

## ST. TITUS, PASTOR AND CONFESSOR

Titus, Shepherd of the Flock

January 25 & 26, 2025

5:00pm & 8:00am

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### AS WE GATHER

Faith-filled overseers of the flock are vigilant in care—gracious stewards of God’s Law and Gospel counsel; attentive stewards of God’s abundant grace—a vital treasure for believers. And these appointed laborers of Christ need to remain strong in godly virtue and order, equipped to battle fierce wolves and subtle evil that mingle in the lives of God’s people. Titus began as one who heard and believed Paul and transitioned to assigning elders to care for the congregations he and Paul had started. Jesus prepared the Twelve for such a transition. They were to be dependent only on Him, not on how people reacted to the Gospel. And we need to rely on God and not our own preparations. As we will hear in the First Reading, we are called “in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised” (Titus 1:2). Indeed, with the Twelve and Titus, for us “the kingdom of God has come near” (Luke 10:9).

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

#### MINISTRY MOMENT – National Lutheran Schools Week

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him (Christ Jesus).

That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen

to God for his glory. 2 Corinthians 1:20

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

## PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN #733 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op’ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: I commend you to God

**People: and to the word of His grace.**

Pastor: For you, O Lord, are my hope,

**People: my trust, O LORD, from my youth.**

Pastor: Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest

**People: to send out laborers into His harvest.**

Pastor: When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

**People: He saved us.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us go to God in sincere trust in His great mercy. Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess all the times we have failed you. Forgive us, and help us to better serve you.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus,

**People: we confess that we have not always told others of your great love. Forgive us and give us strength and courage to speak about all that you have done.**

Pastor: O Holy Spirit,

**People: renew our hearts and minds so that we focus on the gift of this day as well as the promise of eternal life. Forgive us for the past and move us into the future that awaits us.**

Pastor: Our Father sent His Son, who died and rose for you, and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in your hearts. He loves you; nothing will stand in the way of His welcoming you into the courts of heaven. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

LSB p. 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –  
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

#### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you called Titus to the work of pastor and teacher.

**People: Make all shepherds of your flock diligent in preaching your holy Word so that the whole world may know the immeasurable riches of our Savior, Jesus Christ,**

Pastor: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

#### **INSTALLATION OF DANIELLE JACKSON, PRINCIPAL**

##### **WORD**

**FIRST READING** *Acts 20:28–35* (Paul instructs the elders and encourages them to lead as he did.) <sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

<sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. <sup>32</sup> And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Titus 1:1–9* (Paul gives Titus instructions on appointing overseers.)

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, <sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began <sup>3</sup> and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; <sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true

child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. <sup>5</sup>This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— <sup>6</sup>if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. <sup>7</sup>For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, <sup>8</sup>but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. <sup>9</sup>He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**8:00 BELLS**                      *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

**5:00 ANTHEM**                *"Be Strong and Courageous"* St. Paul's School Students

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 10:1–9* (Jesus sends out the Twelve to rely on what people provide and to announce the Kingdom.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. <sup>2</sup>And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup>Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup>Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup>Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' <sup>6</sup>And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup>And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. <sup>8</sup>Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup>Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

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Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Be seated)

### **CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **"Jesus Loves the Little Children"**

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.  
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus cares for all the children, all the children of the world,  
Ev'ry child in ev'ry land, Jesus holds them in His hand.  
Jesus cares for all the children of the world.

#### **SERMON HYMN #864 "Shepherd of Tender Youth"**

Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth  
Through devious ways; Christ, our triumphant king,  
We come your name to sing  
And here our children bring  
To join your praise.

You are the holy Lord, O all subduing Word,  
Healer of strife. Yourself you did abase  
That from sin's deep disgrace  
You so might save our race  
And give us life.

You are the great High Priest; You have prepared the feast  
Of holy love; And in our mortal pain  
None calls on you in vain;  
Our plea do not disdain;  
Help from above.

O ever be our guide, Our shepherd, and our pride,  
Our staff and song. Jesus, O Christ of God,  
By your enduring Word  
Lead us where you have trod;  
Make our faith strong.

So now, and till we die, Sound we your praises high  
And joyful sing: Infants and all the throng,  
Who to the Church belong,  
Unite to swell the song  
To Christ, our king!

