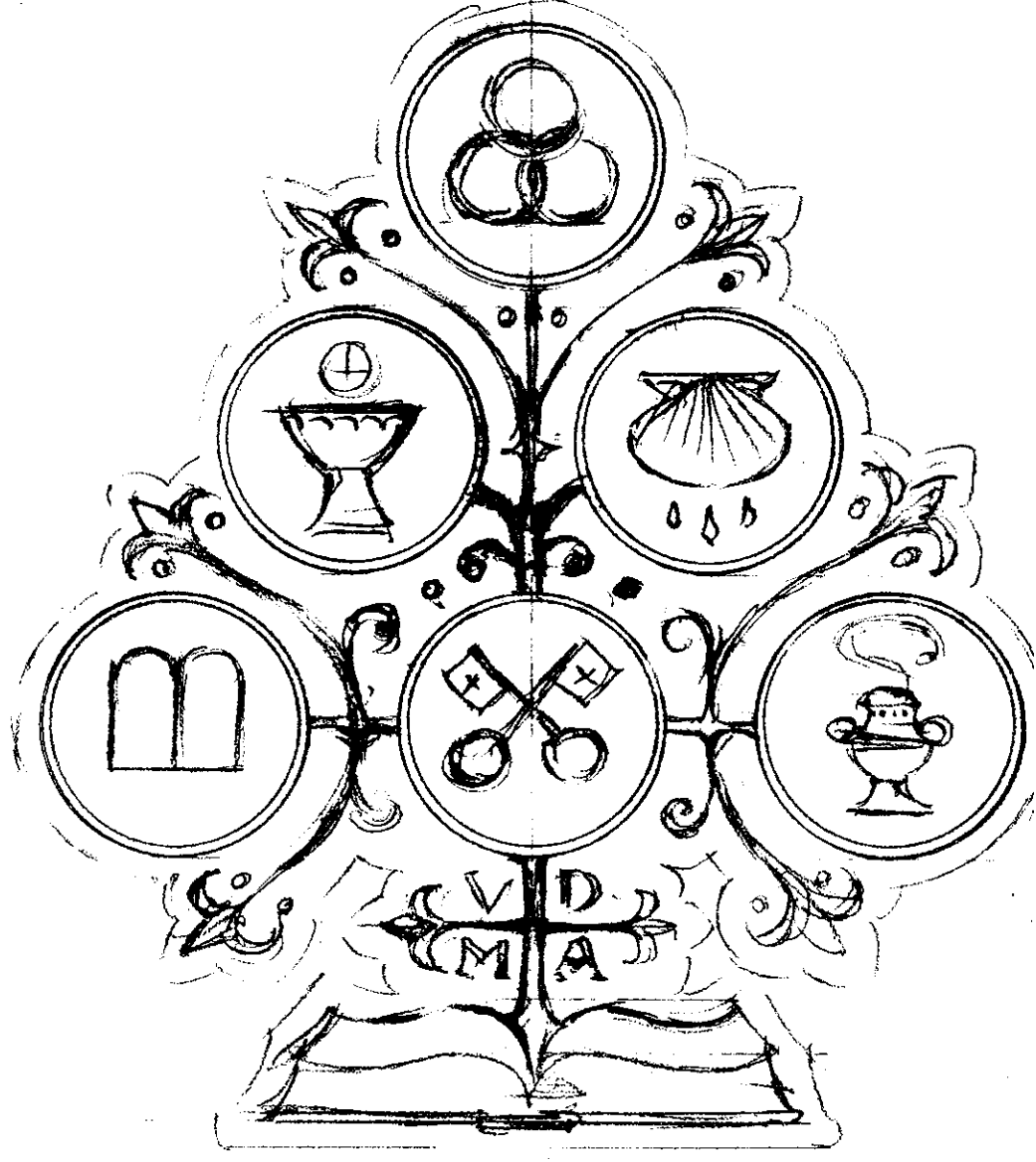


Trinitytide

OCTOBER 25, 2026 • SUNDAY, 3:30 P.M.
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

