LAST DAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR
Order of Worship – 9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER – The disciples had hoped for thrones and power to rule beside Jesus, but the throne on which He pronounced His greatest edict was a cross. On it He prayed for forgiveness for His executioners. From it He promised paradise for the thief on a neighboring cross. And because of His royal sacrifice, the Father “delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.” Like the people of Malachi’s day, who saw evil running rampant, we may not understand all that is happening in the world around us. But we trust that in Christ God has made “peace by the blood of His cross.” So, lift high the cross, for by it our sins are forgiven and paradise is open to us!

PRESERVICES MUSIC “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” by Wilbur Held

[Please fill out prayer request cards.]

WELCOME [Means please stand; ? Means please be seated]

OPENING HYMN All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name LSB 549

1 All hail the pow’r of Je-sus’ name! Let an-gels pro-strate fall;
2 Crown Him, ye mar-tys of our God, Who from His al-tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is-rael’s chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da-vid’s line, Whom Da-vid Lord did call,
5 Sin-ners, whose love can ne’er for-get The worm-wood and the gall,

Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex-tol the stem of Jes-se’s rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in-car-nate, man di-vine, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro-phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

(continued)
6. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
    On this terrestrial ball
    To Him all majesty ascribe
    And crown Him Lord of all.
    To Him all majesty ascribe
    And crown Him Lord of all.

7. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
    We at His feet may fall!
    We'll join the everlasting song
    And crown Him Lord of all.
    We'll join the everlasting song
    And crown Him Lord of all.

Invocation & Opening Sentences

Psalm 46:11; Colossians 1:13-14

In the name of the Father and of the \( \rightarrow \) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.

Confession & Forgiveness

Since we are confident of God's forgiveness because of Christ's sacrifice of Himself on the cross, let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

Heavenly Father, we confess that by nature we regularly sin without even thinking. Our thoughts, words, and deeds reflect the world around us rather than the grace You have showered upon us. We have not loved You above all things; we have loved ourselves more than our neighbors. Without Your help, we cannot free ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, forgive us; by the power of Your Holy Spirit, renew in us clean hearts and willing minds that we glorify Your holy name each day until we see the paradise You have so gracially promised us.

The promises of God are sure! By the blood of Jesus' Cross He has made peace with us and reconciled us to Himself. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \( \rightarrow \) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Kyrie

In the peace won for us on the cross, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

(continued)
For the peace of a world that does not know Him, for the well-being of the Church whose head He is, and for the unity of all who ask Him to remember them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who, having seen in Jesus’ sacrifice the love of the invisible God revealed, respond here in worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Power of the Cross

(continued)
3. Now the daylight flees;  
   Now the ground beneath quakes as it’s Maker bows His head.  
   Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;  
   “Finished!” the vict’ry cry.  
   This, the pow’r of the cross:  
   Christ became sin for us;  
   Took the blame, bore the wrath,  
   We stand forgiven at the cross.

4. Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
   For through Your suffering I am free.  
   Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live,  
   Won through Your selfless love.  
   This, the pow’r of the cross:  
   Son of God—slain for us.  
   What a love! What a cost!  
   We stand forgiven at the cross.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.
**C** And also with you.
**P** Let us pray.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
**C** And also with you.
**P** Let us share this peace with one another.
(People greet one another saying: “Peace be with you. And also with you.”)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON  
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.
**C** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON  
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.
**C** Thanks be to God.

Malachi 3:13–18

Colossians 1:13–20
**ALLELUIA VERSE**  
All: Alleluia. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**  
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.  
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)  
**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
**Lift High the Cross**  
LSB 837

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
3. All new-born soldiers of the Crucified  
4. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  

Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.  
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee.

5. Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

**SERMON**  
**"HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE DOES"**  

I. Sometimes we wonder if God knows what He's doing.  
II. But God is always working for our good, working to have us enter His Kingdom on the Last Day.
APOSTLE'S CREED
C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. 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 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.

