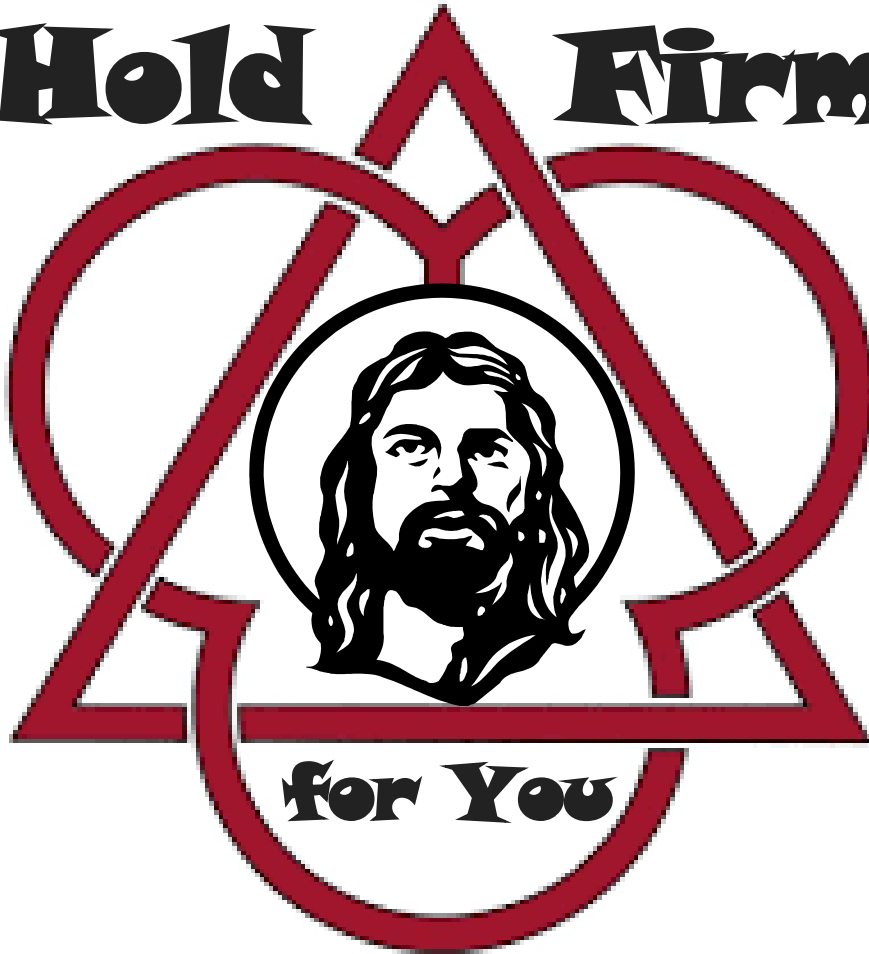


Hold Firm



Share in Christ!

A TIME OF WORSHIP ON THE DAY OF THE LORD

October 10, 2021

8:30 am Early Worship

First Lutheran Church
Charlotte, Michigan

LORD, I LOVE THE HABITATION OF YOUR HOUSE AND THE PLACE WHERE YOUR GLORY DWELLS.

Psalm 26:8

The Lord is present in those who are His people by grace through faith.

In His house, He is present when even two or three are gathered together in His name. Here in His house, He is present in His word and in the sacrament.

He is present in the "body of Christ" – the body of believers.

His glory is in us and among us and around us.

"Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells."

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP

It is our privilege to gather together in the house of the Lord to worship the God Who in His sovereignty and grace meets all our needs, including giving us life with Him forever. Let's come humbly into His presence, seek His word and Spirit, and express our confession, our thanksgiving, and our adoration.

May your soul be renewed through God's Word and Spirit.

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER IDEAS

Ask God to open your heart, mind, will, and spirit to His word. Ask God to help you experience Him and our bonds of unity with Him in this time of worship.

"CONNECTION FORM" AND PRAYER REQUESTS

(a blue insert in your Order of Worship)

We are asking that every individual or family complete a blue "Connection Form" and put it into the offering basket. Please also share your prayer requests.

CHILDCARE

If you need a place to take a child during the worship, you may certainly take your child to the room behind the windows at the back of the sanctuary.

There is a speaker so that you can see and hear the service.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please help the children worship.

