

# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 17, 2024

## WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

**Restrooms** are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

**Quiet room** Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

## BY GRACE ALONE: WELS INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES

Each year, the offerings from our Wednesday Advent services (coming up in December) are designated to a special ministry associated with the WELS. This year our offerings will support Institutional Ministries. In their own words, Institutional Ministries carries out “behind-the-walls ministry” throughout the Midwest, by shining the light of Jesus’ love in four areas:

- Correctional Care – ministering to souls in jails and prisons.
- Extended Care – ministering to souls in nursing homes, rehab centers and hospice facilities.
- Health Care – ministering to souls in hospitals and mental health facilities.
- Caring Support – ministering to souls behind unseen walls such as addiction, depression, PTSD, and moral injury.

Today we welcome Pastor Phil Henselin who serves as Executive Director of IM.

## PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF “CLOSE COMMUNION”

This means we only commune members of Peace and churches directly affiliated with Peace. If you’d like to learn more please inquire with us: [church.office@peacewels.org](mailto:church.office@peacewels.org).

## HEAVEN IS MY HOME

This hymn is an old favorite among Christians. It is often sung at funerals. Pastors sing this hymn to shut-ins.

The composer of the verses, Thomas Taylor, appears to have been sickly and was only able to serve in the ministry for 6 months before he had to resign for poor health. He died at the age of 28. Interesting that heaven was on his mind.

When we are confined by a hospital bed, prison walls, aging limbs or mental illness, the anticipation of heaven through faith in Jesus sets us free! We long for that day.

## HOW ABOUT A CHRISTMAS GIFT THAT ENCOURAGES THE FAITH?

Log on to [nph.net](http://nph.net)

Northwestern Publishing House (nph) is the official publisher of the WELS. Many beautiful devotionals and other works can be purchased for your loved ones there.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider ..... Rev. Luke C. Werre  
Sermon ..... Rev. Phil Henselin, Executive Director of Institutional Ministries  
Accompanist ..... Ms. Johanna Brauer  
Projection Slides ..... Brittany Kuehl

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## OPENING HYMN

*O Bless the Lord, My Soul* | CW 623<sup>1</sup>

*Please stand*

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

**C: And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS<sup>2</sup>

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

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

**Amen.**

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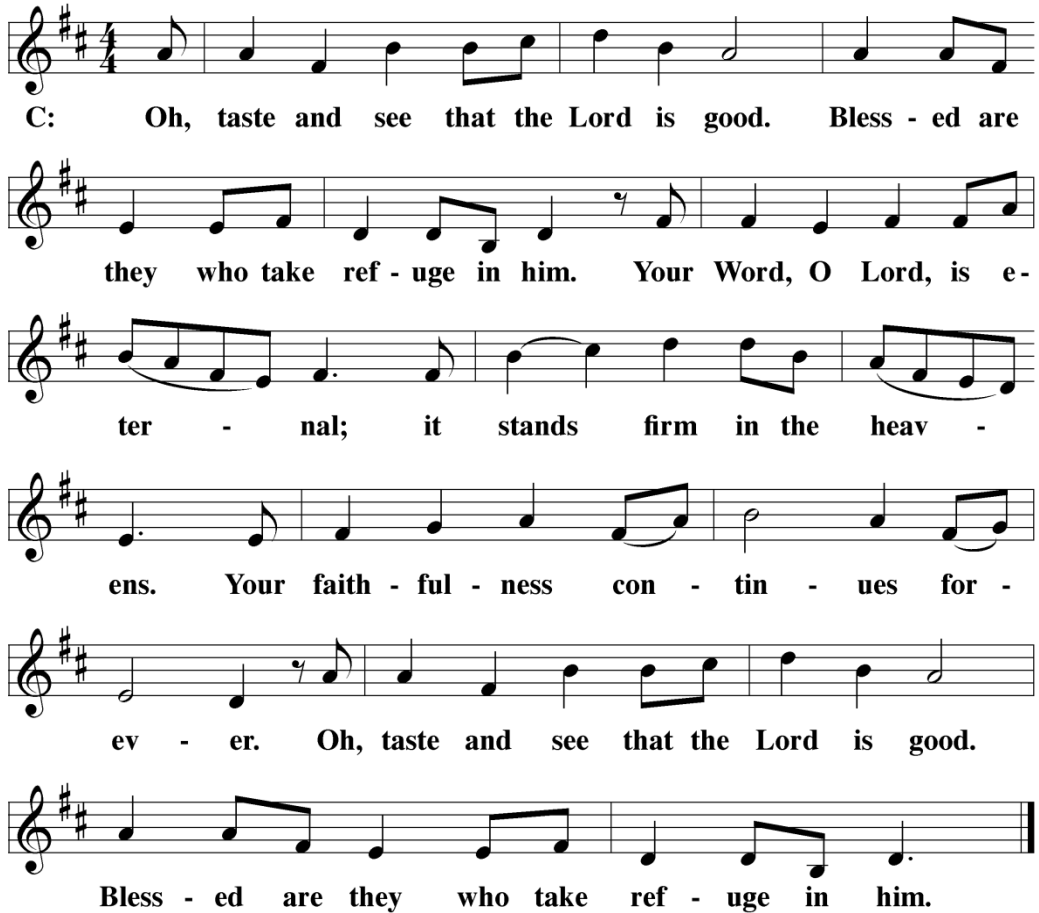
<sup>1</sup> This hymn is a paraphrase of Psalm 103 – one of the most powerful and expressive psalms about the Lord's forgiveness.

