

WELCOME

Home



OUR NEED FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

CHURCH
LOGO
HERE

Church Name

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church tagline, i.e. a very brief summary of your mission statement

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

- ⌘ **Restrooms** are located in the hallway directly opposite the entrance to the sanctuary.
- ⌘ **Staffed nursery.** We offer a staffed nursery for ages 2 to 6 and special needs children. It is located to the left of the entry foyer near the kitchen.
- ⌘ **Connection Cards** are found inside each worship folder. We ask that before worship or during the offering, you fill those out, front and back. You can then place the card in the offering plate after the sermon.
- ⌘ Additional info: church contact info, etc.
- ⌘ **Prayer before worship**

OUR WORSHIP SERIES

Read through Scripture and count the times it refers to believers as “brothers and sisters.” You will reach the triple digits quickly. The Holy Spirit is deliberate with his choice of words. If he frequently refers to the Church in those terms, there can be only one explanation. He wants us to think of each other as family. We understand the important roles a mother and father play. We know the joys (and challenges) of having siblings. Do we grasp that it is just as important that we have a spiritual family? Scripture teaches that what unites us to our spiritual family is infinitely more powerful than any biological bond. Moreover, you can lose a blood relative. They can be taken away from you by death. But you will enjoy the companionship of your spiritual family for all eternity. In this worship series, we will look at how our Father knits us together in love and unity into a spiritual family. We will see the benefits of being part of this family. In the Church, Christ has given us a better home.

WELCOME HOME!

Our Need for Christian Community

The Lost Are Now Found

You Are Free to Be Yourself

You Are Perfectly Safe Here

You Have an Everlasting Family

You are Part of Christ’s Glorious Kingdom

OUR THEME FOR TODAY

“Army of One” was the shortest lived recruiting slogan in US military history. It was meant to stress the strength of the individual. The Army dropped the slogan relatively quickly because they realized it was contrary to the reality that, in the army, you are completely reliant upon your team. In a stressful situation, the individual can be overwhelmed. He or she needs others. God knows this. The first time God looked at Creation and noticed something was off, the issue was that an individual (Adam) was isolated. “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Humans are hardwired by God to need fellowship, not just with him, but with one another. So, God is determined to bring believers into a loving, nurturing community—the Church.

Perhaps you have been a part of this Christian family for a long time. Perhaps you once belonged to a church, but for whatever reason drifted away. Perhaps you have never belonged to a church. Whatever may be the case for you, may God bless you as you listen to his Word today. May he help us all to realize that this Christian community—this spiritual home—is something we badly need. Welcome home!



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN — 365

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: God has called us to live as family. Yet, our love for God and for each other is not what it should be. Our priorities and choices are often flawed. But the power of God's love enables us to live a new life. Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for meditation

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

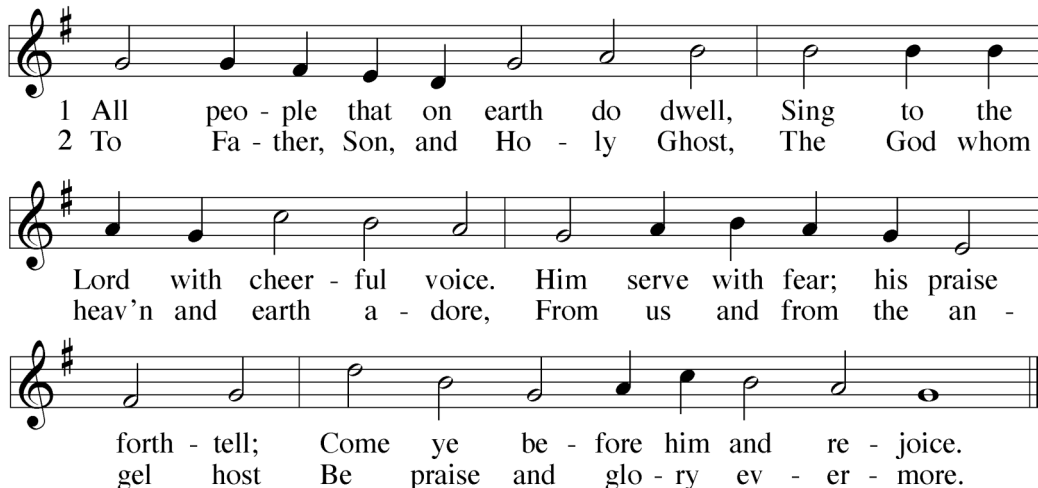
**C: Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt.
Help me to live faithfully as part of your family.**

M: God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and empowers us to be his people. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

