

July 24th & July 27th, 2025
7th Sunday after Pentecost



Undivided Attention On The Mission to our World

We tend to think of mission work as only being something “over there,” something done in a far-away place. Today we look at the work being done in foreign mission field and support it with our prayers and offerings. However, something is off if we allow our appreciation for “over there” mission work to take our eyes off the mission that is right before us. In our various callings—parent or grandparent or sibling, friend or neighbor or coworker—God will provide one opportunity after another to serve as the witnesses Jesus has made us to be. So, let us continue to pray for and support “over there” mission work. Let us rejoice in gospel of peace and forgiveness in Christ that gives us mission here and around the world. We work in the mission field and pray for God to bless others working in the harvest.



Opening Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus CW²¹ 721



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–1886, alt.

Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS

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

Congregation: Amen

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

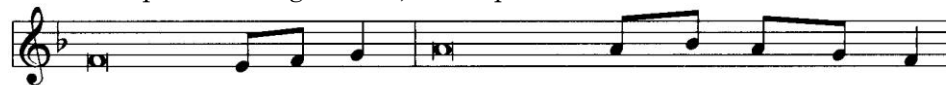
C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



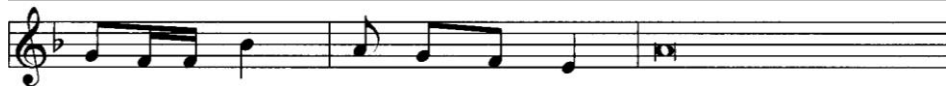
God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



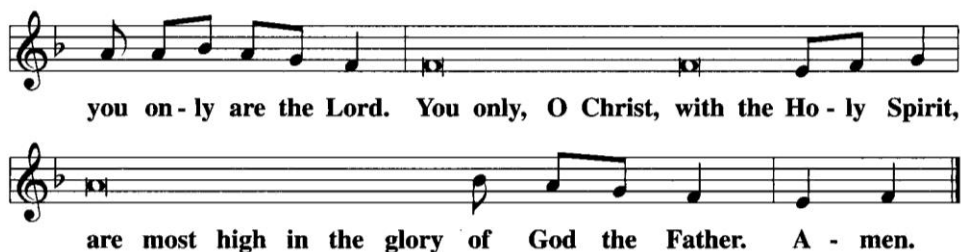
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



Prayer of the Day

M: O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Acts 14:26,27

²⁶ From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. ²⁷ On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Your Praises, God, I'm Bringing Psalm 138A



1 Your prais - es, God, I'm bring - ing; my heart with joy is
2 When deep - est need had felled me, your stead - fast love up -
3 Though you, O God, are ho - ly, yet you re - gard the
4 All peo - ples shall ac - claim you, and wor - ship - ing shall



sing - ing its thanks for gifts out - poured.
held me; my ur - gent prayer you heard.
low - ly and raise them from the dust.
name you the God of time and space.



Now, in your pres - ence kneel - ing, a - gain for grace ap -
When trou - ble sore as - sailed me, your mer - cy nev - er
Your prom - ise holds for - ev - er: "I will for - sake you
And I will join my prais - es with hymns the whole world



peal - ing, in qui - et - ness I wait your word.
failed me. You strength - ened me and I en - dured.
nev - er!" My God, my rock, in you I trust.
rais - es to you, the God of bound - less grace!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle

Tune: Heinrich Isaac

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Tune: Public domain

Second Lesson

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They called out with a loud voice and said:

Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying:

Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

¹³ One of the elders spoke to me and said, “These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?”
And I answered him, “Sir, you know.”

¹⁴ And he said to me:

These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation.
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of
the Lamb.

¹⁵ Because of this they are in front of the throne of God,
and they serve him day and night in his temple.
He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

¹⁶ They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again.
The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat,
¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.
He will lead them to springs of living water.
And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (EHV)

Stand

Gospel Lesson

John 3:14-18

¹⁴ “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. (EHV)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray *CW*²¹ 873



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; from your sleep a -
 2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares lest a - sleep he
 3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world with its lies de -
 4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, lest with grace you
 5 But while watch - ing al - so pray to the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day un - a -
 find you; for in - deed no pains he spares to de -
 feat you lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled it be -
 tri - fle; let not self your thoughts con - trol nor God's
 ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, strength and



wares o'er - tak - en; for the foe, well we know, is a
 ceive and blind you. Sa - tan's prey oft are they who se -
 tray and cheat you. Watch and see lest there be faith - less
 mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin lurk with - in, all your
 faith in - creas - ing, so that still mind and will shall u -



har - vest reap - ing while the saints are sleep - ing.
 cure are sleep - ing and no watch are keep - ing.
 friends to charm you who but seek to harm you.
 hopes to shat - ter; heed not when they flat - ter.
 nite to serve him and for - ev - er love him.

