



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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+ THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY +
Service of Prayer & Preaching
July 3, 2022

As We Gather: Jesus Receives Sinners

“This man receives sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:2). The Pharisees’ statement of judgment against Jesus is in fact a proclamation of Gospel truth. For our God is one who delights in mercy, who casts all our sins into the depths of the sea through the cross (Micah 7:18–20). “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15). Those who refuse to be counted as sinners also refuse Jesus who came only for sinners. Those like the older son (Luke 15:11–32), who think they are righteous of themselves, will not join in the heavenly celebration over the sinner who repents and so remain outside of the Father’s house. Let us therefore be on guard against self-righteously trusting in our own merits. “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you” (1 Peter 5:6). Rejoice that Jesus receives sinners like us and that He still sits at table with us in the Holy Supper, bestowing His forgiveness and life.

Opening Hymn ‘Today Your Mercy Calls Us’

LSB 915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
 The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
 No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
 When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
 A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
 Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
 We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Versicles: Common

LSB 260

L This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C Teach me Your paths.

L Sanctify us in Your truth.

C Your Word is truth.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Canticle

LSB 261



■ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



■ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."




The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will
be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.

19 He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities under foot.

You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.

20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and steadfast love to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our fathers
from the days of old.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Introit

Psalm 25:1–2a, 5b, 15, 20; antiphon: vv. 16, 18



Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.

To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.*

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame.

You are the God of my sal- | vation;*
for you I wait all the | day long.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*

Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.

Reading

1 Peter 5:6–11

6Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Luke 15:1–32

1Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

3So 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? 5And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6And 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.’ 7Just 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? 9And 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.’ 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

11And He said, “There was a man who had two sons. 12And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. 13Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

14And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

17“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ 20And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

25“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ 28But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 29but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ 31And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory: Common

LSB 263

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where our glory dwells.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Ten Commandments

C **You shall have no other gods.**

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' 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 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 thence 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.

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.

Sermon

'I'm Not Lost! You're Lost! Right?'

Luke 15:1-32

Hymn 'Lord, to You I Make Confession'

LSB 608



1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
 2 Yet, though con-science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
 3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to
 4 Lord, on You I cast my bur - den— Sink it in the



gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
 seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,
 res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,
 deep - est sea! Let me know Your gra - cious par - don,

Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to
 Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my
 Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
 Cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let Your Spir - it

see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.
 sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.
 lone can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
 leave me nev - er; Make me on - ly Yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]...let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

L O God, the protector of all who trust in You, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, multiply Your mercy on us that, with You as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for the Word

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

New Testament Canticle

LSB 266



C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.



Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He



lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to



sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Blessing

Benedicamus

LSB 267

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 267

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn 'Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways' LSB 707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat-utes still!
2 Or - der my foot-steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin-cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict-er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com-mands—'Tis a de-light-ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re-store Thy wan-d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a-gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guests: Welcome! We are so glad to have you with us today! If you are visiting us for the first time, please sign our guest book, or a guest card in the pew and place in the offering plate before leaving. Please join us for fellowship after the worship service.

Scripture Lessons for next Sunday: Genesis 50:15–21, Romans 8:18–23 and Luke 6:36–42.

Stewardship: Luke 15:10 – “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Why does Jesus eat with sinners? Certainly not so that they will remain stuck in their sins! Jesus meets sinners where they are so that they will come to know His love and repent. To repent means to turn – turn away from sin and toward Jesus in faith. Whether the sin we struggle with is pride, greed, doubt, etc., the Lord calls us to turn to Him again in faith and away from our sin.

Building Healthy Families for July 3rd: Many years ago, our Lutheran ancestors left behind the familiar and came to America seeking religious freedom in a new land. We celebrate that freedom today, even as we recognize the growing challenges to religious liberty. Join us in praying for our leaders this week, both those in government and in our church. Pray that God will strengthen our leaders to speak and act in ways that secure our freedom not just to have faith, but to live out that faith in the public square. Your prayers for the staff and leadership of Lutheran Family Service as they boldly proclaim God’s plan for life, marriage and family are also appreciated. ~ www.lutheranfamilyservice.org

Life Quote for July 3rd: “Neither America, nor democracy, nor capitalism, nor socialism, nor military might, nor diplomacy can even come close to beginning to solve the problems that exist in this world. Even in America, without Christ, we are without hope. And really, what a wonderful message of joy that is. It is not man that will change the world, but Christ alone, for in the end, the world cannot be changed; it is fully and completely at enmity with God.” Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan ~ www.lutheransforlife.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries for July 10th: Hear “Power to Enjoy” based on Ecclesiastes 5:19 by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Jesus is not a free pass to heaven; Jesus is the Reason why we want to be in heaven, the Source of joy in every place. ~ **Listen next Sunday on 600 WMT at 6:30 a.m., 1190 KFJB at 8:30 a.m., WHO-1040 at 7:30 a.m., & 1410 KGRN at 7:30 a.m.**

Life Thought in the Church Year: God’s love and Christ’s forgiveness come to us and carry us. Afraid and unable on our own, His words and ways bear us home every time to rejoicing (Luke 15:1-10). Let us seek with Him to rescue His little ones, no matter where they’ve wandered or how they’re wounded (1 Timothy 1:12-17), that we may celebrate together. *Holy Father, accompany me with Your grace through this collapsing world that no more may be lost. Amen.*

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Cleaning: Household(s) responsible for the week of 7/10—7/16 is **Sittig** Household(s) responsible for the week of 7/17—7/23 is **Smith/Thorpe**. If you cannot clean the week you have been assigned, it is your responsibility to trade with others on the list. If it is your week to clean church and you have other obligations or you prefer to write a check rather than cleaning, a substitute is available for \$50. Please contact Amber Carnine ASAP or at least by the Thursday before the week you are scheduled to clean.