We are people of God, graciously saved by God through the sacrificial death of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

OUR GOD HAS CHOSEN US BY HIS GRACE

OUR OPENING EXPRESSION OF ADORATION

Pastor: All praise to God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit –
our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

Come, let us worship Him with all we are –
heart, mind, will, spirit, and body.

All: Amen!

PRAISE FOR THE ONE TRUE GOD – Psalm 97:9-12, 6 (adapted)

Pastor: LORD, You are the Most High over all the earth;

All: You are exalted far above all gods.

Pastor: God desires that you who love the LORD would hate evil,
for He guards the lives of His faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

People: Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

Pastor: Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous,
and praise His holy name.

**All: O LORD, the heavens proclaim Your righteousness,
and people everywhere see Your glory.**

May we always be among those who laud Your name.

All: (sing)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty . . .

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide Thee . . .

**though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

LSB 507 - "Holy, Holy, Holy"

THE LORD GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

THE PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, AND PETITIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE 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**

GOD TEACHES US HIS WAY AND HIS WILL

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING - Amos 5:6–7, 10–15

Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one to quench it. ⁷ There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground. ... ¹⁰ There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth. ¹¹ You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. ¹² For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. ¹³ Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil. ¹⁴ Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. ¹⁵ Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

Pastor: This is God's word from the Old Testament.

THE GOSPEL READING - Mark 10:17–22

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'^[a] ²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell

everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”²² At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Pastor: These are Jesus’ words to His followers.

All: Jesus, help us apply them to ourselves as well.

Pastor: Help us live lives that show we are connected to You.

All: Help us live in willing obedience to Your commands. Amen.

A CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OUR SERMON HYMN - **LSB 814** - “O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

THE MESSAGE

Hold Firm, for You Share in Christ!

Hebrews 3:12–19

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.¹⁵ As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness?¹⁸ And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed?¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

Notes:

A PRAYER FOR OUR APPLICATION OF THE MESSAGE TO OUR LIVES

THE LORD GOD WORKS IN US TO SANCTIFY US THROUGH HIS SPIRIT

OUR 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 I believe 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 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 on 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. Amen.**

GOOD NEWS FROM THE SCRIPTURES – Ephesians 1:2-4, 13-14

Pastor: The apostle Paul wrote this blessing to God's people wherever they are:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in the heavenly realms . . .
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
For our Father chose us in Christ . . before the creation of the world
. . . to be holy and blameless in His sight.**

Pastor: You also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked
in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

**All: The Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance . . .
until the redemption of those who are God's possession.**

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH AND OF SINS

Pastor: When Jesus began His public ministry, He preached: "The kingdom of
God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15) When Daniel,
the man of God, advised King Nebuchadnezzar how to repent, he said:
"Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being
kind to the oppressed." (Daniel 4:27) God is both merciful and gracious.
In view of His mercy and grace, let us confess our sins with remorse,

**All: O Lord God, You have given me forgiveness and eternal life.
I do not earn them, buy them, or deserve them. I am a sinner –
sinful in my nature . . and sinful in my thoughts, words, and deeds.
And yet, Your love for me is so beautifully expressed in Jesus.
Because Jesus has already paid for my sin . . . I ask that You,
in mercy, continually forgive my sin . . . and enable me to follow
You more faithfully each day. Enable me to know Your will . . .
and to zealously pursue living Your will. Amen**

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

Galatians 4:4b-5 (NIV)

God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem
those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

OUR PRAYER IN SONG – LSB 971 – "There Is a Redeemer"

**There is a Redeemer – Jesus, God's own Son –
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, holy One.
Thank You, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son . . .
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names –
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.
Thank You, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son . . .
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.**

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face.
There I'll serve my King forever . . . in that holy place.
Thank You, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son . . .
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.**

A TRIBUTE TO THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

A PRAYER FOR THE LWML

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OUR CLOSING PRAYER IN SONG - **LSB 683** - "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"
stanzas 1-3

THE BLESSING

Silent Prayer
Our God is with us every day – every moment.

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Mark Gawura -- Specific Ministry Pastor for Care Ministries
Keyboardist – Traci Backus

A DAILY PRAYER

**O Lord God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, give me an undivided heart . . .
that is centered on You and is totally attached to You.
Help me trust You and Your word fully.
Help me love You above all people and things.
Help me revere You as the true God –
my creator, provider, and protector,
my savior-rescuer and model,
and my sanctifier and enabler.
Help me make You my Number 1 Priority.
Protect me from evil and the evil one
because I am Yours, O Lord. Amen**