OFFERING / CHORAL SELECTION “Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love”

OFFERTORY On My Heart Imprint Your Image LSB 422

On my heart im-print Your im-age, Bless-ed Je-sus, King of grace,
That life’s rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev-er may Your work e-rase;
Let the clear in-scrip-tion be: Je-sus, cru-ci-fied for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foun-da-tion, And my glo-ry and sal-va-tion!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
P Let us pray for all people around the world, for the Church wherever it is found, and for ourselves in our daily living as God’s people. To our eyes, heavenly Father, arrogant and evil people get rewarded in this fallen world at the expense of those who would try to remain true to Your will and rule in their lives. Hear the cries of those who call to You for justice, human rights, and dignity. Grant them an increase of faith and hope as they long to see Your gracious plans come to fruition.

C Remember them, O Lord, in Your kingdom, and hear our prayer.
P At times it is difficult, O Holy Spirit, to recognize the growth of the Church, either in numbers or in steadfast faith. Where the Church has been part of society for ages, church buildings are put to other uses and attendance is sparse at worship services. Hear the prayers rising to You from Your Church, and by Your Word cause those who do not know You to come to saving faith. Assure them that the Lord of hosts is with them.

C Remember them, O Lord, in Your kingdom, and hear our prayer.
P Lord over all, the world’s violent weather puts travelers on land, sea, and air at risk; it calls into question each season’s harvest and raises the specter of famine. Wherever people are anxious about food, clothing, or shelter, and whenever they must seek help for ills of any kind, be their refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. [Special petitions.] Visit, relieve, console, and strengthen them as fits Your gracious plans.
Remember them, O Lord, in Your kingdom, and hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, without Your aid, faith can grow cold, questions about Your love and mercy can arise, and the problems in front of our eyes can seem more real than Your abiding presence. O image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, renew strong faith and urgent love in us and all Your brothers and sisters in the faith so that we each hear for ourselves the clear promise of paradise You announced from the throne of the cross. Strengthen us for joyful service in Your kingdom.

Remember us, O Lord, in Your kingdom, and hear our prayer.

These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, 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.

BENEDICTION

The blessings of God Almighty—the Father,

who delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins,

the Son,

through whom the Father reconciled to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross,

and the Holy Spirit,

who has called us to faith in the Son, the Head of the Body, the Church,

be upon you, now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

LSB 647

1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head, You are her one foundation;
2 O Lord, let this Your little flock, Your name alone confess;
3 Help us to serve You evermore with hearts both pure and lowly;
4 And for Your Gospel let us dare to sacrifice all nations;

In You she trusts, before You bows, And fessing, continue in Your loving care, True lowly; And may Your Word, that light divine, Shine treasure; Teach us to bear Your blessed cross, To

(continued)
waits for Your salvation. Built on this rock secure,
unity possessing. Your sacraments, O Lord,
on in splendor holy. That we repentence show,
find in You all pleasure. O grant us steadiness.

Your Church shall endure. Though all the world de-
And Your saving Word. To us, Lord, pure re-
In faith ever grow; The pow'r of sin de-
In joy and distress, Lest we, Lord, You for-

cay. And all things pass away.
tain. Grant that they may remain.
stroy. And evils that annoy.
sake. Let us by grace partake.

O hear, O hear us, Jesus!
Our only strength and com-fort.
O make us faithful Chris-tians.
Of endless joy and glad-ness.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Birthdays: Sherry Mamasian]

POSTLUDE

“Gloria” by Anton Andre

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THE LUTHERAN HOUR MESSAGE
KOA 850 AM: Sunday @ 6:00 am

December 1: “Enough with the Self-Talk”; Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler; Speaker
We are not always who we say we are. What you say to yourself about yourself may or may not be what's true. Dr. Michael Zeigler says, "Enough with the self-talk!" Who does God say you are? You'll find that you are worse than you thought, and yet, more loved than you could ever imagine. (Luke 18:9-14)