Is but His humble instrument.
- 6 When ministers lay on their hands, Absolved by Christ the sinner stands; He who by grace the Word believes The purchase of His blood receives.

Text and tune: Public domain

- 7 All praise to You, O Christ, shall be For absolution full and free, In which You show Your richest grace; From false indulgence guard our race.
- △8 Praise God the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One, As was, is now, and so shall be World without end, eternally!



P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 6.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 100

- P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
 - Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
 - P Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
 - P For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.



Epistle Romans 10:14–17

P The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 10.

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



LSB 827



- 1 Hark, the voice of Je sus call-ing, "Who will go and work to day?
- 2 Some take up His task in morn-ing, To their Lord re-spond-ing soon;
- 3 For as rain and snow from heav en Wa ter seeds in dust y soil,
- 4 Hear ken to the Lord whose com ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har-vests wait-ing—Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"

Some are called in heat of mid-day, Oth - ers late in af - ter-noon;

Caus - ing them to bud and flow - er, Giv - ing bread to those who toil;

When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de-scend.



Loud and long the Mas-ter call-eth; Rich re-ward He of-fers thee. E-ven as the sun is set-ting, Some are sent in to the fields, So the Lord sends forth His prom-ise, Words of life and joy and peace—Soon the night, the fi-nal har-vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an-swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"? There to gath - er in the boun - ty That God's Word so rich - ly yields. Nev - er void to Him re-turn-ing, Bear - ing fruit with great in - crease. Then the souls His grace has gar-nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

Stand

Holy Gospel John 20:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.



¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.





Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead.

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life +of the world to come. Amen.





Sermon

Stand



Sit

Offering

Stand

Installation of a Pastor

- P In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- Beloved in the Lord, through the Church's usual order, the Reverend Benjamin Micheel has been called by the Lord of the Church to be pastor of Christ Lutheran Church.
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

O almighty God, by Your Son, our Savior, You have always given to Your Church on earth faithful shepherds to guide and feed Your flock. Therefore we pray, make all pastors diligent to preach Your holy Word and to administer Your means of grace, and grant Your people wisdom to follow in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



- 5 Drive far away our wily foe, And Your abiding peace bestow; With You as our protecting guide, No evil can with us abide.
- 6 Teach us to know the Father, Son, And You, from both, as Three in One That we Your name may ever bless And in our lives the truth confess.

△ 7 Praise we the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, with them One, And may the Son on us bestow The gifts that from the Spirit flow!

Sit

Readings from Scripture on the Office of the Holy Ministry

- P Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the institution of the Office of the Holy Ministry.
- P Dear brother in Christ, the Lord grant that you receive and keep these words in your heart so that you may be strengthened and encouraged in your labors.

God gathers His Church by and around His Holy Gospel and thereby also grants it growth and increase according to His good pleasure. That this may be done, He has established the Office of the Holy Ministry into which you have been called by the Church and have been ordained and consecrated by prayer and the laying on of hands. It is fitting that you should again acknowledge the responsibilities of this holy office in which you are to serve as a pastor of this congregation.

In the presence of this congregation and before our Lord God to whom you must give an account now and at the Last Day, I now ask you:

Do you acknowledge that the Lord has called you through His Church into the ministry of Word and Sacrament?

- \mathbb{R} I do.
- P Do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- **R** Yes, I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

- P Do you believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?
- Yes, I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds because they are in accord with the Word of God. I also reject all the errors they condemn.
- P Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalladd Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord—as these are contained in the Book of Concord—are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?
- **R** Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.
- P Do you promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all your preaching and teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy Scripture and with these Confessions?
- **R** Yes, I promise, with the help of God.
- Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian doctrine, will you forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you? Will you minister faithfully to the sick and dying, and will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready ministry centered in the Gospel? Will you admonish and encourage the people to a lively confidence in Christ and in holy living?
- **R** Yes, I will, with the help of God.
- Finally, will you honor and adorn the Office of the Holy Ministry with a holy life? Will you be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture and the Confessions? And will you be constant in prayer for those under your pastoral care?
- **R** I will, the Lord helping me through the power and grace of His Holy Spirit.



