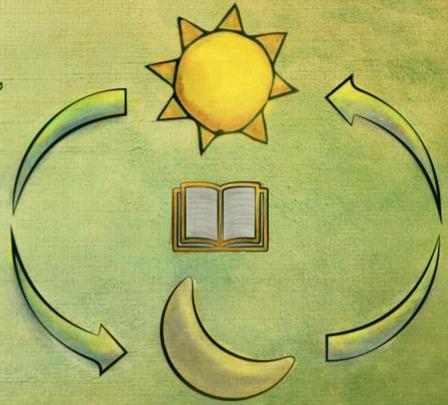


*Blessed is the man who walks
not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law
of the LORD, and*

**ON HIS LAW
HE MEDITATES
DAY AND NIGHT.**

PSALM 1:1 - 2



Sunday, September 7, 2025

Pentecost 13 / Confirmation of David Zhao

Service Theme
**WOUNDS THAT HEAL
COUNT THE COST**

Jesus is not content to be one of many important things in our life; He needs to be first. Because He is our life, He wants us to follow His Word unwaveringly. Such commitment means letting go of the earthly things we love so we can embrace Him all the more tightly. He tells us to calculate what we might have to give up as His followers ahead of time, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment with emotions running high. However, Jesus doesn't just want us to calculate what we might have to give up for Him, He wants us to consider the great blessings and everlasting life we only receive through faith in Him. He promises that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that He will reveal in us.

Opening Prayer

In the name of Jesus our Lord and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we call on you, dear heavenly Father:

Hear us for Your name's sake.

We approach you confidently this day, for we rely on Jesus, our Redeemer, for the full forgiveness of sins:

Receive our thankful worship for His sake.

By the Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and of Your will for our lives. Fill our hearts with joy and peace into eternity:

In You, O Lord, have we taken refuge; never let us be ashamed.

O Lord, our Rock and our Fortress, assure us that because you live, we shall live also:

In You we hope: Our praise is for You. Amen

Let us pray:

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

633 Speak, O Lord

CW 633



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the

deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
 at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
 dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.

that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
 Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
 And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll

love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
 walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your

fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
 nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963. Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
 Text and tune: © 2006 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

First Lesson Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (EHV)

Prior to settling within the Promised Land, the LORD wanted his people to calculate carefully the choice between life and death. Life is only found in following Him.

¹⁵See now, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. ¹⁶This is what I am commanding you today: Love the Lord your God, walk in his ways, and keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances. Then you will live and increase in number, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are going to possess.

¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you do not listen, and you are lured away, and you bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸then I declare to you today that you will most certainly perish. You will not live a long life on the land that you are about to enter and possess by crossing over the Jordan.

¹⁹I call the heavens and the earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live ²⁰by loving the Lord your God, by listening to his voice, and by clinging to him, because that means life for you, and you will live a long life on your land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 1

Read Responsively

¹How blessed is the man who does not walk in the advice of the wicked, who does not stand on the path with sinners, and who does not sit in a meeting with mockers.

²But his delight is in the teaching of the Lord, and on his teaching he meditates day and night.

³He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, and its leaves do not wither.

Everything he does prospers.

⁴Not so the wicked! No, they are like the chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶Yes, the Lord approves of the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish. Amen

Second Lesson
1 John 5:11–13 (EHV)

As we calculate the cost of discipleship, Jesus wants us to realize that life is found the Him alone; and He is found in His Word alone.

¹¹This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel
Luke 14:25–35 (EHV)

Jesus teaches us that following him closely will come at a cost.

²⁵Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. He turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, if he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?

²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, everyone who sees it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build, but was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, as he goes out to confront another king in war, will not first sit down and consider if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if he is not able, he sends out a delegation and asks for terms of peace while his opponent is still far away. ³³So then, any one of you who does not say farewell to all his own possessions cannot be my disciple. ³⁴Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its flavor, how will it become salty again? ³⁵It is not fit for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. The one who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken CW 694



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, you on
 Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
 scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
 winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
 not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is
God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and
you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and
swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!
friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.
clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.
heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text & Theme

Psalm 1 ... Happy is the Man who delights in the Lord's Instruction!

Prayer of the Church

O Lord God, heavenly Father, we praise and glorify you for the unsurpassed gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess that we are unworthy sinners who have transgressed your will and Word. We repent of our evil and pray for the faith that trusts utterly and completely in the righteousness of Christ Jesus for our forgiveness.

Open our hearts to the mighty power of your Word. Teach us to depend on your holy sacrament for spiritual strength. Grant that our minds may be renewed in righteousness, that our consciences may be stirred to choose the good, and that every thought, word, and deed may be brought into captivity to Christ.

Give to your Church ministers and teachers who have the faithfulness and courage of true prophets, that your people may be built up in faith, abound in good works, rejoice in your love, and finally enter your heavenly kingdom.

We pray for our beloved country. Give us citizens who perceive that the standard of all that is right is not personal advancement or private favor, not public opinion or party platform, but your holy will. Lavish your grace on all families, that each home may, by its Christian love and character, be for our children a foretaste of the joy and blessedness of our heavenly home.

