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**Last Sunday of the Church Year**

“For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.” *Colossians 1:19-20*

**AS WE GATHER**

On the cross, Jesus died for the sins of the world. On the cross, Jesus comforted one of the criminals crucified with Him. On the cross, Jesus interceded even for those who crucified Him. On the cross, Jesus makes peace by His blood.

**PSALM** 46

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Though darkness surrounds us,

**People: Christ shines His light upon us.**

Pastor: Though our world is full of war and violence,

**People: Christ is our peace.**

Pastor: Though our relationships are strained and broken,

**People: Christ brings reconciliation and redemption.**

Pastor: Though we fail to remember Jesus,

**People: He always remembers us.**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: In our lives, we often ask ourselves, “Who am I?” We seek to define ourselves by our jobs, relationships, finances, skills, and most devastatingly of all, our failures. Yet ultimately, who we are resides in none of these things. Our identity is in Jesus and what He has done for us. As we come before our heavenly Father, we confess everything we have elevated above Jesus, and we ask for forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we have sinned against You in thoughts, words, and deeds. Forgive us, renew us, and point us back to Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. By His cross, Jesus makes peace and delivers you from all your sins to live as His new creation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. In Jesus we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”* (*LSB* 656)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Malachi 3:13-18 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below the Collect)*

**EPISTLE** Colossians 1:13-20 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 23:27-43 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**NICENE CREED** (*back, inside cover*)

**HYMN** *“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”* (*LSB* 606)

**SERMON “*The Preeminent”***

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”* (*LSB* 611)

*“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”* (*LSB* 761)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You sent Your Son make peace by the blood of His cross. As we have feasted upon His body and blood for our forgiveness and peace, strengthen us to live lives of peace here on earth; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“How Great Thou Art”* (*LSB* 801)

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

Rev. Curt Hoover, Rev. Alebachew Teshome,

Rev. Craig Fiebiger, Rev. Doug DeWitt

(615) 791-1880, [www.faithlutheran-tn.org](http://www.faithlutheran-tn.org)

**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**