REFORMATION FESTIVAL



A CATECHETICAL SERVICE OF SCRIPTURE AND SONG IN CELEBRATION OF THE REFORMATION



PRELUDE

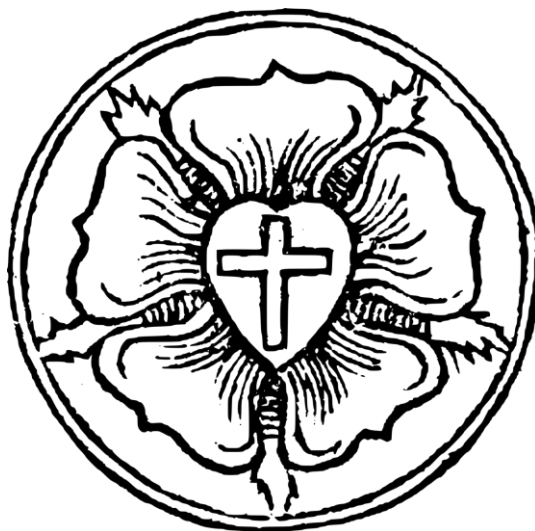
Fanfare on "Ein feste Burg" (from "A Mighty Fortress Suite")

Prelude on "Ebenezer" (Thy Strong Word)

Paraphrase on "Built on the Rock"

Settings by Phil Lehenbauer

When the bell tolls, please stand and face the processional cross.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

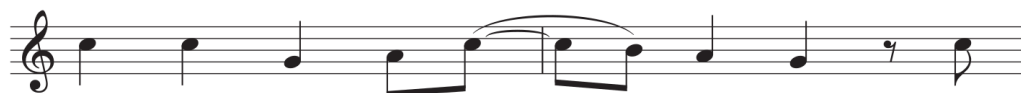
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



All: 1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a
All: 2. With might of ours can naught be done; soon
Choir: 3. *Though* dev - ils all the world should fill, all
All: 4. The Word they still shall let re - main, nor



trust - y shield and weap - on; he
were our loss ef - fect - ed. But
ea - ger to de - vour us, we
an - y thanks have for it; he's



helps us free from ev - 'ry need that
for us fights the val - iant one whom
trem - ble not, we fear no ill; they
by our side up - on the plain with



has us now o'er - tak - en. The
God him - self e - lect - ed. You
shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This
his good gifts and Spir - it. And

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, *tr.* composite (PD).
Tune: *EIN' FESTE BURG*, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, and written in 1529 (PD).
Music: Used in an arrangement by Michael D. Costello,
and copyright © 2017 Birnamwood with this publication.

Continued next page . . .

old e - vil foe now means dead - ly
ask, "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it
world's prince may still scowl fierce as he
take they our life, goods, fame, child, or

woe; deep guile and great might are
is, the al - might - y Lord. And
will, he can harm us none. He's
wife, though all may be gone, our

his dread arms in fight; on
there's no oth - er God; he
judged; the deed is done! One
vic - to - ry is won; the

earth is not his e - qual. (Interlude)
holds the field for - ev - er. (Interlude)
lit - tle word can fell him. (Interlude)
king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, today we gather with thanksgiving on this Festival of the Reformation, remembering how the Lord renewed His Church by bringing His people back to the clear light of His Word. We do not celebrate human achievement, but the mercy of God, who preserves His truth and proclaims it again and again to every generation.

On this day, we are especially mindful of the gift of teaching—of catechesis—through which the faith is handed down. As Martin Luther reminded the Church, the Christian faith is not hidden in mystery or reserved for the few, but is given plainly in Scripture, confessed with the mouth, and learned by heart in the home and in the congregation.

So now, we return to the foundation: to the Word of God, and to the simple, profound teaching drawn from it in the six chief parts of the Small Catechism. That is, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar. In these, we hear what God commands, what He gives, how He hears, and how He saves.

