



CELEBRATION OF THE 495th
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PRESENTATION OF
THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION
JUNE 25, 1530 – JUNE 25, 2024
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST.
JOHN THE BAPTIST (JUNE 24)
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER
TRINITY

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR BLESSED LORD! We are pleased you are here, gathered around the Gospel in Preaching and the Sacraments! **GUESTS** – If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT: Concordia Lutheran Church confesses all the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired word of God without any errors. We also hold, without any reservation, to the teachings of the Evangelical-Lutheran Confessions contained in the 1580 Book of Concord. We confess these teachings to be the correct interpretation of Scripture and a true explanation of the one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic faith.

† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: Lord God, heavenly Father, we most heartily thank You that by Your Word you have brought us out of the darkness of error into the light of Your grace: We beseech You, mercifully help us to walk in that light, guard us from all error and false

JUNE 22, 2025 † 9:00 A. M.

doctrine, and grant that we may not become ungrateful and despise and persecute Your Word, but receive it with all our heart, govern our lives according to it, and put all our trust in Your grace, through the merit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Divine Service: Rite Four (The Lutheran Choral Service) *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary: p. 107*

The Office of Preparation (Confession & Holy Absolution)

Please Note: *When the Prelude Music begins it is a laudable custom to keep talking to a minimum and prepare for God's Service with prayer.*

It is a laudable custom to bow the head when the holy Name of Jesus is mentioned and at other places marked with a diamond (◆)

It is a laudable custom to cross oneself in remembrance of baptism at those places marked by a †.

Hymn of Invocation: 33, *We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost*

**C: We now implore the Holy Ghost
For the true faith, which we need the most,
That in our last moments He may befriend us
And, as homeward we journey, attend us. Lord, have mercy.**

**Shine in our hearts, O most precious Light,
That we Jesus Christ may know aright,
Clinging to our Savior, whose blood hath bought us.
Who again to our homeland hath brought us. Lord, have mercy.**

**Thou sacred Love, grace on us bestow,
Set our hearts with heavenly fire aglow
That with hearts united we love each other,
Of one mind, in peace with every brother. Lord, have mercy!**

**Thou highest Comfort in every need,
Grant that neither shame nor death we heed,
That e'en then our courage may never fail us
When the Foe shall accuse and assail us. Lord, have mercy!**

Invocation & Confession of Sin (spoken)

P: In the Name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

C: A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Kyrie Eleison: 34, Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above

**C: Kyrie, God Father in heav'n above, Great art Thou in grace and love,
Of all things the Maker and Preserver. Eleison, eleison!**

**Kyrie, O Christ, our King, Salvation for sinners Thou didst bring.
O Lord ♦ Jesus, God's own Son, Our Mediator at the heav'nly throne,
Hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison, eleison!**

**Kyrie, O God the Holy Ghost,
Guard our faith, the gift we need the most; Do Thou our last hour bless;
Let us leave this sinful world with gladness. Eleison, eleison!**

Gloria in Excelsis (*ELH p. 44-45*)

P: Glory be to God in the highest

C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.

C: All glory be to God on high Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall dwell on earth again;
O thank Him for His goodness!

Salutation: p. 66

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

Collect for the Day

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You preserved the teaching of the apostolic Church through the confession of the true faith at Augsburg: continue to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24)

P: O Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your servant John the Baptist You bore witness that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, and that all who believe in Him shall inherit eternal life: we humbly pray You to enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit that we may at all times find comfort and joy in this witness, continue steadfast in the true faith, and at last with all believers attain unto eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Collect for the First Sunday After Trinity

P: O God, the Strength of all those who put their trust in You: mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without You,

grant us Your grace to keep Your commandments that we may please You both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament: *Nehemiah 8:1-2, 5-6, 9-12*

Now *in those days* all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep.” For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.” And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *551, Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain*

**C: Lord, help us ever to retain The Catechism’s doctrine plain
As Luther taught the Word of Truth In simple style to tender youth.**

**Help us Thy holy Law to learn, To mourn our sin, and from it turn
In faith to Thee and to Thy Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One.**

**Hear us, dear Father, when we pray For needed help from day to day
That as Thy children we may live, Whom Thou in Baptism didst receive.**