Installation of the Pastor of a Congregation

- P Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture says, "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you."
- You have heard the solemn promise of him called to be your pastor. Will you receive him, show him that love, honor, and obedience in the Lord that you owe to the shepherd and teacher placed over you by your Lord Jesus Christ, and will you support him by your gifts and pray for him always that in his labors he may retain a cheerful spirit and that his ministry among you may be abundantly blessed? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God.
- **C** We will, with the help of God.
- Will you honor and uphold your pastor as he serves Christ in all his Godpleasing responsibilities? Will you aid him as he cares for his family? Will you be diligent to "put the best construction on everything," recognizing that "love covers a multitude of sins"? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God.
- We will, with the help of God.
- **P** The almighty and most merciful God strengthen and assist you always.
- P Are you willing and ready to assume this public trust and responsibility?
- \mathbb{R} Iam.
- P Benjamin Peter Micheel, I install you as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.
- C Amen.

Stand

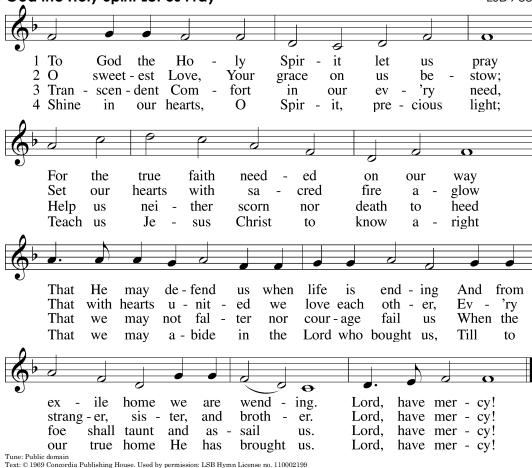
- P Let us pray.
 - Merciful God and Father, You have graciously promised that, through the preaching of the crucified Christ, those who believe in Him will be saved. By Your Holy Spirit grant grace to Pastor Micheel whom You have given to be pastor of this congregation. Grant him readiness and steadfastness in this ministry, patience, understanding, and great zeal. Support and strengthen him in Your service that by Your Word Your Church may be built and increased; through Your Son, our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.
- Almighty and most merciful God and Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have established Your Church to be a temple and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks that You continue to provide shepherds to feed and serve Your flock in which the Holy Spirit has made them overseers. We humbly implore You ever to strengthen the labors of Your ministers, that through their ministry of Word and Sacrament Your people may increase in Your knowledge and service and grow up into Him who is the head, even Jesus Christ, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all glory now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sit





LSB 768



Stand

Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence.

- P Gracious Lord, we give You thanks and praise that You have given Yourself to us as our dear Father, making us Your dear children through the blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. As we come before You in all boldness and confidence, Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- P Grant, heavenly Father, that Your Word may be taught in its truth and purity, that Your holy Sacraments may be rightly administered, and that we, Your children, may according to Your Word lead lives holy and formed by Your abundant grace in the blessed Sacraments. Protect Your Word throughout the world and in this congregation that it may not be profaned, but proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Your holy people. Even as we give You our thanks for filling the Office of the Holy Ministry in this congregation, continue to raise up faithful pastors throughout Your church. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Send forth, heavenly Father, according to Your promise, Your Holy Spirit, that when and where it pleases Him He would create faith in the hearts of those who hear Your Word; and grant that those whom You call, gather and enlighten may lead holy lives here in time and there in eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Heavenly Father, cause Your gracious will to extend over Your whole Church on earth, even as it does in heaven. Hinder, defeat, and destroy the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature, that Your name may ever be hallowed and Your kingdom come. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Creator and Sustainer of all things, we give You thanks for the abundance of the earth, for good weather, for stable society, good government, and peace. Continue to secure to us these goods, that, leading reverent lives according to Your holy will, we may dispose of Your gifts to us according to Your will, and in generosity support the work of Your church and our neighbor in his need. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Prorgiving Father, Living God, we thank You that of Your great mercy You have given us Your only-begotten Son, the Christ, in whose life, death, and resurrection we have received the forgiveness of all our sins. Move us, Your baptized children, at all times and in all places gladly to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to do good unto all men, and especially unto those of the household of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Almighty Father, guard and protect us and all the baptized. Thwart all the evil counsels and purposes of the devil and the world, and those that emerge in the wickedness of our own hearts, and preserve for Yourself a people righteous, innocent, and blessed in the blood of Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- P Finally, heavenly Father, we beseech You: guard and protect us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation. When our final hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us all to Yourself in heaven to join the multitude of the redeemed. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Upon all these petitions, heavenly Father, we speak our Amen, Amen, Yes, Yes, it shall be so, in firm and trusting confidence that these petitions are pleasing to You. For You have commanded us so to pray, and have promised to hear us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136] LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



