

"As the Need Arose"

Text: Ephesians 4:1-8

May the cross of Christ lead you to grieve over the evil of your sins, but may that same cross fill you with unreserved joy that those sins have there found full and complete forgiveness. Amen.

Dear Fellow Christians:

As a society (and for some time now) we have been moving steadily away from "need" to "want." In fact I'm not all that certain that we today have a clear view of the difference. If, for example, we would list everything we own and enjoy today (clothes, tools, toys, vehicles, appliance – everything) and then ask citizens of our country to check a box indicating whether that item is a need or want, we would probably be shocked and appalled at the results. The list of our actual *needs* is relatively small, but our perceptions are seriously distorted.

Obviously the perception of "needs" varies over time (the *perception* of needs, not the needs themselves). If we were to ask the Apostles, for example, in Jesus' day, their list would undoubtedly have been much more basic than our own. It would be most interesting, however, to see both what they and we would list as a need in the area of religion. Christians then, as now, would certainly agree that **"Jesus Christ, and Him crucified"** pretty much sums up our spiritual needs. But do we actually need more than that? Yes and no.

"Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" certainly sums up the basis for salvation, but obviously we would consider our Bibles to be needs rather than just wants. And it goes deeper than that. It seems evident, for example, that the disciples did not consider Jesus' Ascension as necessary, although Jesus himself said it was. They probably did not feel themselves lacking in the basic truths of God's Word and will prior to the Ascension, but Jesus knew differently.

You and I fall into the same trap today. We have an almost insatiable appetite for material things (which are not needed) and yet we tend to feel complacent and well satisfied with our level of

spirituality and Biblical understanding. As was the case with the disciples, our Lord sees our needs in this area, and the need is great. In fact that was a big part of the reason that Jesus returned to his Father at his Ascension. He was well aware that his New Testament Church was lacking in several critical areas. Those needs would be supplied – those needs are *always* supplied – but for reasons known only to God, those needs could not and would not be supplied until after Jesus ascended.

On this day we join together with the rest of the Church of the Lutheran Confession in celebrating two events: the ascension of our Lord and the 50th Anniversary of our Synod. This morning we will look at both of those events from the perspective of "needs" as they were supplied by our God. The text that ties these two events together for us this morning is found recorded in Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, the 4th Chapter:

Ephesians 4:1-8 *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."*

These are God's Words. May God the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of each of us through the study of these words this morning. To that end we pray, **"Sanctify us through your truth, O Lord. Your Word is truth."** Amen.

I doubt that I will ever forget a lesson I learned during the discussion of whether or not we ought to build the recently completed Academic Center on the campus of Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire. As has been the case with every such building project, the floor committee charged with bringing recommendations to the convention went through a great deal of soul-searching and hand wringing. You can imagine the basic

thrust of the debate. Cost was, of course, the 500 pound gorilla in the room. Back and forth the debate flowed – “We can’t afford it!” “We have to afford it!” “We could patch up the old.” “The old would end up costing us more.” “Will the school even survive long enough to make this a wise investment?” “The school cannot survive unless we act now.” Well-meaning folks came at the question from a variety of different perspectives, impressions, and backgrounds.

All during the discussion I noticed that one of the CLC’s beloved founding fathers, a member of the floor committee, remained silent. He never said a word. He simply sat quietly and listened to the ongoing discussions. Aware that it was always and only us “young guys” that were doing all the talking, he was finally asked for his thoughts. He said he had only one thought, one decision to make: *“Is this a need or a want? Because if we can agree that it is a need, then there really is no need to discuss whether or not we can afford the need. God always provides for every single one of our needs.”* What followed then was a brief summary of his experience from the earliest days of the CLC. This was a time not when the members of our fledgling church body were stingy with their money; it was a time when there simply was no money. The man speaking of these things was the pastor of one of largest founding congregations that formed the CLC, and his members came to him one day and spoke of the need for Christian education that was not being met. In agreeing that Christian education was a need rather than a want or a luxury, that congregation resolved to begin a synodical high school, college, and seminary.

Understand the circumstances here. They had no money. They had a need and they had their God, and they simply trusted that the latter would provide for the former. The history of how God accomplished this is truly remarkable.

Needless to say, no one had anything else to say after this gentle, humble man concluded his remarks. The vote to proceed, as I recall, was unanimous, and once again the impossibly expensive project was approved and completed.

