Historic Zion Lutheran Church Divine service for the second sunday after pentecost

9:00 am ...... Sunday, June 22, 2025

#### **RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION**

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

- (a) who have been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) who have been instructed in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been confirmed in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) who sincerely repent of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

H = appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is appropriate to sit if needed

Greeting And Announcements: The Lord be with you! ...... And also with you!

#### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. ...... Amen!

### The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[ Kneel ]

<i>Our help is in the name of the Lord</i>	Who made heaven and earth.
I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord	And You forgave the
	iniquity of my sin.

*O almighty God, merciful Father;* ....... I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.



- [Antiphon] Be to me a rock of | ref-\_\_ uge, || to which I | may con- tin- •ually• | come; || you have given the command to | save\_\_ me, || for you are | my rock and my | •fortress•.
- Verse 1: You who have made me see many troubles and ca- | lam- i- ties || will re- | vive\_ me a- | gain; || from the depths | of the earth || you will | bring me up a- | gain.
- Verse 2: You will increase my greatness and comfort | me a- gain. || I will also | praise you with the | harp || for your faithfulness, | O my God; || I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy | One of Is- ra- | el.
- Verse 3: My lips will shout for joy, when I sing | •praises• to you; || my soul also, which | you\_\_ have re- | deemed. || And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all | the day long, || for they have been put to shame and disappointed who | sought to do me | hurt.
- *Gloria:* Glory be to the Father and | to the Son: || and | to the Ho- ly | •Spirit•; || As it was in the be- | •ginning•, is now, || and will | be for- •ever.• A- | men!
- [Antiphon] Be to me a rock of | ref-\_\_ uge, || to which I | may con- tin- •ually• | come; || you have given the command to | save\_\_ me, || for you are | my rock and my | •fortress•.



# Salutation



**Collect for the Second Sunday after Pentecost:** *O God, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding. Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever* 



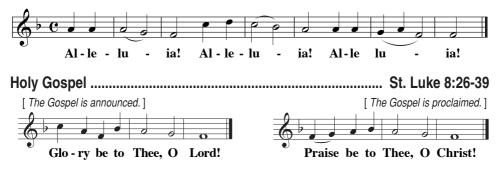
[ Be Seated ] + The Office of the Word of God +

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 65:1-9
[After the reading] This is the word of the Lord.	
Epistle of the Day	Galatians 3:23–4:7
[After the reading] This is the word of the Lord.	Thanks be to God.

[ Rise ]

#### Alleluia Sequence

[Deacon] Alleluia! Alleluia! "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." Alleluia!



#### **Confession of Faith (The 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

[Bow] 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 worshipped 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  $\pm$  of the world to come. Amen!

[ Be Seated ]

Hymn of the Day ...... Rise, Shine, You People ...... Burgundy Hymn 825

# Sermon

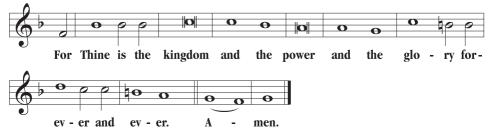
### [ Rise ] Prayer of the Church



com-eth in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na, Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na in the highest.

### [Kneel] Lord's Prayer

[Pastor chants:] Our Father who art in heaven; ..... but deliver us from evil.

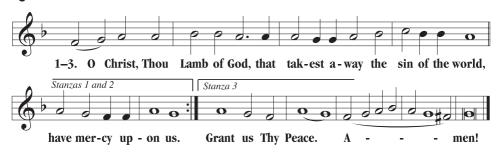


#### Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



Agnus Dei



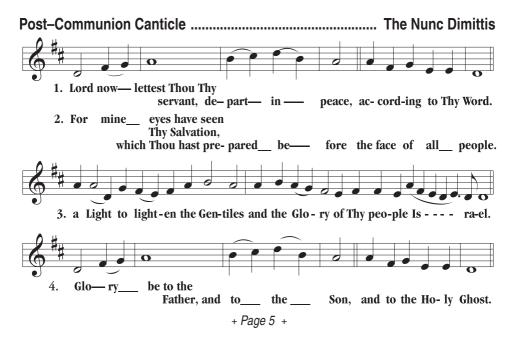
[ Be Seated ]

Distribution Hymns ..... Draw Near and Take ...... Burgundy Hymn 637

#### Jesus Comes Today with Healing ..... Burgundy Hymn 620

[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women alone sing stanza 3; Men alone sing stanza 4; All sing stanzas 5 & 6.]