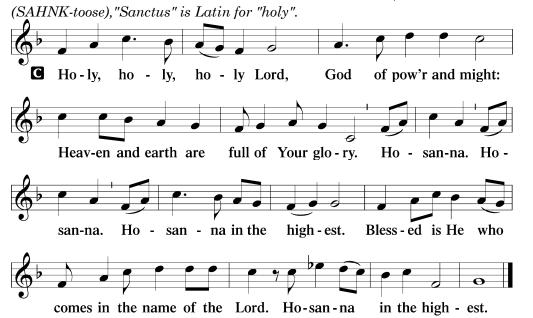
Proper Preface (Full)

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who ascended above the heavens and, sitting at Your right hand, poured out on this day the promised Holy Spirit on His chosen disciples. For all this the whole earth rejoices with exceeding joy.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 LSB 161



Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13 LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

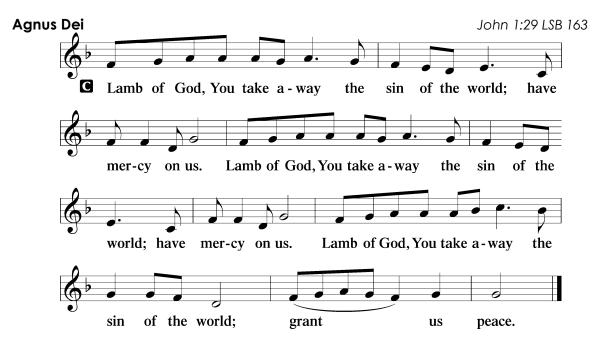
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

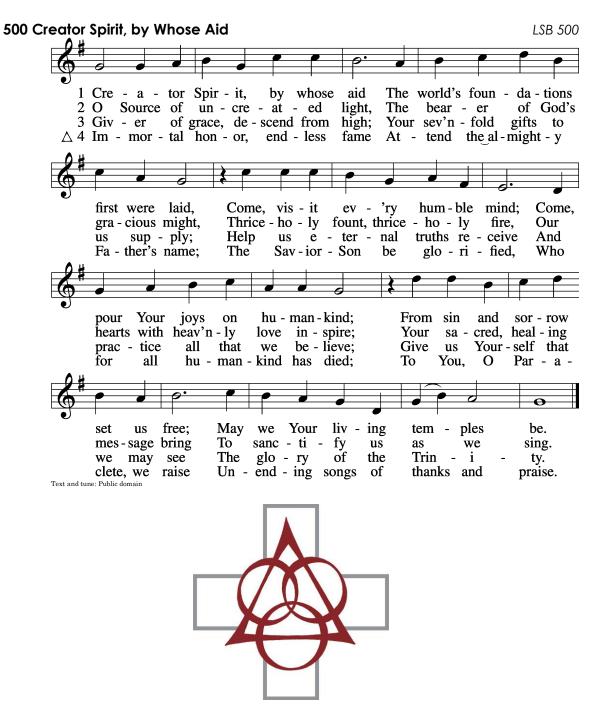
Pax Domini John 20:19 LSB 163 (PAKS DOH-mee-nee), Latin for "peace of the Lord" (John 20:19).

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.





Distribution





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659 Lord of Our Life

LSB 659

en.



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal-va-tion, Star of our

2 See round Your ark the hun-gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your 3 Lord, be our light when world-ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our

4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when Church, our trou-bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its

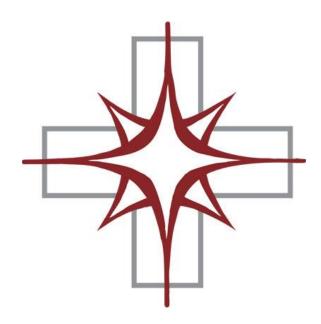
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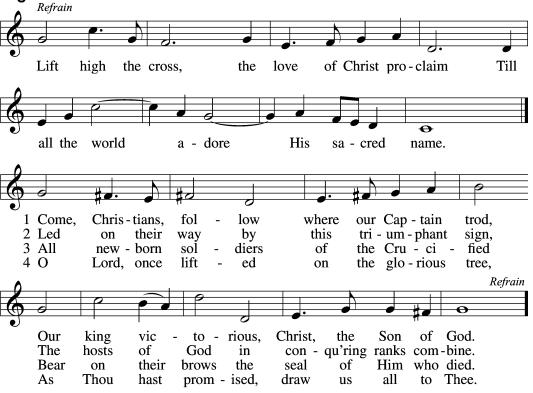
is



wag - ing,



LSB 837 sts. ref-6



- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
 Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain
 Tune and text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002199





Stand





Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Amen.