This service will weave together Scripture and song, for faith comes by hearing, and the Church responds in praise. As the Word is read and sung among us, the Holy Spirit is at work by teaching, reminding, and strengthening us in the one true faith.

Therefore, let us quiet our hearts, listen attentively, and join boldly in our songs of confession and praise. For here, God Himself meets us through His Word, by His grace, and for our salvation.

C Amen.

Sitting

FIRST CHIEF PART: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

P Beloved in the Lord, as we begin this catechetical recitation, we first turn to God's Law, given to His people in the Ten Commandments. In them, God reveals His holy will by showing us what it means to love Him with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The Law is a gift. It orders our lives, restrains evil, and teaches us what is good and pleasing in God's sight. Yet it also speaks a deeper word: it holds up a mirror to our hearts. In its light, we see not only what we are called to be, but how far we have fallen short. It exposes our sin and leaves us without excuse, so that we may not trust in ourselves.

And this is its greatest purpose: to lead us to Christ. For when the Law has done its work, we are driven to seek mercy, not in our own efforts, but in the grace which God has provided through His Son.

So as we recite and hear God's Law today, let us do so with humility and faith by learning His will, confessing our sin, and trusting in His mercy. For the same God who commands also forgives, restores, and makes all things new.

P What is the First Commandment?

C **You shall have no other gods.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.**

P What is the Second Commandment?

C **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.**

P What is the Third Commandment?

C **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.**

P What is the Fourth Commandment?

C **Honor your father and your mother.**

- P** What does this mean?
C We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.
- P** What is the Fifth Commandment?
C You shall not murder.
- P** What does this mean?
C We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.
- P** What is the Sixth Commandment?
C You shall not commit adultery.
- P** What does this mean?
C We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.
- P** What is the Seventh Commandment?
C You shall not steal.
- P** What does this mean?
C We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.
- P** What is the Eighth Commandment?
C You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- P** What does this mean?
C We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.
- P** What is the Ninth Commandment?
C You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- P** What does this mean?
C We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.
- P** What is the Tenth Commandment?
C You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

- P** What does this mean?
- C** We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.
- P** What does God say about all these Commandments?
- C** He says, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." *Exodus 20:5-6*
- P** What does this mean?
- C** God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Standing

COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
Holy and merciful God, You have taught us what You would have us do and not do. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us so that He may bear fruit in our lives and that, remembering Your mercies and Your laws, we may grow in obedience to Your will and in love for You and our neighbor. Help us to follow the example of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.
- C** Amen.

Sitting





1 These are the ho - ly Ten Com-mands God gave to us by
 2 "I am a - lone your God, the Lord; No oth - er gods shall
 3 "Do not My ho - ly name dis - grace, Do not My Word of
 4 "You shall ob - serve the wor - ship day That peace may fill your



Mo - ses' hands When high on Si - nai's mount he stood,
 be a - dored. But you shall ful - ly trust in Me
 truth de - base. Praise on - ly that as good and true
 home, and pray, And put a - side the work you do,



Re - ceiv - ing them for our good. Have mer - cy, Lord!
 And love Me whole - heart - ed - ly." Have mer - cy, Lord!
 Which I My - self say and do." Have mer - cy, Lord!
 So that God may work in you." Have mer - cy, Lord!

- 5 "You are to honor and obey
 Your father, mother, ev'ry day,
 Serve them each way that comes to hand;
 You'll then live long in the land."
 Have mercy, Lord!

- 6 "You shall not murder, hurt, nor hate;
 Your anger dare not dominate.
 Be kind and patient; help, defend,
 And treat your foe as your friend."
 Have mercy, Lord!

- 7 "Be faithful to your marriage vow;
 No lust or impure thoughts allow.
 Keep all your conduct free from sin
 By self-controlled discipline."
 Have mercy, Lord!