Text: Johann B. Freystein, 1671–1718, abr.; (sts. 1, 3–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book, 1907, alt.
 Tune: Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien, Dresden, 1694; adapt. William H. Monk, 1823–1889
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

What Kind of Report Could You Give? (Thursday) Acts 14:26,27
Begin with the End in Mind. (Sunday) Revelation 7:9-17

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Our Father in heaven, you look kindly on the lowly as a father has compassion on his children.

When we call, you answer us. **With your right hand you save us.**

At your invitation we come to you with petitions, prayers and thanksgivings. Strengthen our faith in your power and might, that we confidently bring all our cares to you.

When we call, you answer us. **With your right hand you save us.**

You want all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Since your Son gave himself as a ransom for all, let the testimony of his life, death and resurrection come to all, that they may learn in faith and truth.

When we call, you answer us. **With your right hand you save us.**

We bring our petitions for the President of the United States, the governor of this state and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

When we call, you answer us. **With your right hand you save us.**

We give you thanks and praise for all your blessings. We also thank you for artists, musicians and writers who sing and tell your goodness and lead us in worship and song.

When we call, you answer us. **With your right hand you save us.**

Your Son has promised that you will give good things to those who ask. We pray that you would give strength to the weak and healing to the sick, [*especially...*]. Deliver your people from every evil, and work all things for our good, even as you have promised.

When we call, you answer us. **With your right hand you save us.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, in mercy, hear the prayers of your humble servants. Teach us to ask for what pleases you that we may receive what we ask; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Text: Reprinted from Praying with the Readings: ... Year C, copyright © 2021, 2023 Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission.

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.

THE SACRAMENT

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - men.

Be Seated

COMMUNION

Please remember to register for communion

Morrison and Shirley Location: Marking "C" on the communication card in your pew. Please place communication card in basket behind the last pew as your leave today.

Distribution helps:

Morrison Location: 2 individual cups of white grape juice are available in each tray for those who prefer/need to have a nonalcohol alternative to wine. Gluten free wafers are also available. Hold your hand palm down to let the server know you would like the gluten free wafer.

Shirley Location: one individual cup of purple grape juice is available in each tray for those who prefer/need to have a nonalcohol alternative to wine. There are gluten free combination cups also available on the distribution table. Take one from the table if you would like the gluten-free combination cups that has both a gluten-free wafer on one side and wine on the other. **DRIVE IN WORSHIPPERS:** If you'd like communion today, please turn on your hazard lights ◀▶ during the distribution hymn. Leave them on until after Pastor visits your car. He will bring a combination cup which contains a wafer on one side and wine on the other.

You can use the questions on page 295 (blue hymnal) and page 156 (red hymnal) and on page 15 of this service folder or the review of Lord's Supper on page 293 (blue hymnal) to prepare for communion.

Notes on the history of our Distribution Hymn "I Hear the Savior Calling"

I Hear the Savior Calling was written by Dr John C Lawrenz (1943-2024) who served as president of Michigan Lutheran Seminary, as president Dr. Martin Luther College, as Vice President of Student Life at Martin Luther College, taught at Wiscotin Lutheran Seminary and helped start Asia Lutheran Seminary where he served as president. He was a gifted preacher and expert in the Old Testament and heart for sharing the gospel.

Dr. Lawrenz wrote this hymn for a 1970 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Mission Festival just days after his first daughter, Ruth, passed away. Her brief life and Dr Lawrenz's mission mindedness inspired this hymn. The original stanzas ended with the phrase "Each call's a call for me" to punctuate the message of the Mission Festival. The stanzas match the Seminar's 5 day focus with each stanza emphasizing the theme of the day. Stanzas one and seven are the introductory and concluding stanzas respectively. Stanzas two through six carry out the theme of the five Mission Seminar days:

1. A call of challenge
2. A call to prospects
3. A call for members
4. A call with others.
5. A call among many

Excerpt from the 1970 Mission Seminar Publication

*Mission work is often thought of in exotic terms - foreign lands, far-away places, men with different skins and different customs. Even here in the U.S.A. the average Lutheran in the W.E.L.S. thinks of mission work as the job of the Synod, somehow remote from his church and his life. Mission Seminar '70 took issue with such thinking. It selected as its topic grass-roots mission work, better known to all of us as evangelism. All mission work is personal; one man sharing the Gospel with another. This is the best service we Christians can render to the world in an age that cries out for the Church to be active and to speak to the needs of people. And this work is not just the Synod's job. Each pastor has his call to do mission work, no matter what the circumstances of his call. In the same way this work is not just the work of the pastor. **Each Christian has the joyous duty to share Christ no matter what his vocation, his talents, his means, or his age.** EVERY CALL IS A MISSION CALL! This became the chosen theme of Mission Seminar ' 70.*

- Seminarian John C Lawrenz, 1970

Distribution

I Hear the Savior Calling CW²¹ 743



- 1 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! The gos - pel comes to me;
- 2 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He leads a soul to me,
- 3 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He gives this charge to me:
- 4 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He chang - es hearts for me;
- 5 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! His call has ur - gen - cy;



my eyes, once closed in blind - ness, are o - pened now to see
 a soul in bit - ter an - guish, one need - ing to be free.
 to serve the best I'm a - ble, what - e'er the call may be.
 from door to door I wit - ness to share my Sav - ior's plea.
 each mo - ment souls are dy - ing, soon comes e - ter - ni - ty.



that I my - self was help - less to live e - ter - nal - ly,
 The gift I have to of - fer is Christ, my Lord's de - cree
 Thus hand in hand with oth - ers who share the gos - pel key
 Yet noth - ing can be add - ed, no word on bend - ed knee,
 And so, my pre - cious Sav - ior, this is my hum - ble plea:



but, dy - ing, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!
 that all have been for - giv - en; my Sav - ior calls for me!
 we spread the gos - pel ti - dings; my Sav - ior calls for me!
 be - yond the sim - ple gos - pel; my Sav - ior calls for me!
 pre - pare me for my mis - sion, for you are call - ing me!

Text: John C. Lawrenz, b. 1943 Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–1874

Text: © 1993 John C. Lawrenz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Tune: Public domain

Stand

M: Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

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.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

Jesus Paid It All CW²¹ 562

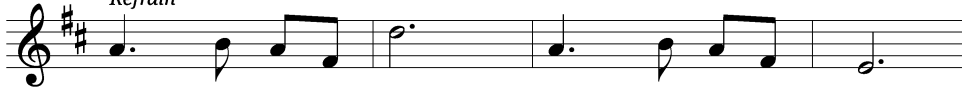


- 1 I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small!
- 2 Lord, now in - deed I find thy pow'r, and thine a - lone
- 3 For noth - ing good have I where - by thy grace to claim;
- 4 And when, be - fore the throne, I stand in him com - plete,



Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."
can _ change the lep - er's spots and _ melt the heart of stone.
I'll _ wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
"Je - sus died my soul to save," my _ lips shall still re - peat.

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;



sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.

Text: Elvina M. Hall, 1820–1889

Tune: John T. Grape, 1835–1915

Text and tune: Public domain

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Some History about Asia Lutheran Seminary

Twenty years ago, [Asia Lutheran Seminary \(ALS\)](#) officially opened its doors in Hong Kong to train Chinese-speaking pastors and evangelists. Today, thanks to God's grace and your generous support, ALS is equipping church leaders from across Asia-Oceania and around the world.



From its beginnings as a seminary for Hong Kong and East Asia, ALS has grown into a truly regional seminary with hubs in both Hong Kong and Chiang Mai, Thailand. ALS now supports theological education efforts in more than 18 countries and reaches students across four continents.

Here are just a few ways your support is impacting gospel work through ALS:

- **Training more national leaders:** Many ALS graduates now serve as instructors, professors, and church leaders. Two full-time faculty members—Dr. Angus Cheung and Prof. William Zhu—are national pastors who model ALS' belief that local Asian leaders will serve as the best teachers.
- **Expanding programs for more students:** ALS' program structure allows students to earn certificates, diplomas, and degrees that fit their gospel ministry goals and life stage. Programs like the [TELL](#) certificate integrate flexible online learning and are offered in both English and Mandarin.
- **Reaching the Chinese-speaking diaspora:** Over the past several years, many Christians have emigrated from Hong Kong. ALS has followed them with gospel training, now serving students in places like New Zealand, Australia, and the U.K.
- **Launching new regional efforts:** ALS' Regional Theological Education Program (RTEP) supports theological education programs across Asia-Oceania, helping build sustainable, confessional Lutheran training with partner churches.
- **Building a new generation of leaders:** ALS' online presence, global faculty, and strategic partnerships mean that more people—lay leaders, pastors, and teachers—can grow in the Word and share Christ in their communities.

From the first worship service in 2005 to the [20th anniversary celebration on June 1](#), ALS has remained committed to one mission: preparing Christians to serve as leaders of confessional Lutheran groups across Asia-Oceania. The celebration in Hong Kong not only marked two decades of blessings but was also a launchpad for what comes next..

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. The story of ALS is God's story—and you're part of it. [Now is still the time.](#)

P.S. Want to explore more about the anniversary?
Scan the QR Code to watch a special video about the 20th anniversary.
Go to their website en.asiaseminary.com to learn more.