What does any of this have to do with our Lord’s Ascension? When speaking to his disciples, Jesus once pointed out the *needs*

that had escaped both their notice and their comprehension. ***“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’”*** ⁶ ***“But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.”*** ⁷ ***“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”*** Understand that at that point in time, the disciples were absolutely unaware of their profound need for a greater understanding of the gospel. They were still very much hung up on the idea of an earthly kingdom. Jesus of course knew better. He knew that the only way for that need to be met was the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Again, for reasons known only to God, the Holy Spirit could not, would not, be sent unless and until Jesus returned to heaven at the Ascension. He went on to explain to the disciples and to us: ***“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”*** ¹³ ***“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*** (John 16:5-13)

The Ascension of Jesus Christ, therefore, represented not only the time when Jesus got to go home to his Father – his work of redeeming the world by paying for sin having been completed – it indicated a need for you and me. You know, of course, how that need was met at Pentecost. The change that resulted from the gift of Pentecost was nothing short of amazing. Where the disciples had once thought in shallow, worldly terms, they thought thus no longer. From that point on their thoughts, writings, and teachings fell into line with those of their God and Savior – and through their words the Holy Spirit converted human beings by the thousands.

Now turn the pages of history forward by about 1400 years. Again a need was seen by God, but a need that had escaped most of mankind – including the vast majority of the Christian Church of the day. Roman Catholicism had hijacked the simple truth of “salvation by grace through faith” and buried that gospel under yet another form of man-made work righteousness. God saw a need of which man was unaware, and again God supplied that need – this time by sending, teaching, and preserving the great Reformers like Martin Luther and Martin Chemnitz.

That this was a need should have been obvious to Christians; it was anything but. The errors that had gripped the Church were not just dangerous; they were damning. Not only was the Reformation a need, it could be argued that mankind had no greater need – physically or spiritually. The very institution that had been entrusted with sharing with the world the one path to heaven had so perverted and distorted the truths of the gospel that again the solution – the rescue – with which God blessed his Church was simply miraculous.

Fast forward again to 50 years ago. Once again God identified a need of which man was unaware. This time, although the true Christian faith had not been buried beneath Satanic work-righteousness, the cancer of error was at work. What made this need so difficult for Christians to identify was the fact that the basic truths were all in place. The three pillars of the Reformation – Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone – had not been lost. Conservative Christians enjoyed the fellowship of the mighty Synodical Conference – a fellowship of several Lutheran church bodies including both the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods. With several million members worldwide, international outreach efforts were thriving. Then, as now, the vast majority saw no need for any sort of change or correction. God saw differently. Jesus himself, in his Great Commission, had instructed his Church not only to **"Go and make disciples of all nations,"** he told them to do so by **"teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever (he) had commanded them."**

By 1959 it had become apparent (again to only a very small remnant that God raised up) that several of the errors that had already grown and decimated the liberal Lutheran Churches of the day had also been adopted by members of the Synodical Conference. God recognized the need for an orthodox (right teaching) church body where his Word would again be preserved and taught without error or compromise. To this end he gathered men and women from around the country into a tiny fellowship that came to be known as the Church of the Lutheran Confession. Fifty years ago, in Watertown, South Dakota, that church body came into formal existence.

In the world's eyes, we were then and still are today a tiny, inconsequential church body. We are not well-connected. We

have no political might. Our congregations are small, our budgets are meager, our world "footprint" is humble in the extreme. Yet man did not raise up this church body; God did. Today we celebrate 50 years of God's grace and blessing, but we do so according to the words of this morning's text – **"with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."** Such a celebration, such a remembrance, is good and right. To bring to mind what our God has done for us in the past five decades is proper and appropriate. Those who lived through those formative days will freely testify how obvious was the Lord's hand, how evident his grace and providence.

You and I have inherited this gift from our God, which is, in part, why we join to thank him on this day. When our text tells us that **"when (Jesus) He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men"** we are to count ourselves among the men and women to whom he has given great gifts. Yet the path forward will certainly not be without danger and hardship. The historical struggle to retain and share the truths of the gospel will also be *our* struggle. Satan will be relentless in his efforts to distort, discourage, and confuse. So also as we thank our God for the countless blessings of the past, we implore also his continued help for the future. Still today Paul calls out to us in our text to **"walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."**

God the Father, through his Holy Spirit, rekindle in each of us a zeal and a love both for the truth of his Word, and for the souls of our fellow human beings – especially those who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Savior. What a comfort and blessing to know that as he has done in the past, so he will continue to do for his children. So also we thank our God this morning for our treasured fellowship – **"one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in (us) all."** Amen.