<sup>2</sup> This is how our dialog with God must begin. *"But with you there is forgiveness, therefore you are feared"* (Psalm 130:4).

# PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

## OH, TASTE AND SEE<sup>3</sup>



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

<sup>3</sup> This song is a paraphrase of Psalm 34. We are responding with joy over the fact that through the minister God has just forgiven us our sins.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Lord God, accept our humble confession of the wrongs we have done, the injustice to which we have been party, and the countless denials of your mercy we have expressed. Cleanse us by your grace, deliver us from every crisis and turn us toward your love, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Please be seated*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

***Numbers 13:25–14:24***

<sup>25</sup>At the end of forty days, they returned from scouting the land.

<sup>26</sup>They came back to Moses, Aaron, and the entire community of the Israelites at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Paran. They brought back a report to them and to the entire community. They showed them some of the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup>They reported to him and said, “We went to the land where you sent us. It really does flow with milk and honey, and here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup>However, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. We also saw the descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup>The Amalekites are living in the land of the Negev. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites are living in the hill country. The Canaanites are living by the sea and along the Jordan.”

<sup>30</sup>Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “We should go up now and take possession of it, because we can certainly conquer it!”

<sup>31</sup>But the men who had gone up with Caleb said, “We are not able to go up against the people, because they are stronger than we are.” <sup>32</sup>So they spread a negative report to the Israelites about the land that they had scouted. They said, “The land that we explored and scouted is a land that eats up its inhabitants. All the people we saw in the land were huge. <sup>33</sup>We saw there the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). In our own eyes we seemed like grasshoppers. We seemed like grasshoppers in their eyes too.”

<sup>1</sup>The entire community raised a loud cry. The people wept that night. <sup>2</sup>All of the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The entire community said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! If only we had died in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup>Why is the LORD bringing us to this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our children will be taken as captives! Wouldn't it be better

for us to return to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup>So they said to one another, "Let's put someone in charge and return to Egypt."

<sup>5</sup>Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown before the entire assembly of the Israelite community.

<sup>6</sup>Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, two of those who had scouted the land, tore their clothes. <sup>7</sup>They spoke to the entire Israelite community, "The land that we explored and scouted is a very good land. <sup>8</sup>If the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that is flowing with milk and honey. <sup>9</sup>Only do not revolt against the LORD. Do not fear the people of the land, for we will eat them up. Their protection is taken away from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

<sup>10</sup>Still the entire community threatened to stone them to death. The Glory of the LORD appeared to all the Israelites over the Tent of Meeting. <sup>11</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? <sup>12</sup>I will strike them with a plague and disown them. Then I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they are."

<sup>13</sup>Moses said to the LORD, "The Egyptians will hear it, since by your own power you brought these people up from the midst of the Egyptians. <sup>14</sup>They will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have heard that you, the LORD, are in the midst of this people. You, the LORD, are seen face-to-face. Your cloud stands over them. You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. <sup>15</sup>If you killed these people, leaving no one, then the nations which have heard about your fame will say, <sup>16</sup>'Because the LORD was not able to bring these people into the land which he swore to them, he has slaughtered them in the wilderness.' <sup>17</sup>Now please let the power of the Lord be great, just as you have said, <sup>18</sup>'The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in mercy, forgiving guilt and rebellion. He certainly does not leave the guilty unpunished, following up on the guilt of the fathers with the children unto the third and the fourth generation.' <sup>19</sup>According to your great mercy, please pardon the guilt of these people, just as you have forgiven these people from Egypt until now."