For all who are in any sickness, pain, anguish, or suffering, for all who are in any danger of body or soul, we pray. Teach them to turn to you and wait on you for mercy. Grant them hope and a joyous deliverance from all their trials, and let them walk in your light all their days.

Special Prayers

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our refuge and hope. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CONFIRMATION OF DAVID ZHAO

(David will come before the altar to confess his faith)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

David Zhao, in obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

Who created/made everything?

God

How many Gods are there?

One

Who are the three persons in One God?

God the Father
God the Son, Jesus
The Holy Spirit

What is the Apostle's Creed?

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

What are the Ten Commandments?

- 1. Love God most of all.**
- 2. Do not use God's name in a bad way.**
- 3. Worship God.**
- 4. Love and obey your parents.**
- 5. Do not murder.**
- 6. Do not commit adultery.**
- 7. Do not steal.**
- 8. Do not say bad things about people / Do not tell lies.**
- 9 & 10. Do not covet. / Do not want what belongs to someone else.**

What does God call it when we do bad things or think bad thoughts?

Sin(s)

Have you sinned against God's commandments?

Yes

What bad place do you deserve to go to because of your sins?

Hell

Are you sorry you sinned against God?

Yes

Who loves you most of all?

God

What did God do to save you?

Sent Jesus to die on the cross for all my sins so I can live with him forever in heaven.

What is the Lord's Prayer ?

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today Our Daily Bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours now and forever. Amen.**

What did God do when you were baptized?

**He washed my sins away.
He adopted me as His child.
He gave me the Holy Spirit.**

What does God do for you in Holy Communion?

**He gives me Jesus' body and blood
He Reminds me of Jesus death on the cross.
He Forgives all my sins.**

What do you receive in Holy Communion?,

**With the bread is Jesus' body.
With the wine is Jesus' blood.**

What should you do before receiving Holy Communion?

**Confess my sins to God and trust that He forgives
me for Jesus' sake.**

What should you do after receiving Holy Communion?

Thank God for forgiving all my sins.

Who goes to heaven when they die?

People who believe in Jesus.

Where will you go when you die?

Heaven

Why?

Because I believe in Jesus

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies?

I do

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the
inspired, perfect Word of God?

I do

Do you believe that the teachings of Divine Word Lutheran Church, as you have learned them from the Simplified Luther's Catechism, are faithful to the Bible?

I do

Do you sincerely want to remain faithful to Jesus and his Word your whole life long?

Yes, and I ask God to help me

Do you sincerely want to live a God pleasing life, faithfully use God's Word and Sacraments, and tell others about your Saviour wherever you go?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for David, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in him. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your great goodness in bringing *this son* of yours to the knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ, and in giving *him* both heart to believe and mouth to confess his saving name. Enable *him* to bring forth the fruits of faith and to continue steadfast and victorious until the day comes when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Individual Blessing

David, may the Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, renew and increase in you the gift of the Holy Spirit, to the strengthening of your faith, to your growth in grace, to your patience in suffering, and to the blessed hope of eternal life.

Confirmation Verse

*“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:20 NIV84)*

Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God—Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

Amen.

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

707 **Cling Tightly to the Word of God**

CW 707



1 Cling tight - ly to the Word of God and Christ's dis -
2 Re - call in faith the pre - cious gift of your bap -
3 For just as God raised up his Son from death by
4 Be strong! Stand firm! Come, walk the path that saints be -



ci - ple be, for then, be - lov - ed, you will know the
tis - mal day, when you were joined to Je - sus' death that
his great might, so too, in Christ, we now may live as
fore you trod, with read - y feet to bring good news of



truth that sets you free, the truth that sets you free.
washed your sins a - way, that washed your sins a - way.
chil - dren of the light, as chil - dren of the light.
Christ, the peace of God, of Christ, the peace of God.

5 Know that his body and his blood
will feed your hungry soul
like manna in life's wilderness,
until you reach your goal,
until you reach your goal.

6 Now fix your eyes on Jesus Christ;
"Come, follow me," says he.
"Deny yourself, take up your cross;
come, lose your life for me,
come, lose your life for me."

Confession and Absolution (Please stand)

My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

I do confess!

It is good for you to confess because God's word says, *"When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long."* (Psalm 32:3)

- 2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

I do repent!

It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, *"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us."* (1 John 1:8)

- 3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

I do believe!

It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, *"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

- 4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, "I do so promise!"

I do so promise!

It is right for you to promise because God's Word says, *"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."* (Matthew 3:8)

Words of Institution

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.



C: A - men.



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



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



grant us your peace. A - men.

Distribution



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

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

Amen.

617 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow CW 617

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.'

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois. Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Church Cleaners

September 14 – Barnabas // September 21 – Luke

Voter's Meeting

Our next Voter's Meeting is scheduled for after worship on September 28.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (7) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**
10:30 am *Worship with Communion*
11:45 am *First Fellowship*
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore
- We (10) 9:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)
5:15 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
7:00 pm New Communicating Christ (Adult)
- Fr (12) 6:00 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (14) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**
10:30 am *Worship with Communion*
11:45 am *Coffee Hour*
- Tu (16) 7:00 pm Elders
- We (17) 9:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)
5:15 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
7:00 pm New Communicating Christ (Adult)
- Su (21) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**
10:30 am *Worship with Communion*
11:45 am Evangelism Meeting
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore



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