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Church of the Lutheran Confession

50th Anniversary Service

May 16, 2010

INVOCATION

Pastor: We gather together in the name of the Father who created us; in the name of the Son who redeemed us; and in the name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.



*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.*

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

Congregation: But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

P. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

C. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

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

C. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

All: Heavenly Father, we come to you recognizing that in the past fifty years we have sinned against you in many and various ways. By our thoughts, words, and actions we have walked in the counsel of the wicked, stood in the way of sinners, and sat in the seat of mockers. We ask you to forgive us on account of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May your Holy Spirit lead us ever to delight in your Word of salvation so that we may be as trees planted by streams of living water, which yield their fruit in the proper season.

P. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. By God's decree as your called servant, I forgive you all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



*Praise him for his grace and favor
To his people in distress;
Praise him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.*

KYRIE

- P. O Lord, as you have had mercy on us in our spiritual need, look upon us also in our bodily distress.
- C. Have mercy upon us, O Lord.**
- P. As you healed the blind man who called out to you for mercy, reach down with your powerful hand to restore us and preserve us while we live our lives in this fallen world.
- C. Have mercy upon us, O Christ.**
- P. Strengthen us each hour that we might serve you all our days.
- C. Have mercy upon us, O Lord.**



*Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hand he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

- P. We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.
- C. Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of your glory.**
- P. You are the King of Glory, O Christ.
- C. When you had overcome the sharpness of death, you opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**
- P. May each of us now grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- C. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.**



*"Glory in the highest glory!"
Shout the angels in the skies,
Bringing earth the wondrous story:
God is come he meets our eyes.
Alleluia! "Peace to you," the Lamb now cries!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. Heavenly Father, we rejoice that you have made us one with you and with each other through faith in Christ our Lord. We thank you for the abundant blessings you have bestowed upon our church body during the past fifty years, especially the Word and work in which you have enabled us to share. Confirm us in the faith we share with those who have gone before us, those who have spoken your Word to us. Empower us by your Spirit to meet the challenges of our day as we take the Word of Christ to those in need. Continue to sustain us with Word and Sacrament until we come at last to our eternal home. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Leviticus 25:1-17

(God gives instructions to the Israelites regarding the Year of Jubilee.)

Leviticus 25:1-4, 8-17 "And the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, ² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD. ³ 'Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; ⁴ 'but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of

solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD... ⁸ 'And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. ⁹ 'Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth *day* of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. ¹⁰ 'And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout *all* the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. ¹¹ 'That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather *the grapes* of your untended vine. ¹² 'For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field. ¹³ 'In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession. ¹⁴ 'And if you sell anything to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor's hand, you shall not oppress one another. ¹⁵ 'According to the number of years after the Jubilee you shall buy from your neighbor, and according to the number of years of crops he shall sell to you. ¹⁶ 'According to the multitude of years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you shall diminish its price; for he sells to you *according* to the number of the years of the crops. ¹⁷ 'Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I *am* the LORD your God.

Romans 5:1-11

(We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.)

Romans 5:1-11 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. ⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

(The *Gradual* is sung to the tune of *A Mighty Fortress*.)



*God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure.
Throughout all generations.*

Luke 10:13-20

(Rejoice that your names are written in heaven!)

Luke 10:13-20 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ "But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades. ¹⁶ "He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." ¹⁷ Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." ¹⁸ And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰ "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(The Church of the Lutheran Confession has, with all her Lutheran forefathers, made this primary Christian confession of faith the first of her confessions.)

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Is Our Corner-Stone

Christ is our Corner-stone, on Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled.
On His great love our hopes we place
Of present grace And joys above.

Here, gracious God, do Thou forevermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow and mark each suppliant sigh.
In copious shower on all who pray
Each holy day, Thy blessing pour.

Here may we gain from heaven the grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once given, be with us evermore
Until that day when all the blest
To endless rest are called away!

Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise the three in One to sing
And thus proclaim in joyful song,
Both loud and long that glorious name. Amen.

THE SERMON

(Our sermon text ties together the two events we celebrate this morning: the Ascension of our Lord and the 50th Anniversary of the CLC.)

Ephesians 4:1-8 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;* ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

"As the Need Arose"

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns

(Sung to the melody of Hymn 66)

The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heaven's eternal Light;

The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is given;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The mystery of His love.

