

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WELS



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word  
We gather around the Word (worship)  
We grow in the Word (education)  
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



**Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Wisconsin Synod**  
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**Welcome!**

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. Join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Bible Class at 11:00am.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

Our worship service is open to all. The forgiveness received in the Lord's Supper is proclaimed to all throughout the service. However, the Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is to be received by those who have been instructed about its meaning and the unity it expresses.

*For this reason, we ask that guests speak with the Pastor  
before partaking of the Holy Supper.*



Heavenly Father, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We give thanks for your abundant blessings over the years, for the faithful proclamation of your Word, and for the countless lives touched by the Gospel through our synod's ministry. Lord, for many generations, you have preserved and guided your Church both through trials and blessings, raising up pastors, teachers, and lay leaders to serve your kingdom. As we remember this milestone, we ask for your continued guidance and strength to remain steadfast in the truth, proclaiming Christ crucified and risen for the salvation of all. Bless this synod with unity, wisdom, and a renewed commitment to spread the kingdom of God, that your name may be glorified now and forever. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Stand*

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

**CONFESSION**

*CW 155*

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**e have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 538 Jesus, My Great High Priest

1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, of - fered his blood and  
2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, will I com - mit my  
3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears for my de - fense on  
4 Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell un -

died; my guilt - y con - science seeks no sac - ri -  
cause; he an - swers and ful - fills his Fa - ther's  
high; a gra - cious Fa - ther hears and lays his  
known put their most dread - ful forms of rage and

fice be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -  
bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom  
thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can  
mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -

tone, and now it pleads be - fore the throne.  
set - my Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!  
say shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.  
plays su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abrv., alt.  
Tune: Roger R. Kins, 1872-1899  
Text and tune: Public domain

### THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, keep your household, the church, in continual godliness, and set us free from all adversities that, under your protection, we may serve you with true devotion and holy deeds; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## CHRIST WITH US

## JOSHUA 4:1-9

*Over 500 years ago, Lutheran Christians were under tremendous pressure. They were forced to defend themselves on battlefields both metaphorical and literal. But they took comfort that Christ himself was by their side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit. Just 175 years ago, the Lutheran Christians who founded WELS were also under tremendous pressure. The pressure continues today with opposition to the truths of the Word of God. But we take comfort that Christ is with us in Word and sacrament, and we move forward with the promise of his presence.*

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua,<sup>2</sup> “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe,<sup>3</sup> and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”

<sup>4</sup> So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe,<sup>5</sup> and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites,<sup>6</sup> to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’<sup>7</sup> tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

<sup>8</sup> So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down.<sup>9</sup> Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray:

Lord, keep your household, the church, in continual godliness. Even as you have been with us in WELS for 175 years, continue to bless us with your presence through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

***HYMN: LORD JESUS CHRIST, WITH US ABIDE***

**641**

## CHRIST FOR US

## ROMANS 5:8-10

*Our synod's 175th anniversary theme is "Christ Through Us." That can only be understood properly if we first establish the concept of "Christ For Us" (Christus pro nobis in Latin). Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection were not for his own benefit but specifically for humanity's salvation. He lived a perfect life, fulfilling God's law on behalf of sinners, and his death was a substitutionary atonement for our sins. The phrase "for us" underscores the idea that salvation is entirely a gift, granted by God through Christ's actions, and is not earned by human effort or merit.*

*"Christ For Us" is central to the Bible's explanation of justification, where believers are declared righteous before God solely on the basis of Christ's work, received through faith. Christ's vicarious suffering and resurrection assure Christians that God's wrath against sin has been fully satisfied, and through Christ, we are reconciled to God.*

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray:

O merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people the confidence that comes from your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, living and dying and rising for us, that the forgiveness of sins confessed in WELS for the last 175 years be our clear message until he comes again in glory to reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***HYMN: O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST***

**820**

## CHRIST THROUGH US

LUKE 5:1-11

*The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2025 under the theme “Christ Through Us.” From one seminary in 1865, one world mission in 1893, and 800 congregations mostly in the Midwest as of 1965, we can now easily see how Christ has worked through his good news of salvation in Word and sacraments to move this body of believers to establish a Scripture-based ministerial education system, world missions in 45 countries, and more than 1,200 congregations across the United States. The “Christ Through Us” theme will also inform the work of WELS in a ten-year detailed plan to proclaim our Savior’s love.*

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, <sup>2</sup> he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Let us pray:

God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your church as we come in prayer to thank you for 175 years of blessings on WELS. Continue to speak the peace and forgiveness of Christ through us as he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**HYMN: O CHURCH, ARISE**

**870**

## **SERMON on LUKE 5:1-11**

### **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 truly 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, the 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.**

**Offering**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Gracious God, the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed us from sin, and the work of your Spirit in our hearts has brought us to faith. According to your promise, preserve us in faith through your Word and sacraments. Accept our humble thanks for these rich blessings, and help us to rejoice in them and use them faithfully. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you have brought us together in a church body in which your Word is proclaimed faithfully, the message of reconciliation through Christ is the central focus of ministry, and the mission is to reach the lost and strengthen the saved. For this gift of your grace, we give you thanks. Work in us by your Holy Spirit to rekindle our zeal for the work you have set before us. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, you have given us opportunities to proclaim your Word in our nation and throughout the world. Move the hearts of more young people to prepare for the teaching and preaching ministry. Help us view them as your precious gifts. Bless the work of our schools that prepare them for ministry and provide the opportunities for them to serve in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, you have brought us together as a church body that we may proclaim your praise. Inspire us by your grace to let our light shine so that more people may be led to glorify you. Forgive us when we fall short of living and working together as your people. Renew in us an godly determination to serve you and one another in love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, you have preserved our synod and blessed its ministry for the past 175 years. We thank you for the faithful ministers of the gospel throughout our history who have taught your truth and proclaimed your Word. Bless us in the future as you have in the past so that our synod, its congregations, and each of us may boldly confess your name for the salvation of precious souls. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Hear us, help us, and hold your guiding hand over us that in all our service your saving name may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

*CW 165*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## ♪ SANCTUS ♪

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **♪ AGNUS ♪**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

***HYMN: HERE, O MY LORD, I SEE YOU FACE TO FACE***

**660**

*Stand*

***HYMN: IN PEACE AND JOY I NOW DEPART***

**949**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

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.**

***HYMN: GOD'S WORD IS OUR GREAT HERITAGE***

**640**

### Acknowledgments

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