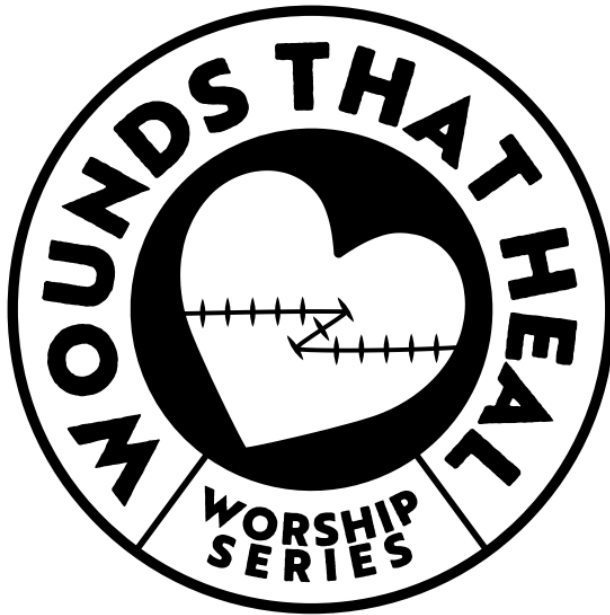


August 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> , 2025  
10th Sunday after Pentecost



## God's Word Divides

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We often divide humanity into groupings that are not really significant: this ethnic group versus that one, men versus women, wealthy versus poor. Yet, every ethnic group is under God's law. That law equally convicts men and women of sin. Because of sin, both the wealthy and poor will die. Only through faith in Christ is sin forgiven and the sting of death removed. God's Word creates that saving faith, but not in everyone who hears it. Fallen mankind retains the awful power to reject the Word and God's gift of faith. Therefore, God's Word produces the only people distinction that matters—believers and unbelievers. We desire to live in peace with other people. But Jesus teaches, this side of heaven, that desire is a pipe dream. Those who embrace the gospel in faith will inevitably face hostility. Following Jesus will come at a price. Yet he promises that our perseverance will be rewarded.

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# Opening Hymn

# Thy Strong Word *CW<sup>21</sup> 630 1, 4-6*



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth  
 5 Give us lips to sing thy glo - ry, tongues thy  
 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - at - or, to thee



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er  
 mer - cy to pro - claim, throats to shout the hope that  
 laud and hon - or be. To thee, Light from Light be -



thank thee while thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.  
 fills us, mouths to speak thy ho - ly name.  
 got - ten, praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, glo - ry,



thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 light which thou dost send fill our songs with  
 glo - ry be to thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ias, al - le - lu - ias with - out end!  
 now and ev - er praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

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## INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS

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Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

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## PRAYER AND PRAISE

---

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

*Oh, Taste and See*

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



### Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what 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*

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## THE WORD

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### First Lesson

**Jeremiah 23:23–29**

The Word of the Lord divides what is true from what is false.

Am I a God who is only nearby, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? <sup>24</sup> Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets who prophesy lies in my name have said. They say, “I have had a dream! I have had a dream!” <sup>26</sup> How long will this be in the hearts of these lying prophets? These prophets proclaim the fantasies of their own hearts. <sup>27</sup> They think they can make my people forget my name with the dreams each one tells his neighbor, the way their fathers forgot my name because of Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream. But let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has chaff to do with grain? declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like a fire? declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? (EHV)

# Psalm of the Day

Psalm 4c CW<sup>21</sup>



1 O God, be gra - cious; hear my prayer, and  
 2 How long, O God, will li - ars boast while  
 3 When ter - ror wakes me from my dreams and  
 4 Some fear that you will not pro - vide; they  
 5 Now lay me down to sleep in peace; in



an - swer when I cry. You give me hope in  
 I am smeared with shame? Come, set your faith - ful  
 shakes me through and through, teach me to pray with  
 cry, "Show us your face!" But you have sat - is -  
 safe - ty let me rest. O God, with - in your



my dis - tress; you will not pass me by.  
 ser - vant free; I call up - on your name!  
 con - fi - dence and put my trust in you.  
 fied my heart with good - ness, joy, and grace.  
 lov - ing care I am for - ev - er blessed.

Text: David Gambrell

Tune: Thomas Tallis, alt.