**Lord, when we fall and sin doth stain, Absolve and lift us up again;
And through the Sacrament increase Our faith till we depart in peace.**

Epistle: *1 Timothy 6:11-16*

P: Brethren: Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good

fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Chief Hymn: 549, *O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word*

C: **O God, our Lord, Your holy Word Was long a hidden treasure
Till to its place It was by grace Restored in fullest measure.
For this today Our thanks we say And gladly glorify You.
Your mercy show And grace bestow On all who still deny You.**

**Salvation true By faith in You, That is Your Gospel's preaching,
The heart and core Of Bible lore In all its sacred teaching.
In Christ we must Put all our trust, Not in our deeds or labor;
With conscience pure and heart secure Love You, Lord, and our neighbor.**

**Lord, You alone This work have done By Your free grace and favor.
All who believe Will grace receive Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
And though the foe Would overthrow Your Word with grim endeavor,
What plan he tries, It always dies; Your Word will stand forever.**

**You are my Lord, And by Your Word Death holds no dreadful terrors;
Your precious blood, My highest good, Has blotted out my errors.
My thanks to You! Your Word is true, You keep Your promise promise ever
While here I live, Your grace You give And heaven's bliss forever.**

Holy Gospel: *St. Matthew 10:26-33*

P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. Matthew, the 10th chapter:

C: **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus said: Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and

body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

P: This is the † Holy Gospel.

C: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Creedal Hymn: *38, We All Believe in One True God*

C: **We all believe in one true God, Who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love Hath the right of children given.
He both soul and body feedeth, All we need He doth provide us;
He through snares and perils leadeth, Watching that no harm betide us.
He careth for us day and night, All things are governed by His might.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing
An equal Godhead, throne, and might, Source of every grace and blessing.
Born of Mary, virgin mother, By the power of the Spirit,
Made true man, our elder Brother, That the lost might life inherit;
Was crucified for sinful men And raised by God to life again.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who sweet grace and comfort giveth
And with the Father and the Son In eternal glory liveth;
Who the Church, His own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit.
Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be In bliss with God eternally. Amen.**

Sermon

The Intercessions: *383, Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above*

C: **Our Father, Thou in heav'n above, Who biddest us to dwell in love
As brethren of one family And cry for all we need to Thee;
Teach us to mean the words we say, And from the inmost heart to pray.**

**All hallowed be Thy name, O Lord! O let us firmly keep Thy word,
And lead, according to Thy name, A holy life, untouched by blame;
Let no false teachings do us hurt; All poor deluded souls convert.**

**Thy kingdom come! Thine let it be In time and through eternity!
O let Thy Holy Spirit dwell With us to rule and guide us well;
From Satan's mighty pow'r and rage Preserve Thy Church from age to age.**

**Thy will be done on earth, O Lord, As where in heav'n Thou art adored!
Patience in time of grief bestow, Obedience true in weal and woe;
Our sinful flesh and blood control That thwart Thy will within the soul.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, Let us be duly clothed and fed;
And keep Thou from our homes afar Famine and pestilence and war,
That we may live in godly peace Unvexed by cares and avarice.**

**Forgive our sins, that they no more May grieve and haunt us as before,
As we forgive their trespasses Who unto us have done amiss;
Thus let us dwell in charity And serve each other willingly.**

**Into temptation lead us not, And when the foe doth war and plot
Against our souls on ev'ry hand, Then armed with faith, O may we stand
Against him as a valiant host Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.**

**Deliv'rance from all evil give, For yet in evil days we live.
Redeem us from eternal death, And, when we yield our dying breath,
Console us, grant us calm release, And take our souls to Thee in peace.**

**Amen! That is, so let it be! Strengthen our faith and trust in Thee
That we may doubt not, but believe That what we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Thy name and at Thy word We say, "Amen. Now hear us, Lord."**

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect (III): p. 86-87

P: Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, unto Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above, that Your Word, as becomes it, may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The Benediction: p. 84

P: 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.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen.