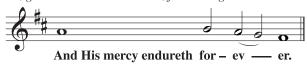
#### [ Rise ] Eucharistic Benediction





#### Post Communion Rite

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



#### Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



The Lord be with you.



#### Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.

#### Recessional Hymn ..... Praise the One ..... Burgundy Hymn 849

#### Postlude

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Psalm Tone for Introit and Tract: from The Anglican Chant Psalter, copyright © 1987 by The Church Hymnal Corporation; used by permission.

# **Readings for the Second Sunday after Pentecost**

#### The Old Testament Reading is Isaiah 65:1-9

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;
I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.
I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that was not called by my name.
I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks; who sit in tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;

who say, "Keep to yourself,

do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day. Behold, it is written before me:

"I will not keep silent, but I will repay;

I will indeed repay into their lap

both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities together, says the LORD;

because they made offerings on the mountains

and insulted me on the hills,

I will measure into their lap payment for their former deeds." Thus says the LORD:

"As the new wine is found in the cluster,

and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,' so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all. I will bring forth offspring from Jacob,

and from Judah possessors of my mountains;

my chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there."

## The Epistle is Galatians 3:23-4:7

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

#### The Gospel is Luke 8:26-39

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

# Hymns for the Second Sunday after Pentecost

# LSB825 Rise, Shine, You People

Text: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing Co; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

- Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered Our human story; God in Him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, With grace unbounded.
- See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling; He brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, Now are forgiven.
- Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling, Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story Of Jesus' glory.
- Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation His new creation.

# LSB637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord Latin, 7<sup>th</sup> century

- 1. Draw near and take the body of the Lord, And drink the holy blood for you outpoured; Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
- He who His saints in this world rules and shields, To all believers life eternal yields; With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole, Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
- Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere, And take the pledges of salvation here.
   O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow As in this feast of love You bless us now.

#### **Ronald A. Klug**

# LSB620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

- Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing, Off'ring pardon, grace and peace. He Himself makes preparation, And I hear His invitation: "Come and taste the blessed feast."
- Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding In this holy sacrament, Gives the bread of life, once broken, And the cup, the precious token Of His sacred covenant.
- W 3. Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
  Blood and body, giv'n for me,
  Very Lamb of God from heaven,
  Who to bitter death was given,
  Hung upon the cursed tree.
- M 4. God descends with heav'nly power, Gives Himself to me this hour\_\_\_\_\_ In this ordinary sign. On my tongue His pledge receiving, I accept His grace, believing That I taste His love divine.
  - Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor, Bidden by His gracious call. Wedding garments He provides me, With a robe of white He hides me, Fits me for the royal hall.
  - Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation, Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry terror, Cleanses me from sin and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.

# LSB849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

**Rusty Edwards** 

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- Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light; Praise the One who frees the pris'ners Turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease, Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.
- Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle word; Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing two-edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand; From this Well comes living water Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place. Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done; Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

The Second Sunday after Pentecost



# Zion Hbangelical Lutheran Church

#### 2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389

pastor@zionfw.org, church@zionfw.org | website: www.zionfw.org

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- · Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
  - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
  - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

#### The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397) Nathaniel Demlow

Senior Pastor: Field Workers:

#### The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal: Amber Bahr (744-0459; <u>www.lsusfw.org</u>) Teachers: Yvonne Schwantz (8<sup>th</sup>, MS ELA), Michael Cullen (7<sup>th</sup>, MS Science), Chase Mertz (6<sup>th</sup>, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5<sup>th</sup>), Abbey Kohler (4<sup>th</sup>), Tiffany Scheurich (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Fink (2<sup>nd</sup>), Hannah Fink (1<sup>st</sup>), Rachel Wiegman (K-A), Michelle Madden (K-B), Natalie Reynolds (Art), Open Position (Music), Lizzy Hoham (Progress Partners Coach), Cathie Wakeland (Literacy Coach), Lee Buxton (PE)

#### The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music: Church Office Manager: Michael Hollman, MM Melvia Culpher