After a brief introduction, all sing:



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
2 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom
Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the an -
forth - tell; Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O Lord Jesus Christ,
preserve the family of believers with your never-failing mercy.
Bind us together with the bond of your love.
Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful,
and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✘ Word ✘

FIRST LESSON

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

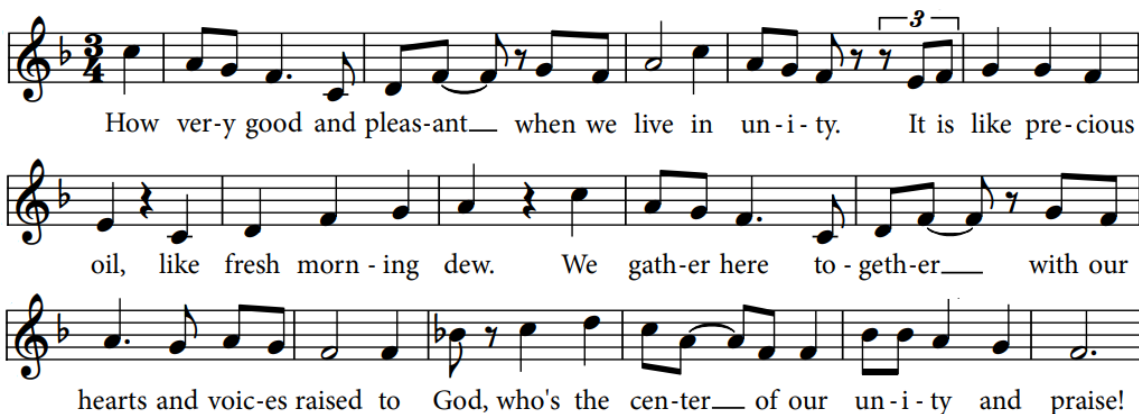
Scripture says that people are not wired to be rugged individuals. God created us to need one another. Two are better than one. Even better is having Christ as the third strand within a relationship. He provides the love and grace that keeps that bond strong.

- ⁷ Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:
⁸ There was a man all alone;
 he had neither son nor brother.
 There was no end to his toil,
 yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.
 “For whom am I toiling,” he asked,
 “and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”
 This too is meaningless—
 a miserable business!
- ⁹ Two are better than one,
 because they have a good return for their labor:
- ¹⁰ If either of them falls down,
 one can help the other up.
 But pity anyone who falls
 and has no one to help them up.
- ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
 But how can one keep warm alone?
- ¹² Though one may be overpowered,
 two can defend themselves.
 A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 133

Cantor(s): *Refrain*



How ver-y good and pleas-ant— when we live in un-i-ty. It is like pre-cious
oil, like fresh morn - ing dew. We gath-er here to - geth-er— with our
hearts and voic-es raised to God, who's the cen-ter— of our un-i-ty and praise!

Cantor(s): Together, together we lift our voices to the Lord.
Together, together we shout our praise to his name.

ALL: *Refrain*

Cantor(s): Through water and his Word the Spirit makes us family.
Salvation and new life are ours to share with everyone.

ALL: *Refrain*

Cantor(s) You servants of the Lord, now in his house lift up your hands and praise
the Lord who made the heavens and the earth.

ALL: *Refrain (During this final refrain, the children may come forward.)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 2:9-18

Jesus became our brother so that by his suffering, death and resurrection he might unite us to himself and knit us together into a spiritual family.

⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says,

“I will declare your name
to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Hebrews 2:12

M: Alleluia! I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises. Alleluia!



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

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus wants us in his family so that he might give us rest and peace.

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY — 532

God Is Here! As We His People

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' 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.

OFFERING

✠ Prayers ✠

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Prayers and petitions are made on behalf of the Church

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

LORD'S PRAYER

M: We pray in Jesus' name and as he taught.

**C: 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.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give † you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Oh, How Good It Is

Verse 1 is sung by a cantor. Verses 2 and 3 are sung by all.



1 Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God
2 Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share
3 Oh, how good it is to em - brace his com - mand



dwells to - geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty.
to re - joice with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn.
to pre - fer one a - noth - er, for - give as he for - gives.



Where the bonds of peace, of ac - cep - tance and love
For the weak find strength, the af - flict - ed find grace
When we live as one we all share in the love



are the fruits of his pres - ence here a - mong us.
when we of - fer the bles - sing of be - long - ing.
of the Son with the Fa - ther and the Spir - it.



Refrain
So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord; and with one heart we'll



live out his Word. Till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has



come for he dwells in the pres - ence of his peo - ple.



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