Dismissal Hymn: 250, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

**C: A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil Foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight; On Earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is. Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.**

**Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill, They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none, He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.**

**The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child and wife,
Let these all be gone, They yet have nothing won; The Kingdom our remaineth.**

*It is a laudable custom to offer SILENT PRAYER
at the end of the Divine Service. See p. 40 in the front
of the hymnal.*

Our Life Together

The artwork on the cover of today's service folder is the motto of the Lutheran Reformation: *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* – "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever." These words, based on 1 Peter 1:24-25, are a confident expression of the enduring power and authority of God's Word. It first appeared in the court of Luther's prince, Frederick the Wise, in 1522. He had it sewn onto the right sleeve of the court's official clothing, which was worn by prince and servant alike. It was used by Frederick's successors, his brother John the Steadfast, and his nephew John Frederick the Magnanimous. It became the official motto of the Smalcaldic League and was used on flags, banners, swords, and uniforms as a symbol of the unity of the Lutheran laity who struggled to defend their beliefs, communities, families, and lives against those who were intent on destroying them.

The Bible Study meets following the Service at Bethany. Today's study will begin a look at the immediate post-Flood world, culminating in the idolatry of the Tower of Babel and the division of the human race. The Thursday study is still working through the closing chapters of 1 Chronicles in preparation to begin 1 Kings.

Congregation at Prayer Sheet: Please update Pastor on the status of any of your friends and loved ones who are included in the petitions on our weekly prayer sheet so that he can edit accordingly.

Pastor's Vacation: Pastor Bryant will be here to preach and celebrate the Divine Service two week from today (July 6). Pastor and Kristen will be vacationing with family in Montana. That Sunday is our First Sunday Fellowship. So please bring refreshments to share and stay around for Christian fellowship. There will be no Bible Class or Sunday School that day.

The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse by verse Bible Study on demand hosted by confessional Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor Will Weedon. Currently Pastor Weedon is going through Genesis 24-39. Go to thewordendures.org/search-by-book/ to see the extensive list of books that have already been covered.

Feasts, Commemorations, and Events

Monday: Pastor at Concordia

Tuesday: FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST; Pastor at Bethany

Wednesday: 495TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION; Pastor at Concordia

Thursday: *Commemoration of OT Prophet Jeremiah*; Bethany Bible Study, 10am

Friday: *Commemoration of St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Confessor*
Pastor at Bethany

Saturday: *Commemoration of St. Irenaeus of Lyons, Bishop & Martyr*; Pastor's Day Off

Next Sunday: *The Second Sunday After Trinity*

Concordia Service of the Word, 9:00am

Bethany Holy Communion, 11:00am;

Bethany Sunday School & Bible Study, 12:30pm

Youth Catechesis at Bethany, 1:45pm

445th Anniversary of the Book of Concord

June 25 is not only the anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. It is also the day on which the entire Lutheran *Book of Concord* was first published in 1580, exactly fifty years later.

The 1703 printing of the Book of Concord was one of the first to include historical and theological introductions. Leipzig master engraver C. F. Boethius prepared the intricate engraving for the occasion that you see on the last page of today's service folder.

Top left: Elector Augustus I of Saxony, the man responsible for publishing the Book of Concord in 1580.

Top right: Christian II of Saxony, who ruled 1591 – 1611; he was ruler when the Book of Concord was reprinted in 1602.

Center: The Saxon electors' coat of arms. Above is the Lutheran motto in Latin, *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum*: "The Word of the Lord endures forever." Two figures hold the banner. The one holding arrows symbolizes government's duty to wage war when necessary. The other figure holds a dove's feather, symbolizing the peace government is to protect. God's Hebrew name YHWH appears in a shining triangle, symbolizing the Holy Trinity.

Right background: Two of the authors of the Lutheran Formula of Concord (1577), Martin Chemnitz (right) and Jacob Andreae (left) watch Elector August I sign the Book of Concord.

Foreground: Heinrich of Albertine Saxony (who ruled 1539-41) subscribing to the Confessions. To his left stands John the Steadfast of Ernestine Saxony, who ruled 1525-32. (The Albertine line of rulers took over the Ernestine territory in Wittenberg in 1547). John the Steadfast is holding a book that says, "The Augsburg Confession, June 25, 1530, Taught Alone."