# **PRAYERS FOR TODAY**

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution, including Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Dr. Päivi Räsänen
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our teachers nearing the end of another academic year, our fieldworker Nate Demlow, and for Matthew Harrison and Paul Mroczenski on vicarage
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary, and for our graduates
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound
- + For those who are on hospice care
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Frank Jackson, Richard Lammert, Phyllis Lattimore, Nate Demlow, Debra Busche, Carl Albersmeyer, Connie Houser, Estella Ramirez, Bill Weinrich, Dwight Bieberich, Willodean Bates, Dick Hollman, Earl Marcel Sisson, Elaine Seifert, Bob Ockree, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Marlow Hogan, Marissia White, Gary Phillips, David Groth, Gary Castle, Ron Rastl, Robert & Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, including Jonathan & Michael Thomas and Jim Voelz
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved one
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed
- + For our communicants and for a fruitful use of the most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood

# **IN THE SERVICE TODAY**

Today is the Divine Service for the Second Sunday after Pentecost. The Cross Bowl is given in celebration of Jonathan & Michael Thomas' 25th birthday by their parents Judy and Marty Thomas. The Altar Vases are given in celebration of Jim Voelz's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday which was on June 18<sup>th</sup> by his wife Judy Voelz and family. Please complete an attendance communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

# **CALENDAR**

		June 22, 2025 thru June 28, 2025	
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
MON.	5:30 PM	CEA Board Meeting	CLHS
TUES.	9:00 AM	Weekday Bible Study (Teasdale)	Bauer Hall
	12 NOON	Administrative Council Meeting	Conference Room
WED.	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church
THURS.		-	
FRI.			
SAT.	9:00 AM	Zion Joint Council meeting	Bauer Hall
	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church
	1:00 PM	Adult Catechesis	Conference Room
		June 29, 2025	
SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	10:45 AM	Education Council	Conference Room

# **ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EDUCATION HOUR:** Dr. Voelz continues in the Gospel according to St. Mark, in Bauer Hall. Because Pastor Punke is going to be gone all of July, our alternate adult/teenage class is being suspended until after school starts back up (exact date tbd).

**THANK YOU** to Rev. Richard Lammert for preaching and celebrating today. Pastor, Marge, and Keiko are in Illinois for a Christmas in June with family. They'll be back this week.

**SOMETHING NEW** A decades-long weekday Bible class, originally sponsored by St. Paul's, has moved several times and had several dedicated teachers over the years. Started Tuesday, June 17, it will meet in Bauer Hall each Tuesday at 9:00 AM. Pastor Jim Teasdale has kindly offered to teach the class, following a decade of service by Pastor Geoff Robinson from the Indiana District office. Lutheran adults—both men and women—from any congregation are most welcome; we have recently had regular attendees from five area congregations.

**DISTRICT CONVENTION** concluded last Friday. Thanks to Pastor Punke and Zach Muehl for serving as our delegates. Thanks to Michael Hollman for playing for the Convention prayer offices. For interested members, materials are still on the website. Visit <u>in.lcms.org/2025-indiana-district-convention</u> and click on the appropriate link. Your delegates will give a brief report at the Congregational Assembly in August.

**REMINDER:** we are using email to notify you of important events (i.e, funerals, closings etc). Please make sure that Melvia has a current email address for you. Thanks.

**BRAND SCHOLARSHIP:** The Education Council will meet next Sunday after Divine Service to go through the applications and make recommendations to the Admin Council. If you know of anyone who plans to submit an application, please have then turn it in ASAP.

**MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:** Hebrews 13:15—"Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of the lips that acknowledge his name." Last week's verse was Leviticus 19:2.

**WE CAN FACE COMPETING PRIORITIES** when we think about planning our estates someday. Will my plans preserve what I have gathered or give it away? The temptation in estate planning is to perpetuate a sense of control over what happens to your things after you have departed this life. Yet that departure sets a new tone, not one of controlling assets but of blessing others, family, and ministry. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you plan those blessings. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or mark.muehl@lfnd,org.

**RIGHT TO LIFE OF NORTHEAST INDIANA** is hosting their second pro-life seminar on Monday, July 28th, from 6:30 pm-8 pm at 3106 Lake Ave. The topic is Medical Aid in Dying, also known as MAiD. Medical aid in dying refers to the practice of a healthcare professional providing a terminally ill patient with the means to end their life, at the patient's request. This event is open to pastors, church pro-life groups, and any members of your congregation who would like to attend. Please email Abigail, <u>abigail@ichooselife.org</u>, with any questions. You may also call the office at 260-471-1849. Light refreshments will be served.