<sup>20</sup>The LORD said, "I have pardoned them just as you have said. <sup>21</sup>But as surely as I live, and as surely as the entire earth is filled with the glory of the LORD, <sup>22</sup>not one of the men who has seen my glory and my signs, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and who has tested me these ten times and has not listened to my voice— <sup>23</sup>I promise that none of them will see the land which I swore to their fathers. None of those who treated me with contempt will see it. <sup>24</sup>But because my servant Caleb had a different spirit and has followed me completely, I will bring him into the land to which he traveled. His descendants will possess it."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 142A

*Refrain*



I cry a-loud to the Lord; I raise my voice to God; I



cry a - loud to the Lord, my God: Lord, have mer-cy.

*Psalm Tone*



I cry aloud to the LORD;

I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy.

I pour out my complaint before him;  
before him I tell my trouble.

When my spirit grows faint within me,

it is you who know my way.

Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me.  
I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.

***Refrain***

I cry to you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need;  
rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.

Set me free from my prison,

that I may praise your name.

Then the righteous will gather about me  
because of your goodness to me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

***Refrain***

## SECOND LESSON

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

<sup>8</sup>Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

### VERSE OF THE DAY



**C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!**



**These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that**



**Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.**



**Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!**



## GOSPEL

*John 15:13-16*

<sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you continue to do the things I instruct you. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*Please be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Chief of Sinners Though I Be | CW 578<sup>4</sup>*

## SERMON<sup>5</sup>

*Numbers 13:25–14:24*

*Not Forgotten and Alone, but Forgiven by Grace Alone.*

*Please stand*

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<sup>4</sup> The tune of this hymn is called “Gethsemane.” Can you guess another hymn that uses this tune?

<sup>5</sup> We welcome Pastor Phil Henselin, Executive Director of Institution Ministries.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*A musical offering follows—for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.*

*Please stand*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Father in heaven, we thank you for the health and freedoms we enjoy as we come and go and busy ourselves with life. Please look with mercy on those who are not free, who are confined by prison walls. Where repentance is needed, please grant repentance. Where justice is needed, please grant justice. Where faith in Jesus is needed, please send your Spirit to create faith. Bless the efforts of the prison chaplains who bring the Gospel to all prisoners to change hearts and lives. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Gracious heavenly Father, look with mercy on all who face new challenges and are confronted with change because of old age. Grant them strength of body, peace of mind and cheering companionship. Surround them with love and respect, concern and understanding. Enable them to accept assistance graciously and thankfully. Keep them strong in the faith, and assure them that you sustain them to the very last. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, let your mercy be a ray of sunshine and hope to all who are in the dark valley of depression and anxiety, addiction and mental illness. Restore them to health by your promise of forgiveness, deliverance and peace. If it is your will, lift away the burdens of their souls and heal the wounds of their hearts. Even as they are unsteady, help them find in you a sure anchor of goodness and salvation. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessory prayers*

We place these requests before you and are confident that by the merits of Jesus you will grant what we ask. With this confidence we also pray as Jesus has taught us...

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

# THE SACRAMENT

## 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.**

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

*Please be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

*Please respect our practice of "Close Communion." For explanation, please see the inside cover of this worship folder. Thank you.*

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service | CW 766*

*Jesus Paid It All | CW 562*

*Please stand*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the true faith into life everlasting. Your sins are forgiven. The peace of God is with you.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

## CLOSING HYMN

*I'm But a Stranger Here* | CW 853



1 I'm but a stran - ger here, heav'n is my home;  
2 What though the tem - pest rage, heav'n is my home;  
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, heav'n is my home;



earth is a des - ert drear, heav'n is my home;  
short is my pil - grim - age, heav'n is my home;  
what - e'er my earth - ly lot, heav'n is my home;



dan - ger and sor - row stand round me on ev - 'ry hand;  
and time's wild, win - try blast soon shall be o - ver - past;  
and I shall sure - ly stand there at my Lord's right hand;



heav'n is my fa - ther - land, heav'n is my home.  
I shall reach home at last, heav'n is my home.  
heav'n is my fa - ther - land, heav'n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–1835, abr.

Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

Text and tune: Public domain