



**REPENTANCE** &  
**FORGIVENESS**  
..... of **SINS**  
will be **PREACHED**  
in his **NAME**  
to all nations...

**L u k e 2 4 : 4 7**



# Mission Festival

## September 21, 2025

### Hymn 495—From Greenland's Icy Mountains

Pastor: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Congregation: *(sing)* Amen

### Confession and Absolution

*(Psalm 32 and 100)*

Pastor: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit

**Congregation: When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long.**

Pastor: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.

**Congregation: I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin."**

**Pastor and Congregation: Almighty God, we confess that we are sinful by nature, and we have sinned again You in our thoughts, with our words, and by our actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy upon us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**

Pastor: As a called servant of the Word I announce the grace of God unto you, and by the authority of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ I forgive all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Therefore the Psalmist declares: "Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"

**Pastor and Congregation: Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations. Amen**

### The Gloria

**Pastor & Congregation: *(sung to the tune: Easter Hymn, hymn 199)***

Sing we to our God above, ~ Alleluia!

Praise eternal as His love: ~ Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, ~ Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. ~ Alleluia!





## Scripture Readings



### Old Testament Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Ezekiel 34:11-24

'For thus says the Lord GOD: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. **12** As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day.

**13** And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country.

**14** I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

**15** I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord GOD. **16** "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment." **17** 'And as for you, O My flock, thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats.

**18** Is it too little for you to have eaten up the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the residue of your pasture—and to have drunk of the clear waters, that you must foul the residue with your feet? **19** And as for My flock, they eat what you have trampled with your feet, and they drink what you have fouled with your feet." **20** 'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD to them: "Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. **21** Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, **22** therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. **23** I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. **24** And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken. (NKJV)

CDS Children

Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend

## New Testament Reading\_\_\_\_\_1 Timothy 1:12-17

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, **13** although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. **14** And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. **15** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. **16** However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. **17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (NKJV)



### Confession of Faith



#### *The Apostolic Creed*

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 Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

### Hymn 770—I Hear the Savior Calling

## Gospel Reading\_\_\_\_\_Luke 15:1-10

**1** Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. **2** And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." **3** So he told them this parable: **4** "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6** And when he comes



home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' **7** Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. **8** "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? **9** And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' **10** Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (ESV)

Sermon Theme:

## You Are Valuable to the Lord

† You Were Lost

† The Lord Found You

### The Offertory

*(sung to the tune, Min Sjæl of Aand, Hymn 48:3)*

Today I was my Savior's guest,  
My soul was here so richly blest,  
The Bread of Life receiving.  
Oh, may thereby my faith prevail,  
So that its fruits shall never fail  
Till my account is given  
Before the throne in heaven!

## The Offering of Thankful Hearts

### The Lord's Prayer for Missions

**Congregation and Pastor: Our Father, who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.**

**Pastor:** Father, bless the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that it may be proclaimed among us and through us in all its truth and purity, that we and many more may rejoice in the joy of Your salvation.

**Congregation and Pastor: Thy Kingdom come.**

**Pastor:** Grant that the proclamation of the Gospel may bear much fruit, that large numbers of men, women and children from every nation, tribe, and people may be brought into Your Kingdom as they are led by the Spirit to confess Jesus as Lord and Savior.

**Congregation and Pastor:** Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Pastor:** Grant that we may never forget that it is Your will that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Remind us daily of the joy and privilege we have as ambassadors of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Congregation and Pastor:** Give us this day our daily bread.

**Pastor:** Encourage us in the truth that every good gift is from above, that the earth is Yours and the fullness thereof, that we may always trust You to give us our daily bread, and that we can therefore share these blessings from You with others and return to You a large measure of the gifts You have entrusted to us, that Your Kingdom may be spread through out all the earth.

**Congregation and Pastor:** And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

**Pastor:** Forgive us Lord, for all the times we have given offense. Forgive us for not witnessing Christ when opportunities have been presented to us in our own communities and throughout the world. Forgive us for so often living only for ourselves rather than for Him who died for us and rose again. Forgive our tendency to think so small when You have placed us in fields so white and ready for harvest. Help us to forgive those who sin against us, to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who mistreat and persecute us, that we might by all means lead some to Christ.

**Congregation and Pastor:** And lead us not into temptation.

**Pastor:** Guard and protect us that Satan, the world, and our own sinful flesh may not tempt us to neglect the important task that You have given to us of spreading the Good News of Salvation to all nations. Grant that we not be tempted to waste our time while the world rushes toward the eternal flames of destruction. Help us never to be tempted to use our God given talents to our own glory, but rather that we always use these talents to show forth the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**Congregation and Pastor:** But deliver us from evil.

**Pastor:** Protect us Father, from all harm and danger. Grant that we may boldly confess our faith in Jesus no matter what the circumstances, no matter what may be the result. Lead and guide us by Your Holy Spirit that we willingly and with joy deny ourselves and take up the cross of self sacrifice that others



might have eternal life. Help us to be ready to do Your work of spreading the Gospel—wherever and whenever You give us the opportunity and privilege to do so.

**Congregation and Pastor: For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Hymn 777—Amazing Grace

### The Benediction

*Congregation: (sing) Amen, Amen, Amen*

## Hymn 505—O'er the Gloomy Hills of Darkness

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*"Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations..."*

*Amen.*

*Matthew 28:19a*

Jesus says to go and make disciples. That's a daunting task. In fact, it's so daunting that anyone who takes an honest and introspective inventory of their gifts and abilities would have to admit that they are not up to the task. And isn't this exactly what Satan loves for us to do? Because when we stop looking to Jesus and focus on ourselves, one of two things will most likely happen. We will either become like the Pharisees who thought too highly of their ability to please the Lord in and of themselves. Or we will be led to utter despair as we consider our sinful flesh and our inability to please the Lord.

When it comes to making disciples, we look to Jesus, not to ourselves. We look to the life changing message of sins forgiven that Jesus accomplished on the cross as revealed in the words of Scripture. We are then reminded, by Scripture, that it is the Holy Spirit who calls, gathers, and enlightens every single disciple of Jesus. Sure, Jesus uses sinners like us to deliver Gospel in word and sacrament, but the power is in the message, not in the one who delivers it. That is precisely why the Apostle Paul could boldly proclaim:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes... **Romans 1:16**

And praise be to God for the power of His Gospel because it takes the pressure off the one who delivers that message and refreshes and encourages us for the privilege of being His ambassador!

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