Benediction

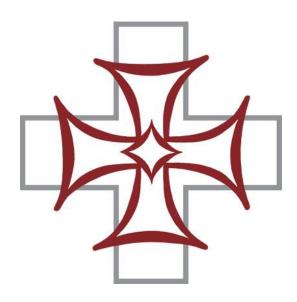
Numbers 6:24-26 LSB 166

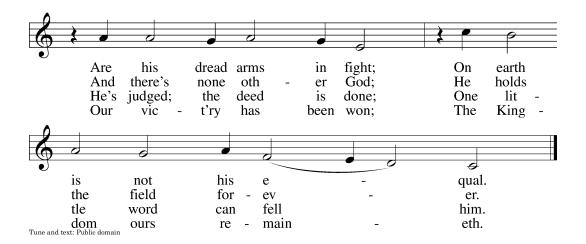
A final blessing from God this morning before we leave.

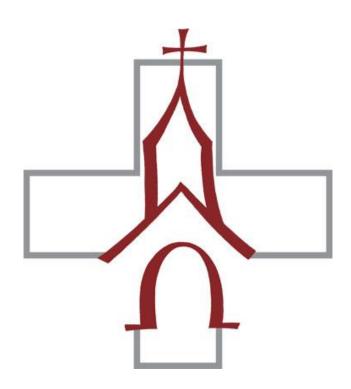
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and

→ give you peace.









Acknowledgments



Pastor-Elect: The Rev. Benjamin Micheel

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, circuit visitor and senior pastor,

St. John's Ev.-Luth. Church, Topeka, Kansas

Rite of Installation:

The Rev. Justin Panzer, LCMS Kansas District President Preacher: The Rev. Timothy Roth, pastor, St. Peter's Ev.-Luth. Church,

Humboldt, Kansas

Lectors: The Rev. Devin Kerns, associate pastor, St. John's Ev.-Luth.

> Church, Topeka, Kansas, and former vacancy pastor; The Rev. David Schemm, pastor emeritus, Christ Lutheran

Church, Topeka, Kansas, and former vacancy pastor

The Augsburg Confession (1530), the foundational confession of faith for Evangelical-Lutherans, proclaims the constituting elements of the Christian Church to be the Gospel and the Sacraments: "To obtain such faith God has instituted the office of the ministry, that is, provided the Gospel and the Sacraments. Through these...He gives the Holy Spirit who works faith...." (AC 5). "It is also taught among us that one holy Christian church will be and remain forever. This is the assembly of believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel" (AC 7).

In reflection of our shared confession, this service of installation for the pastor-elect of Christ Lutheran Church is intentionally set within the Divine Service—the liturgy of *Word* and *Sacrament*.

The readings from *The Augsburg Confession* contained in this Divine Service emphasize the calling, authority, and responsibility of the spiritual authorities in Christ's church, especially those belonging to pastors: preaching the Gospel, forgiving and retaining sins, and administering the Sacraments. God the Holy Spirit has through the centuries called, gathered and enlightened His holy church through these Means of Grace and kept it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. So too, today, does the Holy Spirit continue to increase and preserve His holy church through these very same means in the Divine Service.





Pastor Ben Micheel was born on April 29, 1981 to Bruce and Linda Micheel. He grew up with two sisters (Sarah and Rachel) and a brother (Matt) in Shenandoah, IA. After graduating from Shenandoah High School in 1999, Pastor Ben moved to St. Joseph, MO to attend Missouri Western State University. He majored in Criminal Justice. While there, Pastor Ben took a semester off from school and attended the regional law enforcement academy. After graduating from the academy, Pastor Ben was hired as a Police Officer for the Platte City, MO Police Department. Pastor Ben then graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in 2004.

In November of 2005, Pastor Ben took a job as a Police Officer with the Prairie Village, KS Police Department. In 2006, Pastor Ben and Rachel met and began dating. They were married in May of 2007. Pastor and Rachel welcomed their first child, Addelynn, in September of 2009 and their second daughter, Jayel, was born in December of 2011. In June of 2012, the family picked up and moved to St. Louis, MO so Pastor could attend Concordia Seminary. In July of 2014, they moved to Oviedo, FL for their vicarage year. While there, in December of 2014, Pastor and Rachel welcomed their son, Elijah. After vicarage they moved back to St. Louis for their fourth year at the seminary. In May of 2016, Pastor Ben was called to be the Associate Pastor of Family Life at Concordia Lutheran Church in Conover, NC. Shortly after his ordination and installation there, Pastor and Rachel had their fourth child, Riley. In September of 2017, Pastor Ben was called to be the pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in LaGrange, KY. Pastor and his family enjoy being out in nature, pizza and movie nights on Fridays and spending time with friends and family.