There is a sign-up for the July 17 Church Picnic on the table in the entryway for side dishes.

Voter's Meeting will be Sunday, July 24th at 10:30AM.

SACRED MUSIC STATION... You can listen to the best of the Church's music for the past 2,000 years on Lutheran Public Radio. LPR streams 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, TuneIn, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

Immanuel will be having a float in the Grinnell 4th of July parade this year. If you would like to ride on the float please be there by 4:00pm (along Hamilton Avenue, North end) The parade will initially start from this location at 5:00pm. Look for the blue Immanuel Lutheran banner float. Note: Nothing will be thrown by walkers this year, but we are looking for people to ride on the float. This is your chance to witness as Lutherans to your community. Hope to see you there! ~Board of Evangelism

Birthdays

*Tuesday... Thatcher Wyckoff
Friday... William Koepf*

Baptismal Birthdays

none this week

Wedding Anniversaries

Friday... Tim & Sherry Baker



Our Gifts to God for the week of June 26, 2022

Attendance	41
General Fund	\$3830.00
Missions	\$25.00

WEEK AHEAD

Today	8:00am	Elders Meeting
	9:00am	Third Sunday after Trinity
	10:30am	Adult Bible Study
		Greeter: Kaloupek
		Usher: Keith Thorpe
		Servers: Esther H./Denise C.
		Acolyte/Crucifer: Finn/Elizabeth
	Elder: Darlo Kelting	
Monday		4th of July Parade *Meet at 4pm

*Pastor in Minnesota through Friday

Next Sunday	8:00am	Council Meeting
	9:00am	Fourth Sunday after Trinity
	10:30am	Adult Bible Study
		Greeter: Kelting
		Usher: Richard Huedepohl
		Servers: Julie R./Kris G.
		Acolyte/Crucifer: Cole/Sloane
	Elder: Joel McDonough	



July 18, 19, 20

9am-11am

229 11th Ave W

Grinnell, IA

641-236-6691

We would like to remind families that VBS is July 18, 19, 20.

Please let the Board of Education know if any parents or grandparents plan to have their children and/or grandchildren attending so we can properly prepare.

Even if they are only doing one or two of the three days, please sign-up and inform the Board of Education.

Registration forms are on the entryway table at church, downloadable forms are on our website, or you can email the church secretary for a form.

Join us and bring a friend!



let's

Picnic

Please join the Evangelism Board on

Sunday, July 17th

after the service

for a Celebration Picnic thanking the congregation for the Building Fund offerings and the Church Renovation.

The Evangelism board will provide sandwiches (ham, Italian beef, and hot dogs) for everyone, but there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway for the side dishes (salads, veggies, etc) and desserts.

Please come and celebrate with us!



“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

Today is a monumental day, a day on which we simultaneously rejoice, pray, give thanks, lament, repent and weep. The Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade* and returned the responsibility for protecting life to the states. “Held: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives” (SCOTUS, *Dobbs v. Jackson*, 1).

“[The Lord] has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate” (Luke 1:52).

Today is also the Church’s feast day, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. These two events are a happy convergence.

Today we celebrate the birth of the one who, before he was born, leaped in joyful Spirit-inspired confession when his mother met the mother of his unborn Lord. Today we take comfort in our Lord’s unborn forerunner and in the unborn Savior. We also rejoice at the resounding victory for life in the United States. Many of us long doubted it would ever come. The Lord has had mercy upon us, even us, sinners all, even in these times.

Today we continue to speak out against the evil of abortion, which many will continue to practice and advocate in states bent on death. Many who have been misled by the father of lies and the culture of death greet this day with weeping and gnashing of teeth. Today we continue to sing that the Lord “has visited and redeemed his people” (Luke 1:68).

Today we pray for unborn children who remain unprotected in many states. Today, in many places, the abortion industry continues to kill unborn children and welcomes those from states where such killing is illegal. Today we take comfort that by the Lord’s hand “we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us” (Luke 1:71).

Today we repent of our own lack of love for the least, the last and the lost, for mothers in need and families facing crises. Today we celebrate God's gift of the one He sent to "go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins" (Luke 1:76–77).

Today we recommit to love all, unborn and born. Today we receive the sunrise from on high, "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death" (Luke 1:79).

Today we proclaim: Repent and believe the Good News that Jesus Christ, conceived by the Spirit, formed in the womb and born of the virgin Mary, died and rose for sinners. That includes all of us. Today we give thanks for John who preached repentance and pointed to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Today we lovingly invite all to listen to Jesus' call, "repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). If you have caused an abortion, the taking of life, there is forgiveness in Jesus! Don't be hardened in sin or advocate for more sins. Today you have hope in the One whose way John the Baptist prepared. Jesus is for sinners. Come join the rest of us forgiven sinners! Jesus is for you! You need not have a bad conscience! Repent and believe the Good News of God's love for you in Jesus.

Today we lament that the U.S. Supreme Court continues to deny the unborn the legally recognized right to life. Even though Roe v. Wade has fallen, states can still allow the killing of unborn children. Today we pray that more unborn will leap for joy in the womb, as St. John did.

Today, even as we rejoice, we weep that U.S. policy continues to promote abortion globally. Today we bend our knees in prayer.

O Lord, "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). The Lord preceded His Son, our Savior, with a forerunner. We pray that today's decision points ahead to the day when every state advances the cause of life and expands protections for unborn children.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod