



All hymns sourced from *The Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* (ELH).

#378 | *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

Nun freut euch, liebe Christen g'mein
M. Luther, 1483–1546
Tr. R. Massie, 1800–87, *alt.*

NUN FREUT EUCH
Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524

#56 | *Ye Lands to the Lord*

Al Verden nu raabe for Herren med Fryd
U. V. Koren, 1826–1910
Tr. H. R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925

GUDS MENIGHED, SYNG
E. C. Hoff, 1832–94

#252 | *I Walk in Danger All the Way*

Jeg gaar i Fare, hvor jeg gaar
H. A. Brorson, 1694–1764
Tr. D. G. Ristad, 1863–1938, *alt.*

DER LIEBEN SONNE LICHT UND PRACHT
Geistreiches Gesangbuch, Halle, 1704
J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

#583 | *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

Guds Ord det er vort Arvegods
N. F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872
Tr. O. G. Belsheim, 1861–1925

EIN FESTE BURG
M. Luther, 1483–1546
Setting: L. M. Lindeman, 1812–87

#211 | *Built on the Rock*

Kirken den er et gammelt Hus
N. F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872
Tr. C. Døving, 1867–1937

KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS
L. M. Lindeman, 1812–87

#324 | *O Jesus, at Your Altar Now*

O Jesu, paa dinAlterfod
T. H. Kingo, 1634–1703
Tr. J. B. Madson, b. 1920

HERRNHUT
B. Gesius, c. 1555–1613

#325 | *O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee*

O Jesu, søde Jesu, dig
T. H. Kingo, 1634–1703
Tr. A. J. Mason, 1851–1928

OLD HUNDREDTH
L. Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561

#596 | *Praise to Thee and Adoration*

Lov og Tak og evig Ære
T. H. Kingo, 1634–1703
Tr. K. Kvamme, 1866–1938

FREU DICH SEHR
Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551
Setting: J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

Prepared by the ELS Worship Committee and ELS Centennial Committee



Lime Creek Lutheran Church | Lake Mills, Iowa | D. Moldstad, 2018

PROCLAIM THE WONDERS
GOD HAS DONE
Evangelical Lutheran Synod
1918–2018

PROCLAIM THE WONDERS GOD HAS DONE

ELS Centennial Anniversary

Founders' Day | October 14, 2018

Today the Evangelical Lutheran Synod observes the centennial of its reorganization. Although the synod was reorganized in June 1918, the date of October 14 bears special significance because of its importance to the Norwegian Synod.

The Norwegian Synod was organized in 1853. Six years later, the synod's first joint undertaking was the establishment of a professorship for the training of pastors. The position officially began on October 14. This date became known as "Founders' Day" and had such importance to the Norwegian Synod that it became the dedication date of many buildings for congregations and synodical institutions.

In 1918, the synod was reorganized as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to "continue in the old doctrine and practice." Since then, the synod has observed the dual anniversaries of 1853 and 1918. For many years after the synod's reorganization, the mid-October date continued to be observed as a public declaration that the ELS is the rightful successor to the teachings of the Norwegian Synod which held to the two fundamental principles of the Reformation: that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that salvation is received by grace alone.

During this centennial year, the ELS follows this tradition by observing "Founders' Day" as a special opportunity to thank and praise God for one hundred years of His wonders and blessings. He has richly and daily provided for us. He has purchased and won us from all sin through His Son. He has sanctified and kept us in the one truth faith. May grateful hearts overflow with thanks and praise.

From U.V. Koren . . . to Bjug Harstad . . . to today, we continue to
Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done.



THE DIVINE SERVICE — RITE ONE

(pp. 41–57 in *The Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*)

*This order of service, known as the "Bugenhagen Order," grew out of the Lutheran Reformation. It was provided for use in the churches of Denmark and Norway in 1537 by Johannes Bugenhagen, Martin Luther's pastor. Minor revisions were made to this service in 1685 and 1889 before it was translated into English for **The Lutheran Hymnary** (1913). The service printed here comes directly from the **Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary** (1996). With the exception of the first hymn by Martin Luther, the rest of the hymns are by Scandinavian authors.*

may From Thy fold or pas - tures stray, But with zeal and
Thee, In all woes for com - fort flee To Thy birth, Thy
joy ex - ceed - ing Fol - low where Thy steps are lead - ing.
death and pas - sion; Till I see Thy full sal - va - tion.

THE CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Following the service, the ELS Centennial Anniversary Video will be shown.



The synod's Centennial Committee announced the anniversary logo to be used for two significant anniversaries: The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The year 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the reorganization of our *Evangelical Lutheran Synod*. At the center of the logo—which has been designed by *Bethany Lutheran College* professor Andrew Overn—is the *Lime Creek* church building located near Lake Mills, Iowa. It was here that the synod was reorganized in 1918 to continue in God's word and Luther's doctrine pure. To the left is a hammer and two nails, reminding us of the day when Martin Luther posted the "Ninety-Five Theses." To the right is the symbol of the *Evangelical Lutheran Synod*, the "Chi Rho." This symbol is made from the first two letters of "Christ" in the Greek language and emphasizes the importance of keeping Jesus at the center of our teachings. The dates at the top of the logo are the quinquennial anniversary dates of 1517–2017 for the Reformation. The dates at the bottom of the logo are the centennial anniversary dates of 1918–2018 for the *ELS*. The banner across the logo bears the anniversary theme, "Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done", from a hymn of Martin Luther. During these anniversary years, we wish to look back both at what God has done and also to proclaim His name, His deeds, and His salvation to a new generation and to a generation yet to be born.

THE COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: A - - - - - men.

THE BENEDICTION

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: A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

THE CLOSING HYMN

#596 | *Praise to Thee and Adoration*

1. Praise to Thee and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,
2. Let me nev - er, Lord, for - sake Thee, E'en though bit - ter

Son of God, Who, to serve Thine own cre - a - tion,
pain and strife On my way shall o - ver - take me;

Didst par - take of flesh and blood. Teach me that I nev - er
But may I through all my life Walk in fer - vent love to

THE OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

#378:1-5 | *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

1. Dear Chris - tians, one and all, re - joyce, With ex - ul - ta - tion
2. Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood - ed dark - ly
3. My good works so im - per - fect were, They had no pow'r to
4. But God be - held my wretch - ed state Be - fore the world's foun -
5. He spoke to His be - lov - ed Son: "'Tis time to have com -

spring - ing, And, with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my
aid me; My will God's judg - ments could not bear, Yea, prone to
da - tion, And, mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned my
pas - sion. Then go, bright Je - wel of My crown, And bring to

rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God hath done, How
moth - er bore me. Yea, deep and deep - er still I fell; Life
e - vil made me; Grief drove me to de - spair, and I Had
soul's sal - va - tion. A fa - ther's heart He turned to me, Sought
man sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set him free; Slay

His right arm the vic - t'ry won; Right dear - ly it hath cost Him.
had be - come a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
noth - ing left me but to die; To hell I fast was sink - ing.
my re - demp - tion fer - vent - ly; He gave His dear - est Trea - sure.
bit - ter death for him, that he May live with Thee for - e - ver."

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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

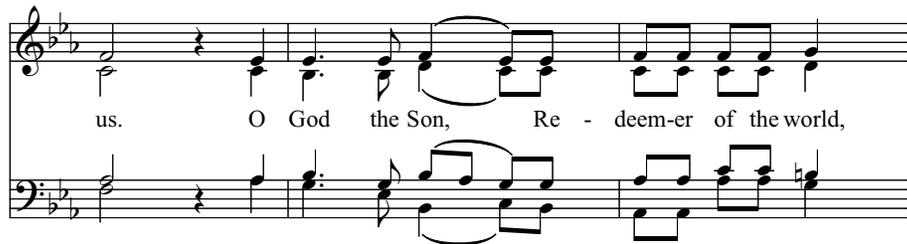
Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

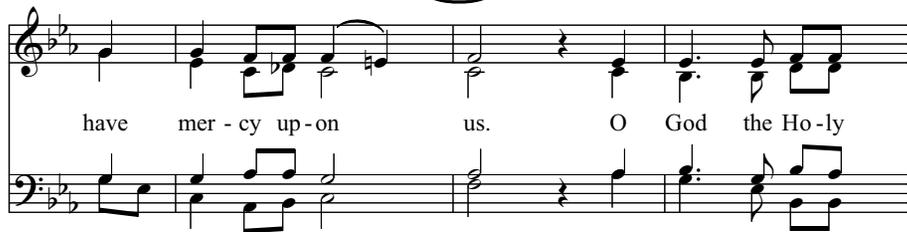
THE KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord, Have Mercy*)



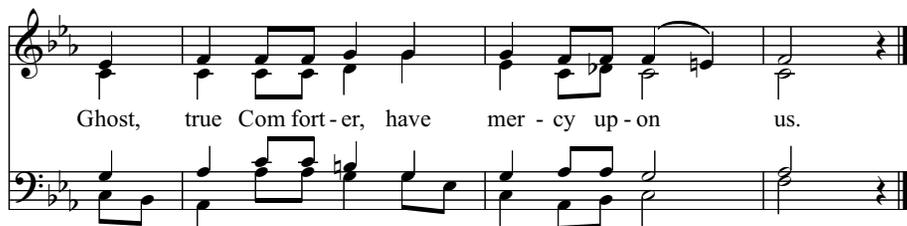
C: O God the Fa - ther in heav - en, have mer - cy up-on



us. O God the Son, Re - deem-er of the world,



have mer - cy up-on us. O God the Ho-ly



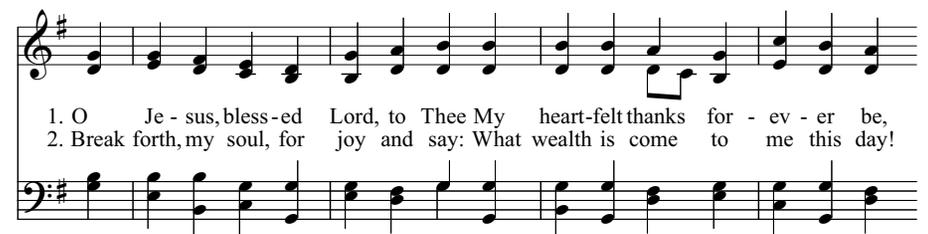
Ghost, true Com fort - er, have mer - cy up-on us.

- Eat, drink, and in your heart be glad
For such food angels never had;
And for the cup your Lord now thank,
Which heaven's angels never drank.
- I trust and know what I obtain
Is far above my mind's domain.
My Jesus here entire and whole
Is food and drink for my poor soul.
- Look earthward, angels, now with me
And honor this great mystery,
That Jesus, set at God's right hand,
Is here in bond of testament.
- In heavenly gladness dwells our Head,
Yet is He here in this blest bread.
There dwells He in His pow'r divine,
Yet gives Himself in this blest wine.
- How this can be I do not know;
He has not willed the way to show;
Such streams my reason ought not ford;
I only need to trust His Word.
- My soul, your spirit now expand
That e'en a servant's lowly hand
May freely here the pledge bestow
That God has cursed Himself for you.
- Your table, Lord, grants me great pow'r,
Here find I heav'n's life-giving show'r;
It is my heart's strong, sure defense,
It is my trust and confidence.
- This feast which You in truth prepared
As our salvation's firmest guard,
Is now my hope, refreshing me,
My life's desire eternally.
- On this blest table e'er shall be
Your body/blood once shed for me;
Therefore I cast the world aside
And in Your saving grace abide.
- Until You wholly me translate
To be with You in heav'nly state,
Where honor shall my life attend
And joy in You shall never end.

THE DISMISSAL

P: Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, who has now bestowed upon you His holy body and blood, whereby He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace ☩ be with you. Amen.

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #325 | *O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee*



1. O Je - sus, bless-ed Lord, to Thee My heart-felt thanks for - ev - er be,
2. Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is come to me this day!



Who hast so lov - ing - ly be-stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
My Sav - ior dwells with - in me now: How blest am I! How good art Thou!

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

grant us Your peace. A - - - - men.

THE DISTRIBUTION

#324 | *O Jesus, at Your Altar Now*

1. O Je - sus, at Your al - tar now In pen - i -
 2. My heart to You I glad - ly bring, So sore - ly
 3. To - day I am my Sav - ior's guest; My soul, con -
 4. Here ten - ders He in form of bread His bod - y,

tence and faith I bow Be - fore God's pre - cious
 wound - ed by my sin, And heal - ing find in
 sid - er this great feast; He bids you now to
 which for you did bleed; And in the wine His

Pas - chal Lamb, Who bears the world's great sin and shame.
 that great tide That flows from out Your wound - ed side.
 sit at meat With Him - and of Him - self to eat.
 roy - al blood, Of grace a pre - cious pur - ple flood.

THE ABSOLUTION

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord:

Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (*Glory to God in the Highest*)

P: Glory be to God in the highest

C: And on earth peace, good will to - ward men.

All glo - ry be to God on high Who hath our race be -
 friend - ed! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is
 end - ed; God show - eth His good will to men, And
 peace shall dwell on earth a - gain; O thank Him for His good - ness!

THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spir - it.

Musical notation for The Salutation, featuring a treble and bass staff in C major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "And with your spir - it."

THE COLLECT

P: Lord, we beseech You to keep Your household, the Church, in continual godliness; that through Your protection it may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in good works to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: A - - - men.

Musical notation for The Collect, featuring a treble and bass staff in C major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "A - - - men."

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 6:13-16

Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely. They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD. Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls."

THE PSALMODY HYMN

#56 | *Ye Lands, to the Lord*

1. Ye lands, to the Lord make a ju - bi - lant noise:
 2. Not we, but the Lord is our Mak - er, our God:
 3. O en - ter His gates with thanks-giv - ing and praise;
 4. For good is the Lord, and His mer - cy is sure;

Musical notation for Psalmody Hymn, featuring a treble and bass staff in B-flat major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with four verses of lyrics.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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 pow'r and the glory forever and ever.

C: A - - - men.

Musical notation for The Lord's Prayer, featuring a treble and bass staff in C major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "A - - - men."

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My \times blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

C: O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world,
 have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You
 take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

Musical notation for The Agnus Dei, featuring a treble and bass staff in B-flat major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us."

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EXHORTATION

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ: “This is My body, which is given for you; this is My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins,” you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ’s words “For the remission of sins,” you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says “Take, eat; drink of it, all of you,” and “This do in remembrance of Me.”

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ’s body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.

You should also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Glo - ry be to God! O serve Him with joy, in His
 Glo - ry be to God! His peo - ple we are, and the
 Glo - ry be to God! To bless Him and thank Him, our
 Glo - ry be to God! To all gen - er - a - tions His
 pres - ence now re - joice; Sing praise un - to God out of Zi - on!
 sheep led by His rod; Sing praise un - to God out of Zi - on!
 voic - es we will raise; Sing praise un - to God out of Zi - on!
 truth shall still en - dure; Sing praise un - to God out of Zi - on!

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 14:1-6

Jesus said: “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

C: God be prais - ed for His glad ti - dings.

THE NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall 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.

C: A - - - - - men.

THE CHIEF HYMN

#252 | *I Walk in Danger All the Way*

1. I walk in dan - ger all the way; The thought shall
2. I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin and
3. Death doth pur - sue me all the way; No - where I
4. I walk with an - gels all the way; They shield me

nev - er leave me That Sa - tan, who has marked his prey,
ills con - tend - ing; In pa - tience I must bear each day
rest se - cure - ly. He comes by night, he comes by day,
and be - friend me. All Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay

THE OFFERING

THE PREFACE / THE GENERAL PREFACE / THE SANCTUS (*Holy, Holy Holy*)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.

C: We lift up our hearts un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: 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, Who in the multitude of Your saints did surround us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, rejoicing in their fellowship, may run with patience the race that is set before us and, together with them, may receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a-oth;

1. Built on the Rock the Church doth stand E - ven when
3. We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built ed for
5. Still we our earth - ly tem - ples rear That we may
6. Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tel - ling how

stee - ples are fall - ing; Crum bled have spires in ev - 'ry
His hab - i - ta - tion; He through bap - tis - mal grace us
he - rald His prai - ses; They are the homes where He draws
God did re - ceive us; Th'al - tar re - calls Christ's sac - ri -

land, Bells still are chim - ing and call - ing,
owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va - tion;
near And lit - tle chil - dren em - bra - ces;
fice And what His ta - ble doth give us;

Call - ing the young and old to rest, But a - bove all the
Were we but two His name to tell, Yet He would deign with
Beau - ti - ful things in them are said, God there with us His
Here sounds the Word that doth pro - claim Christ yes - ter - day, to -

soul dis tressed, Longing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
us to dwell With all His grace and His fa - vor.
cov' - nant made, Ma - king us heirs of His king - dom.
day, the same, Yea, and for aye our Re - dee - mer.

Is plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den
The cross of God's own send - ing. Oft in ad - ver - si -
And takes his prey most sure - ly. A fail - ing breath, and
When heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me. They are my sure de -

snares May seize me un - a - wares If e'er I fail to
ty I know not where to flee, When storms of woe my
I In death's strong grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni -
fense, All fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do

watch and pray; I walk in dan - ger all the way.
soul dis - may; I pass through tri - als all the way.
ty for aye. Death doth pur - sue me all the way.
what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.

5. I walk with Jesus all the way;
His guidance never fails me.
Within His wounds I find a stay
When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by His footsteps led,
My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may,
I walk with Jesus all the way.

6. My walk is heav'nward all the way;
Await, my soul, the morrow,
When thou shalt find release for aye
From all thy sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, begone!
To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay;
My walk is heav'nward all the way.

THE EXORDIUM & HYMN

Four months and 100 years ago today on June 14, 1918, Pastor Bjug Harstad joined a group of almost 200 Lutherans gathered at Lime Creek Lutheran Church. They were all that remained of a once mighty synod, the Norwegian Synod, which had now been abandoned.

Pastor Harstad lamented the loss: "We are, as it were, clustering around the old building site which is storm swept and waste. A destructive hurricane has swept away the dear old mansion, even taking with it most of them that dwelt there. Discouraged, looking around, we discover only the bare ground with wreckage and dangerous crossroads. Yet let us not be too much alarmed nor discouraged. Worse things have repeatedly happened to the church before this, without its being destroyed."

Tragic things had taken place. For the sake of external unity with other Scandinavian Lutherans, the larger part of the Norwegian Synod had agreed to a compromise on the

doctrine of election. The impression was given that a person could believe, teach, and confess that a sinner plays some part in his conversion. But if salvation depends in any way on the sinner, all certainty is lost. To the contrary, said Pastor Harstad, “our happiness and salvation we will build solely upon the call of God, when He by visible and undecieving means chose and rescued us from the power of Satan and our flesh, and adopted us as His disciples and children.”

The old institutions might have been gone, but the remnant at Lime Creek still had the powerful, unchanging Word. God’s Word does not return to Him void. By the power of the Holy Spirit, this Word of grace creates faith in the hearts of sinners and keeps them in the faith. The assembly at Lime Creek resolved to go forward on the old paths of God’s Word, the same paths we are blessed to walk today. With grateful hearts, we now rise to sing: **#583 | God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage**

God’s Word is our great her - it - age, And shall be ours for
 ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall
 be our chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way;
 In death it is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure,
 We keep its teach ings pure, Through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

THE SERMON

“*Forward on the Old Paths!*”

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Everlasting and merciful God, we beseech You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:
C: To have mercy upon us and to hear our prayer.

P: Look in mercy upon Your Church. Protect it and sanctify it by Your truth. May Your Word be taught in its purity and Your Sacraments be rightly administered. Grant unto Your Church faithful pastors who shall declare Your truth with power and shall live according to Your will. Send forth laborers into Your harvest and open the door of faith unto all the heathen and unto the people of Israel. In mercy remember the enemies of Your Church and grant to them repentance unto life.

C: O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear us in the truth of Your salvation.

P: Let Your protecting hand be over our country and over all who travel. Prosper what is good among us and bring to naught every evil counsel and purpose. Protect and bless Your servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this state, our judges and magistrates and all in authority. Fit them for their high calling by the gift of Your Spirit of wisdom and fear, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

C: Hear, O Lord, and have mercy! Lord be our helper.

P: According to Your promise, O God, be the defender of the widow and the father of the orphan. Relieve and comfort the sick and the sorrowful [*especially*_____]. Graciously help those who are assaulted by the devil and who are in peril of death. Be the strength of those who are suffering for the sake of Christ’s holy name. Grant that we may live together in peace and prosperity. Bestow upon us good and seasonable weather; and bless us with upright Christian counsel in all that we undertake.

C: O Lord, be with all in trouble. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your Name.

P: We especially commend to Your care and keeping this Your congregation which You have bought with a great price. Keep from us all offenses and bind us together in the unity of Your holy love. Grant that the little ones who are baptized in Your name may be brought up in Your fear. At Your table give to those who there commune with You peace and life everlasting.

C: Let all rejoice who trust in You; let them shout for joy because You defend them.

P: In Your mercy look upon In Christ’s name we pray.

C: Lord, in Your mercy hear our prayer.

P: Be merciful, O God, to all, according to Your great love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. When our final hour shall come, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection to Your glory.

C: Amen. Grant us Your peace, O Lord!

THE APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with you all. Amen.