The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

THE OFFERING
THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P. Almighty and eternal God, when the time was right, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to take our place under the demands of the law and to endure the just punishment for our sins.
- C. You accepted his sacrifice on the cross. You raised him from death in glorious splendor. For his sake, you richly and daily forgive the sins of all who put their trust in you.**
- ALL.** Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.
- P. When the time was right, you bestowed your Holy Spirit on your people as a testimony that you had called them to proclaim the Gospel to every creature.
- C. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the story of salvation into all the world.**
- ALL.** The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.
- P. When the time was right, you raised up your servant Martin Luther to destroy the idols of the medieval age and to restore the pure teaching of your Holy Word.
- C. You renewed your people with the light of your love, you granted power and success to the proclamation of the Gospel, and your holy Church grew and prospered throughout the world.**
- ALL.** God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
- P. When the time was right, you brought together the founders and builders of our churches. Guided by your Spirit, they took hold of the truth and abandoned an apathetic allegiance to your Word.
- C. They joined hands with other believers and worked together in ministry as members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. You have blessed their sons and daughters during the fifty years past and enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving Gospel of your Son.**
- ALL.** Sing to the Lord, for he has done marvelous things; let this be known to all the world.
- P. Let this be the time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and Sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service.

- C. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the leaders of our past.**
- ALL.** May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers. May he never leave us or forsake us.
- P. Let this be a time, O Lord, for confession and repentance. For Jesus' sake forgive us whenever we love ourselves more than you and whenever we serve ourselves instead of your people. Forgive us for the apathy that harms our faith and hinders our work.
- C. Forgive us for boasting of our past achievements and for blaming others for our present problems. Rid us of indifference toward public worship and continued growth in your Word, destroy all distrust that may plague us, and shatter every thought and word which harms the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.**
- ALL.** Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- P. Let this be the time, O Lord, when we recommit and re-consecrate ourselves to the ministry of the Gospel of your Son. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and, if it is your will, success in our labor.
- C. And give us faith, O Lord, to truly be, in our thoughts, words, and actions, what you have called us to be—witnesses of your grace!**
- ALL.** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.
- P. Keep in your care, O Lord, all those we love, those who are close by and those far from home. Protect them from temptation and every spiritual evil.
- C. Watch over those among us who are lonely or distressed, those who are afraid and facing danger, those who have pain of body or mind, and those who are at the hour of death.**
- ALL.** Answer us according to your wisdom and grace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P. May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

All – *(sung) Amen! Amen! Amen!*

CLOSING HYMN

Now May He Who from the Dead

Now may He who from the dead
Brought the Shepherd of the sheep,
Jesus Christ, our King and Head,
All our souls in safety keep!

May He teach us to fulfill
What is pleasing in His sight,
Perfect us in all His will,
And preserve us day and night!

To that dear Redeemer's praise,
Who the covenant sealed with blood,
Let our hearts and voices raise
Loud thanksgivings to our God.



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Announcements

CLC News - Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer, Hecla SD, has returned the calls to Grace Lutheran, Valentine NE, Peace Lutheran, Mission SD, and St. Paul's Lutheran, White River SD. Those congregations have now called Pastor Luke Bernthal, Spring TX. Mrs. Janelle Hein has accepted the call to teach full time at Grace Lutheran School, Fridley MN. Pastor David Naumann is considering the calls to Clarkston, WA and Orofino, ID.

Church Council Meeting – The Church Council is scheduled to meet after the fellowship time this morning. Please bring any items for discussion to the attention of a Church Council Member prior to the meeting.

Pastor Out of Town – Pastor Roehl is scheduled to leave on Friday afternoon of this week to attend graduation exercises in Eau Claire, returning late Sunday evening. Cell: (701) 425-5483

Upcoming Schedule – A reminder of upcoming events here at St. Paul. The West Central Delegate Conference is scheduled for May 25-27 in Jamestown. St. Paul will be represented by Paul Blumhardt full time, and other delegates part time. Pastor Roehl is also conducting a non-member wedding at the church on Saturday, May 29. (Please contact the Pastor for additional information.) Confirmation Sunday is May 30, with a fellowship meal to follow in honor of our confirmand this year, Michael Hansen. This year's CLC Convention is scheduled for June 21-25. St. Paul will be represented by Paul Blumhardt and Scott Schiermeister.

Spokesman Survey – If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes this morning to fill out the Lutheran Spokesman survey that can be found on the entry table.