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## SERMON

### “Shepherds Under Christ”

Titus 1:1-9

(Rise)

#### OFFERTORY

LSB p. 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.  
Amen.

#### NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the Good Shepherd of the sheep, laying down His life for our forgiveness and salvation. Bless all pastors who are under-shepherds of Christ, leading, guiding, and supporting them in their calling.

**People:** **Bless us with open ears and hearts to receive Christ’s Word proclaimed and taught by our pastors, that we may be led faithfully to follow the ways of our Lord.**

**Pastor:** Lord God of Zion, we give you thanks that you have arisen to show pity to our fallen world and set us free from sin and death. In Christ the appointed time of favor has come for all people.

**People:** **Cause your name to be declared among all peoples, that your grace may not be rejected in our time but received with delight in every place. Bless especially our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family.**

**Pastor:** O Lord, Your people in the days of Ezra the priest returned to your Word with attentive ears. Bless the proclamation of your eternal truth.

**People:** **Move us by your Spirit to study your Word, grow in understanding your Truth, that our days may be sanctified and our lives show forth the glory of Christ.**

**Pastor:** Lord God, Giver of the Holy Spirit, you bless your servants with a variety of gifts from one and the same Spirit.

**People:** **Grant that each of us may use these gifts for the common good of your people.**

**Pastor:** Lord of all, we give you thanks and praise for the ministry of Lutheran schools and our own St. Paul’s Lutheran School. Bless Danielle Jackson as she is installed as our principal. Give her strength and courage, wisdom and guidance, and a special measure of the Spirit as she leads our school.

**People:** Bless our teachers with wisdom and skill, empower them to be good models of Christian life, and grant all our students to learn and grow in both faith and life.

**Pastor:** Give wisdom and courage to all who govern our communities and country, that they may lead well, following your will. Bless President Trump to lead our nation in ways pleasing to you. Give all leaders honesty and integrity to serve for the common good.

**People:** Grant us willingness to support them with our prayers and encouragement.

**Pastor:** Gracious and compassionate Lord, comfort those who mourn, and as our Great Physician, mend the bodies and uplift the spirits of all in need especially Sharon, John, Debbie, Bob, Judy, Jerry, Carole, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Marlene, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah.

**People:** Grant all healing according to your will, and bless them with patience, perseverance and peace in the midst of their affliction.

**Pastor:** O Lord, your Son has come with favor to deliver us, and in His blessed Sacrament He brings cleansing and strength.

**People:** Give us faith that we would not despise our Savior and this Holy Communion, but take to heart the grace, promise, and presence of Christ in His Supper.

**Pastor:** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before you, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### PROPER PREFACE

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for you have mightily governed and protected your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with your servant Titus, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

### SANCTUS

LSB p. 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

#### PAX DOMINI

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

#### AGNUS DEI

LSB p. 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

#### **HYMN #583           “God Has Spoken by His Prophets”**

God has spoken by His prophets, Spoken His unchanging Word;  
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.  
In the world’s despair and turmoil, One firm anchor holds us fast:  
God is king, His throne eternal; God the first, and God the last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,  
Brightness of the Father’s glory, With the Father ever one;  
Spoken by the Word Incarnate, God of God, before time was;  
Light of Light, to earth descending, He reveals our God to us.

God is speaking by His Spirit, Speaking to our heart’s again,  
In the ageless Word declaring His own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations One sure faith yet standing fast;  
God abides, His Word unchanging; God the first , and God the last.

#### **HYMN #849           “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”**

Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners, Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev’ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert’s burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

#### **HYMN #633           “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”**

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,  
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His piercèd side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,  
Gives His body for the feast--Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword;  
Israel’s hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;  
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

(Rise) Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

#### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the  
feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood.

**People: Keep us firm in the faith and guide us to use the resources you provide  
for your people for years to come.**

Pastor: Gather us all together then to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb  
in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now  
and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Give thanks to God for saints who have gone before us and go in peace as you also serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## **CLOSING HYMN #643 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”**

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The Supper is ended. O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us  
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God everliving,  
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,  
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Preacher  
Liturgist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen

Organist

Deaconess Carole King

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