- Men:* 8 "You shall not steal or take away
 What others worked for night and day,
 But open wide a gen'rous hand
 And help the poor in the land."
 Have mercy, Lord!

- Women:* 9 "Bear no false witness nor defame
 Your neighbor nor destroy his name,
 But view him in the kindest way;
 Speak truth in all that you say."
 Have mercy, Lord!

- 10 "You shall not crave your neighbor's
 house
 Nor covet money, goods, or spouse.
 Pray God He would your neighbor bless
 As you yourself wish success."
 Have mercy, Lord!

- 11 You have this Law to see therein
 That you have not been free from sin
 But also that you clearly see
 How pure toward God life should be.
 Have mercy, Lord!

- 12 Our works cannot salvation gain;
 They merit only endless pain.
 Forgive us, Lord! To Christ we flee,
 Who pleads for us endlessly.
 Have mercy, Lord!

SECOND CHIEF PART: THE CREED

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

P Beloved in the Lord, we now turn to the Creed, the Church's confession of faith. Here we do not speak our own ideas about God, but we confess what God Himself has made known to us about who He is and what He has done for us.

In these words, we confess the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who has created us, redeemed us, and sanctified us. The Creed is not a work we offer to God, but a gift we receive and echo back in faith. It gathers the whole story of salvation into a simple and faithful confession, handed down through the Church from generation to generation.

So as we recite it together, we join our voices with Christians of all times and places, confessing with one heart the saving work of God. And in this confession, the Holy Spirit strengthens our trust, not in ourselves, but in the God, who has made us His own.

P What is the First Article?

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

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

P What is the Second Article?

C **And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

P What is the Third Article?

C 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.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Standing

COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Lord God, Father Almighty, by Your mercy and compassion, You gave Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord, over to death on the cross to obtain for us everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness for us and all believers. By Your Spirit, keep us firm in this faith that we might always live under You in Your kingdom and serve You in joy and peace even as You have raised Jesus from the dead, who now lives and reigns to all eternity.

C Amen.

HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 954

"We All Believe in One True God"

1 We all be - lieve in one true God, Who cre - at - ed
 2 We all be - lieve in Je - sus Christ, His own Son, our
 3 We all con - fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who, in high - est

earth and heav - en, The Fa - ther, who to us in love
 Lord, pos - sess - ing An e - qual God - head, throne, and might,
 heav - en dwell - ing With God the Fa - ther and the Son,

Has the right of chil - dren giv - en. He in soul and
 Source of ev - 'ry grace and bless - ing; Born of Mar - y,
 Com - forts us be - yond all tell - ing; Who the Church, His

bod - y feeds us; All we need His hand pro - vides us;
 vir - gin moth - er, By the pow - er of the Spir - it,
 own cre - a - tion, Keeps in u - ni - ty of spir - it.

Through all snares and per - ils leads us, Watch - ing that no
 Word made flesh, our el - der broth - er; That the lost might
 Here for - give - ness and sal - va - tion Dai - ly come through

harm be - tide us. He cares for us by
 life in - her - it, Was cru - ci - fied for
 Je - sus' mer - it. All flesh shall rise, and

day and night; All things are gov - erned by His might.
 all our sin And raised by God to life a - gain.
 we shall be In bliss with God e - ter - nal - ly.

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

Text and tune: Public domain

THIRD CHIEF PART: THE LORD'S PRAYER

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

P Beloved in the Lord, we now turn to the Lord's Prayer, the prayer our Lord Jesus Himself has taught us. In it, we are given not only words to say, but a sure and certain promise that our Father in heaven hears us.

Prayer is God's gift before it is our work. We do not come to Him because we are worthy, but because He invites us as dear children to speak to Him as a dear Father. In this prayer, He teaches us what to ask for, shapes our desires according to His will, and directs our hearts to trust in His gracious care.