**EMMAUS LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL** is looking for two caring and dependable Preschool Aides to support our 3–5-year-old students in a loving, Christ-centered environment. One position is for the morning shift from 8:15 AM to 1:30 PM, and the other is for the afternoon shift from 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Pay is \$12 per hour. Applicants must have a high school diploma and a genuine love for working with young children. All students are potty trained. Our Lutheran preschool is dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus every day. If you're ready to make a meaningful impact in the lives of little ones, contact Joann Olsen at jolsen@emmauslutheranfw.org.

#### For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion

**God calls His own people a "Royal Priesthood." God makes us kings and queens, princes and princesses** who are bound together by the Holy Spirit in Baptism for the Christian benefit of each other. Priests **PRAY** — They talk to God about their neighbor! Priests **TEACH** — They talk to their neighbor about God! Priests **OFFER SACRIFICES** — They offer to God the sacrifice of broken and contrite hearts; they offer their bodies and work as holy services to God for their neighbors. Join in this priestly work of prayer with your fellow members.

<b>Morning Prayer</b>	DAILY LECTIONARY	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
Luke 8:26-39	The Second Sunday after Pentecos	t Isaiah 65:1-9
John 20:1-18	Monday	Proverbs 27:1-24
John 20:19-31	Tuesday	Proverbs 30:1-9, 18-33
John 21:1-25	Wednesday	Proverbs 31:10-31
Acts 8:1-25	Thursday	Joshua 1:1-18
Acts 8:26-40	Friday	Joshua 2:1-24
Acts 9:1-22	Saturday	Joshua 3:1-17

#### THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH

[Daily] O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God's Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy, ......hear our prayer. Amen!

[F] For the preaching of the Cross; for those persecuted for the sake of Gospel; the confession of the orthodox Lutheran faith in our community; Lord, in Your mercy,

[Sat] For faithfulness unto life's earthly end; for the revival of those who have

withered in the faith or fallen away; for the dying; Lord, in Your mercy, hear our praver. Amen!

#### [Daily] The Our Father

#### TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Festival of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles Galatians 2:1-10



# What Doctor Luther Says:

About Salvation Not by Our Choice but God's Grace [F]ree choice is nothing but a slave of sin, death, and Satan, not doing

[F]ree choice is nothing but a slave of sin, death, and Satan, not doing and not capable of doing or attempting to do anything but evil.

Take ... the example in chapter 10 [Rom. 10:20], quoted from Isaiah: "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me" [Isa. 65:11. He says this with reference to the Gentiles, because it has been given to them to hear and to know Christ, though previously they could not even think of him, much less seek him or prepare themselves for him by the power of free choice. From this example it is clear enough that grace comes so freely that no thought of it, let alone any endeavor or striving after it, precedes its coming. It was the same also with Paul when he was Saul. What did he do with his wonderful power of free choice? He certainly gave his mind to very good and virtuous things from the point of view of reason. But observe by what endeavor he finds grace! Not only does he not seek it, but he receives it even while raging furiously against it. On the other hand, he says concerning the Jews in chapter 9 [Rom. 9:30]: "Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, righteousness through faith; but Israel who pursued the righteousness which is based on law did not succeed in fulfilling that law." ... Therefore, nothing is lacking in the Jews that is attributed to free choice, and yet nothing comes of it, or rather, the opposite comes of it. In the Gentiles there is nothing to be found of what is attributed to free choice, and yet the righteousness of God results. What is this but a confirmation by the unequivocal example of the two nations and the clearest possible testimony of Paul that grace is given freely to those without merits and the most undeserving, and is not obtained by any efforts, endeavors, or works, whether small or great, even of the best and most virtuous of men, though they seek and pursue righteousness with burning zeal? Luther's Works, 33:275-6.

Registration is continuing for the 2025-2026 school year at Lutheran South Unity School. We are still looking for more students who would like to join our school family. Call Barb Johnson or the office at LSUS (260-744-0459) to make an appointment for a tour. Then the registration process will be explained to you. To help with tuition, we take Choice Vouchers. We also have scholarships and financial aid available. Someone is in the office Monday though Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Make your appointment now.



# 18 HOLE FLORIDA Scramble

# LUNCH PROVIDED CASH BAR AVAILABLE ON COURSE

**MCMILLEN PARK** 

3900 HESSEN CASSEL RD., FORT WAYNE, IN 46806





<u>HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/RALWM</u>