



The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

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HOPE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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We welcome you, one and all, to our service this morning. As we gather around the Lord's Table, we, as a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, welcome all to the table who believe in Christ's power in, with, and underneath the elements.

PRELUDE

Wonderful Words

BELL RINGING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us † all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *Faith of Our Fathers*

LBW (Green) Hymnal #500

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from Jeremiah, the twenty-third chapter.

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The reading concludes: The word of the Lord.

*Response: **Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

A reading from Hebrews, the eleventh and twelfth chapters.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The reading concludes: The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-56

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: *Ripping Off the Mask*

Pastor Keith A. Hunsinger

HYMN OF THE DAY: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

LBW (Green) Hymnal #385

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Treasuring your promise to hear us when we call, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of your creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you have given us your word. Like a fire, kindle its flame within and among us. Empower us for the work of breaking down walls, reconciling the divided, and building faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You formed the furthest reaches of the universe, yet your spirit dwells within each life. Be the companion and keeper of every creature, and redeem all your creation in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You rise up to rule the nations. Teach the nations to be good neighbors to each other. Inspire us all to share food, land, knowledge, and our arts for the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You rescue those in any need. Be with surgeons, nurses, and all medical personnel who care for the sick, especially Carol, Laura, Arnie, Margaret, Jackie, Bernadine, Beth, Sheryl, Burdell, Witton, Marv, Vic, Carolyn, Ryder, Eldor, Luke, Michael, Eulene, Tom, Deb, Saylor, Florence, Noah, and those whom we name in our hearts.... Shelter all who need homes and feed all who are hungry. Comfort those who are bereaved, especially the Brandt and Behnfeldt families. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the friendship, community, and witness of those gathered here today. Send us out to welcome those estranged from family or experiencing difficult separations. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Be with us in the tragedies and troubles of this world, and join us and all the saints with Christ in perfect joy, especially Dick Brandt and Florence Behnfeldt. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

I Come to Thee

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



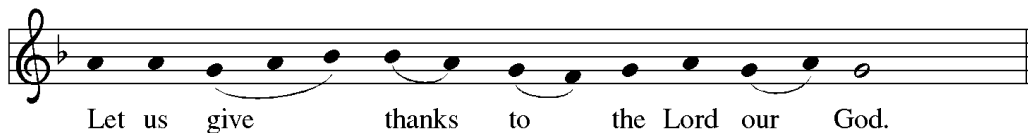
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray... Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine. Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... *here the minister continues with the preface of the day, concluding...* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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,

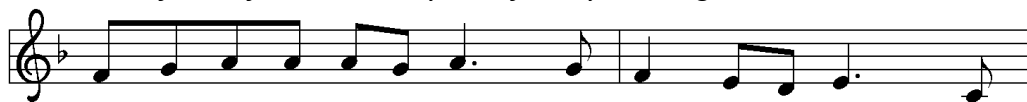
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.

The congregation is seated. Communion is continuous. Communion hymns are on the board in the front of the sanctuary. The first hymn sung is:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

WOV (Blue) Hymnal #649, 766

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond **Amen.**

After all have returned to their places:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray... O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving; and the blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Rise Up, O Saints of God*

LBW (Green) Hymnal #383

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

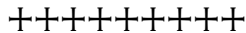
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Let the Word Go Forth

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<i>Organist:</i>	Jim Murcko
<i>Lector:</i>	Marsha Bostelman
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Jim Witte, Carol Perkins, Scott Schwiebert
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Izack Badenhop, Jayden Hale

Prayer Concerns: Carol Behrman, Laura Durham, Arnie Gerken, Margaret Gerken, Jackie Mangas, Bernadine Meyer, Beth Ann Miller, Sheryl Petersen, Burdell Schwiebert, Witton Schwiebert, Marvin Schwiebert, Vic Sonnenberg, Carolyn Willford, Ryder Eis, Eldor Gruenhagen, Luke Haselman, Michael Huber, Eulene Keeton, Tom Like, Deb Moser, Saylor Rice, Florence Seedorf, Noah Tolson, and the families of Dick Brandt and Florence Behnfeldt.

We express our Christian sympathies to the family of Dick Brandt, who passed away Tuesday. His funeral was held Saturday at Hope.

While Deb is **out of the office**, please be aware that the office may not be staffed at all normal times. Please feel free to call or email the church, and Pastor Keith or Jon Norden will return your call as soon as possible.

August Calendars are available on the table in the Narthex. *Please pick up your copy.*

As Hope prepares for the new program year, the church is looking for **Sunday School teachers** for the year starting in September for our lower-grade class (preschool-through-first grade) and middle-grade class (second-through-fifth grade). If you are interested, please see a member of the Christian Education Ministry (Christine Bostelman, Janelle Cline, Renee Creps, Deb Jones, Lynesa Knick-Koppenhofer, and Cindy VanDeBussche).

Choir practice will resume Wednesday, August 28, at 7:30 PM. We look forward to welcoming all choir members back and extend an invitation to any and all who are interested in joining our merry band of singers! All ages and voice types are welcome. See Jim Murcko or call him at (419) 966-4465 if you have any questions.

Justice and the Prophets: A Bible Study with Rachel Wrenn: The NWOS has announced a day long Bible Study in Toledo on Saturday, September 14 from 9:30 to 3:30. This relaxed day will include guided conversation, teaching and learning, fellowship, worship, and lunch all in the beautiful scenery of the Wildwood Metropark in Toledo. The leader, Rachel Wrenn is a Lutheran pastor and a PhD. Candidate at Emory University in Atlanta. Pastor Keith saw her in January 2018 and has raved about her methods and scholarship. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.

Attention Hope Women of the Church: The NWO 2019 Convention for Women of the Church is being held September 20-21 at Sauder Village, Heritage Inn, near Archbold, Ohio. There are two deadlines: one if you are staying at Heritage Inn and Convention, and one just for the convention and meals. Registration is due by September 6- (for convention and meals.) See the registration forms and further info on the bulletin boards. This is posted on three bulletin boards. For complete information, please take one of each sheet.

This Week and Next at Hope:

Monday 8/19	6:30 PM	Inter Church Conversations at St. John, Deshler
Tuesday 8/20	4:00 PM	Shalom
Wednesday 8/21	7:00 PM	Worship
	7:30 PM	Management and Stewardship Ministry
Sunday 8/25	10:15 AM	Worship
		<i>Following Worship:</i> Christian Life and Outreach Ministry
Wednesday 8/28	7:00 PM	Worship <i>with Communion</i>
		Property Ministry
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 8/1	10:15 AM	Worship <i>with Communion</i>

Attendance

Wednesday, August 7: 14

Sunday, August 11: 85

Offerings:

General Fund: \$3208.00

Building Fund: \$150.00

Gideons International: \$738.00

Community Flyers Posted:

Deshler Red Cross Blood Drive – September 3

Justice and the Prophets Bible Study – September 14

WELCA NOW 2019 Convention for Women of the Church – September 20-21

Fall Color Tour sponsored by Henry County Senior Center – October 6-10

Genacross Lutheran Service Employment Opportunities

Genacross Lutheran Services July Stories

Genacross Lutheran Services Summer Newsfeed

August Newsletter from Henry County Senior Center