In these simple and perfect petitions, we ask for everything we truly need both for this life and for eternity. And we do so with confidence, knowing that God delights to hear and answer us for the sake of His Son.

So as we recite the Lord's Prayer together, let us do so in faith and humility, trusting in our Father's mercy and resting in His promises.

P What is the Introduction?

C **Our Father who art in heaven.**

P What does this mean?

C **With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear Father.**

P What is the First Petition?

C **Hallowed be Thy name.**

P What does this mean?

C **God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.**

P How is God's name kept holy?

C **God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!**

P What is the Second Petition?

C **Thy kingdom come.**

- P** What does this mean?
- C** The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.
- P** How does God's kingdom come?
- C** God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.
- P** What is the Third Petition?
- C** Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- P** What does this mean?
- C** The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.
- P** How is God's will done?
- C** God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.
- P** What is the Fourth Petition?
- C** Give us this day our daily bread.
- P** What does this mean?
- C** God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.
- P** What is meant by daily bread?
- C** Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.
- P** What is the Fifth Petition?
- C** And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
- P** What does this mean?
- C** We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

P What is the Sixth Petition?

C **And lead us not into temptation.**

P What does this mean?

C **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**

P What is the Seventh Petition?

C **But deliver us from evil.**

P What does this mean?

C **We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.**

P What is the Conclusion?

C **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.* Amen.**

P What does this mean?

C **This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."**

*These words were not in Luther's Small Catechism.

Standing

COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven, grant us certainty to pray according to Your command and in confidence that You have promised to hear us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sitting

Notes:

Stanza 5: sung by women only

Stanza 6: sung by men only

1 Our Fa - ther, who from heav'n a - bove Bids all of us to
 2 Your name be hal - lowed. Help us, Lord, In pu - ri - ty to
 3 Your king - dom come. Guard Your do - main And Your e - ter - nal
 4 Your gra - cious will on earth be done As it is done be -

live in love As mem - bers of one fam - i - ly And
 keep Your Word, That to the glo - ry of Your name We
 righ - teous reign. The Ho - ly Ghost en - rich our day With
 fore Your throne, That pa - tient - ly we may o - bey Through -

pray to You in u - ni - ty, Teach us no thought-less words to
 walk be - fore You free from blame. Let no false teach - ing us per -
 gifts at - ten - dant on our way. Break Sa - tan's pow'r, de - feat his
 out our lives all that You say. Curb flesh and blood and ev - 'ry

say But from our in - most hearts to pray.
 vert; All poor de - lud - ed souls con - vert.
 rage; Pre - serve Your Church from age to age.
 ill That sets it - self a - gainst Your will.

Women: 5 Give us this day our daily bread,
 And let us all be clothed and fed.
 Save us from hardship, war, and strife;
 In plague and famine, spare our life,
 That we in honest peace may live,
 To care and greed no entrance give.

Men: 6 Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,
 That they may trouble us no more;
 We, too, will gladly those forgive
 Who hurt us by the way they live.
 Help us in our community
 To serve each other willingly.

Continued next page . . .

- 7 Lead not into temptation, Lord,
Where our grim foe and all his horde
Would vex our souls on ev'ry hand.
Help us resist, help us to stand
Firm in the faith, a mighty host,
Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.
- 8 From evil, Lord, deliver us;
The times and days are perilous.
Redeem us from eternal death,
And, when we yield our dying breath,
Console us, grant us calm release,
And take our souls to You in peace.
- 9 Amen, that is, so shall it be.
Make strong our faith in You, that we
May doubt not but with trust believe
That what we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Your name and at Your Word
We say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"

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Tune: Public domain

FOURTH CHIEF PART: HOLY BAPTISM

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

P Beloved in the Lord, we now turn to Holy Baptism, one of the great gifts our Lord Jesus Christ has given to His Church. In Baptism, God is not merely symbolizing something to us, but truly acting for us by joining His Word to water to give forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and grant eternal salvation to all who believe.

Therefore, Baptism is not just plain water, but water included in God's command and combined with God's Word. Through it, our old sinful nature is drowned and dies, and a new person daily emerges and arises to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Baptism, then, is not only something that happened in the past but is a present and daily reality. Each day we return to it in repentance and faith, trusting the promise God made to us and living as His baptized people.

So as we recite and reflect on this gift, let us do so with thanksgiving and confidence, rejoicing that God has claimed us as His own and continues to work in us by His grace.

P What is Baptism?

C Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

- P** Which is that word of God?
- C** Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
Matthew 28:19
- P** What benefits does Baptism give?
- C** It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.
- P** Which are these words and promises of God?
- C** Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."
Mark 16:16
- P** How can water do such great things?
- C** Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."
Titus 3:5-8
- P** What does such baptizing with water indicate?
- C** It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.
- P** Where is this written?
- C** St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."
Romans 6:4

Standing

COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, You have forgiven our sins, rescued us from death and the devil, and given us eternal life by Baptism into the death and resurrection of Your beloved Son. Strengthen our faith so that we daily put to death all sins and evil desires and, trusting Your sure promises, are raised to live before You in righteousness and purity. Finally, bring us to the fulfillment of our Baptism in the resurrection of the body to life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 406

"To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"



1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His
 2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him -
 3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y
 4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to

1: Choir only; 2-7: Congregation sings.



Fa - ther's plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
 self has spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell
 word and won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,
 us ex - tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove



Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
 And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His
 Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is My be -
 Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -



now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
 Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
 lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.
 sur - ing us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,



And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's
 God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while
 Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full -
 That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find



op - pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
 be - stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.
 est mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."
 a dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.

Continued next page . . .

5 To His disciples spoke the Lord,
 "Go out to ev'ry nation,
And bring to them the living Word
 And this My invitation:
Let ev'ryone abandon sin
 And come in true contrition
To be baptized and thereby win
 Full pardon and remission
And heav'nly bliss inherit."

6 But woe to those who cast aside
 This grace so freely given;
They shall in sin and shame abide
 And to despair be driven.
For born in sin, their works must fail,
 Their striving saves them never;
Their pious acts do not avail,
 And they are lost forever,
Eternal death their portion.

7 All that the mortal eye beholds
 Is water as we pour it.
Before the eye of faith unfolds
 The pow'r of Jesus' merit.
For here it sees the crimson flood
 To all our ills bring healing;
The wonders of His precious blood
 The love of God revealing,
Assuring His own pardon.

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FIFTH CHIEF PART: CONFESSION

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

P Beloved in the Lord, we now turn to Confession, a gift through which God deals tenderly and personally with sinners. This is not a human work, but a divine gift: a place where the Gospel is spoken directly to troubled hearts, restoring and strengthening faith.

In confession, we do not hide or excuse our sin, but speak it plainly before God. And in absolution, God speaks a greater word by declaring us forgiven for the sake of Christ. Here, the burdened conscience finds peace, not in our own efforts, but in the sure promise of God's mercy.

So as we recite and reflect on confession, let us do so with humility and trust, hearing in it the voice of our gracious God, who forgives, renews, and restores.

P What is Confession?

C Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

P What sins should we confess?

C Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

P Which are these?

C Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

P What is the Office of the Keys?*

C The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

P Where is this written?*

C This is what St. John the Evangelist says in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

John 20:22-23

P What do you believe according to these words?*

C I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

*This question may not have been composed by Luther himself but reflects his teaching and was included in editions of the catechism during his lifetime.

Standing

COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You delivered Your Son for our offenses and raised Him for our justification. Grant that we may also trust in the word of forgiveness which You have given Your pastors to proclaim, that clinging to Your good and gracious promises, we might be brought to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sitting





1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and
 2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
 3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
 4 And though it tar - ry through the night And till the
 5 Though great our sins, yet great - er still Is God's a -



trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious
 my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest
 mine own mer - it; It rests up - on His
 morn - ing wak - en, My heart shall nev - er
 bun - dant fa - vor; His hand of mer - cy



ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.
 deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.
 faith - ful Word To them of con - trite spir - it
 doubt His might Nor count it - self for - sak - en.
 nev - er will A - ban - don us, nor wa - ver.



If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en
 Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy
 That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort
 O Is - rael, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spir - it
 Our shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His



ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
 and the Word, Now wait for His ap - pear - ing.
 Is - rael free From all their sin and sor - row.

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SIXTH CHIEF PART: THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

P Beloved in the Lord, we now turn to the Sacrament of the Altar, the Lord's Supper, one of the most precious gifts Christ has given to His Church. Here, our Lord Jesus gives us His true body and blood, under the bread and wine, for Christians to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins.

This gift is not received by our worthiness, but by faith in the words given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. These words invite us to believe that Christ Himself is present for us, strengthening our faith, comforting our consciences, and uniting us as one body in Him.

So as we recite and reflect on this holy meal, let us do so with reverence and joy, trusting our Lord's promise and receiving with thankful hearts the grace He so freely gives.

P What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

C **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

P Where is this written?

C **The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."**

Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

C **These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

P How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

C **Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."**

P Who receives this sacrament worthily?

C Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

Standing

COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we have no worthiness of our own to merit the eating and drinking of Your holy body and precious blood. Trusting not in our righteousness but only in Your promise of the forgiveness of sins, we come to Your altar imploring You for mercy that, delivered from Your wrath and condemnation, we might live for You alone, always giving thanks for Your undeserved benefits, and finally be brought to praise You forever at the heavenly banquet; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sitting



HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 617

"O Lord, We Praise Thee"



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor

In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -

bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this

they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!

May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that

sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see

In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

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SERMON

OFFERING

Ascension & Living Faith Youth Choirs and Adult Ensemble – “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

Standing

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P For the Church and her confession, O Lord God Almighty, that we may hold fast to the truth of your Word as summarized in the Ten Commandments, confessing our sins and striving to live in faithful obedience to Your will; and that You would guide us to love You above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For steadfast faith in Your promises, O merciful Lord, that we may trust in You as our gracious Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as confessed in the Apostles’ Creed; and that, in every trial and joy, we may rely on Your saving work in creation, redemption, and sanctification. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For confident and faithful prayer, O Father in heaven, that we may call upon You as dear children ask their dear father, trusting in Your mercy and seeking Your will according to the pattern Your Son has given us in the Lord’s Prayer. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For the gift of Holy Baptism, O risen Lord, that those who have been washed in the water and the Word may daily die to sin and rise to new life, and that all the baptized may live in repentance and faith according to Your promise. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For the Office of the Keys and Confession, O God of grace, that Your Church may boldly proclaim the forgiveness of sins through Christ, and that all who are burdened by guilt may receive absolution with repentant hearts and steadfast faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For the Sacrament of the Altar, O Lamb of God, that we may receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with faith, for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation; and that this holy meal would strengthen us in love and unity. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P For thanksgiving on this commemoration of the Reformation, O God our exceeding joy, that we may give thanks for the restoration of the Gospel's clarity and the faithful witness of those who have gone before us; and that we may continue to proclaim justification by grace through faith for the sake of Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1

P Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

THAXTED

Based on "The Te Deum"
Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

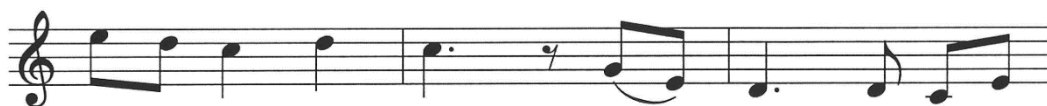
Gustav T. Holst, 1874–1934
Setting by Mark Bender



All: 1 We _ praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the
Choir: 2 The _ band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your
All: 3 You, _ Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing
All: 4 You _ sit in splen-did glo - ry, en - throned at God's right



Lord, The _ Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by
praise; The _ fel - low - ship of proph - ets their
Son, Yet _ You, with bound-less love, _ sought to
hand, Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by



all the earth a - dored. To _ You all an - gel
death-less voic - es raise. The _ mar - tyrs of Your
res - cue ev - 'ry - one: You _ laid a - side Your
forc - es You com - mand. We _ know that You will



pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav-ens sing, The _
king - dom, a _ great and no - ble throng, Sing _
glo - ry, were _ born of vir-gin's womb, Were _
come as our _ Judge that fi - nal day, So _

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Continued next page . . .



cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim their prais - es to You
with the ho - ly Church through - out all the world this
cru - ci - fied for us ____ and were placed in - to a
help Your ser - vants You ____ have re - deemed by blood, we



bring: "O ____ ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord
song: All: "O ____ all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your
tomb; Then ____ by Your res - ur - rec - tion You
pray; May ____ we with saints be num - bered where



God of Sab - a - oth; Your ____ maj - es - ty and
true and on - ly Son, And ____ Ho - ly Spir - it,
won for us re - prieve— You ____ o - pened heav - en's
prais - es nev - er end, In ____ glo - ry ev - er -



glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!"
Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!"
king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune from We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God: Partita on "Thaxted" – Jeffrey Blersch

CHILI COOK-OFF

All are invited to please partake of the Chili Cook-Off downstairs in the fellowship hall.

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Clergy (in order of appearance)

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor* (Ascension, Atlanta)
The Rev. Shaun Daugherty, *Pastor* (Faith, Marietta)
The Rev. Tim Droegemueller, *Senior Pastor* (Living Faith, Cumming)
The Rev. Timothy Faile, *Pastor* (Prince of Peace, Douglasville)
The Rev. Steve Harmon, *Pastor Emeritus*
The Rev. Dr. Wilton Heyliger, *Pastor* (Incarnate Word, Stone Mountain)
The Rev. Jeff Jordan, *Senior Pastor* (Rivercliff, Sandy Springs)
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Peter Bender, *Pastor* (Peace, Sussex, WI)
The Rev. Aaron Sterling, *Pastor* (Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta)

Lay Assistants

Grayson Beckman, *Crucifer* (Ascension, Atlanta)
Jude Miller, *Acolyte* (Ascension, Atlanta)

Organist

Abby Warnke, *Director of Music* (Ascension, Atlanta)

Musician(s)

Will Davis, trumpet (Ascension, Atlanta)
Patty Harmon, trumpet (Ascension, Atlanta)
Nathan Murdaugh, trombone (Living Faith, Cumming)
The Rev. Tim Droegemueller, violin (Living Faith, Cumming)
Elijah Droegemueller, violin (Living Faith, Cumming)
Matthew Droegemueller, violin (Living Faith, Cumming)
Jennifer Boyer, cello
Sam Howden, timpani (Ascension, Atlanta)

Choir

Sopranos:
Isabel Bermudez (Prince of Peace, Douglasville)
Melanie Cole (Ascension, Atlanta)
Jeni Miller (Ascension, Atlanta)
Desiree Warnke (Living Faith, Cumming)

Altos:
Amber Faile (Prince of Peace, Douglasville)
Erin Greenberg (Prince of Peace, Douglasville)
Patty Harmon (Ascension, Atlanta)
Clara Smith (Ascension, Atlanta)

Tenors:
Will Davis (Ascension, Atlanta)
Sam Howden (Ascension, Atlanta)
John Warnke (Living Faith, Cumming)

Bass:
Brian Beckman (Ascension, Atlanta)
Joseph Faile (Prince of Peace, Douglasville)
The Rev. Steve Harmon (Ascension, Atlanta)
Nathan Murdaugh (Living Faith, Cumming)

Usher(s)

Greg Ison (Ascension, Atlanta, GA)