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Tune: Public domain

my soul  
 LONGS FOR YOUR  
 SALVATION  
 I HOPE IN YOUR  
 WORD  
 ✠

## Second Lesson

## Hebrews 12:1–13

The Hebrews who converted to Christianity were often divided from their friends and separated from their livelihood. How would they persevere? By fixing their eyes on Jesus.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne. <sup>3</sup> Carefully consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinful people, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart. <sup>4</sup> You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood in your fight against sin. <sup>5</sup> Have you also forgotten the encouragement that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard the Lord's discipline lightly, and do not become weary of his correction. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one whom he loves, and he corrects every son he accepts. <sup>7</sup> Endure suffering as discipline. God is dealing with you as sons. Is there a son whose father does not discipline him? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined (and all of us have received it), then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> In addition, we have earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not submit even more to the Father of the spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while, according to what seemed best to them, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may have a share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant when it is happening, but painful, yet later it yields a peaceful harvest of righteousness for those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup> Therefore strengthen your weak hands and feeble knees, <sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed. (EHV)

## Children's Devotion

*Children are invited to come forward for a short devotion.*

# Hymn of the Day

# O Holy Spirit, Enter In *CW*<sup>21</sup> 896



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in and in our hearts  
 2 Give to your Word im - pres - sive pow'r that in our hearts  
 3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your dear Word,



your work be - gin, your dwell - ing place now make us.  
 from this good hour as fire it may be glow - ing,  
 in doubt and strife, in us be strong - ly burn - ing



Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, a - round and in  
 that in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty we faith - ful wit -  
 that we be faith - ful un - to death and live in love



us bright - ly shine, to joy and glad - ness wake us  
 ness - es may be, your glo - ry ev - er show - ing.  
 and ho - ly faith, from you true wis - dom learn - ing.



that we may be tru - ly liv - ing, to you giv - ing  
 Hear us, cheer us by your teach - ing; let our preach - ing  
 Your grace and peace on us show - er; by your pow - er



prayer un - ceas - ing and in love be still in - creas - ing.  
 and our la - bor praise you, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.  
 Christ con - fess - ing, let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673, abr., adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon**

**Luke 12:49–53**

Jesus was fully aware that his work would cause division that would often cut close to home

“I came to throw fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already ignited. <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. <sup>52</sup> Yes, from now on there will be five divided in one household: three against two, and two against three. <sup>53</sup> They will be divided: father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” (EHV)

## **PEACE WITH HEAVEN BRINGS FIRE ON EARTH**

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**





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### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

---

Lord, you are always present. You know everything that is happening in your world and we know that you will act in your time.

Give us relief from our distress; **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

When we feel alone, we are never alone. You fill heaven and earth. You see and know all our needs.

Give us relief from our distress; **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

Let your light scatter the darkness of falsehood. Enlighten those who do not know you.

Let those who have your Word speak it clearly. Make your presence known to all the world.

Give us relief from our distress; **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

When we endure hardships, open our hearts and minds to learn from your discipline. When we suffer, draw us to you, the Father of our spirits. Strengthen our weak hands and feeble knees, and make straight paths for our feet.

Give us relief from our distress; **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

Give health and prosperity to all who are in authority, especially to the President and congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and to all our local authorities, that they may maintain peace and order for the good of your church and the spread of your gospel.

Give us relief from our distress; **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

You discipline us for our good that we may have a share of your holiness. Draw your people to yourself, especially those who suffer with heavy burdens [*especially...*]. Guide them in your truth and teach them, that they may have patient endurance to run the race set before them.

Give us relief from our distress; **have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you the prayers from the depths of our hearts.

*Silent prayer.*

O God, you count the number of the stars, and call them all by their names. Heal the contrite in heart, gather together the outcasts, and enrich us with the fullness of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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## **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.**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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.

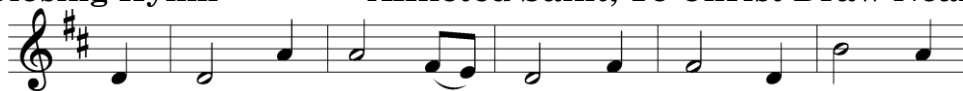
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## Closing Hymn

## Afflicted Saint, To Christ Draw Near CW<sup>21</sup> 867



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's  
 2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the  
 3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in  
 4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -  
 con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er  
 your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall  
 flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2  
 flee, that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain  
 see that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain  
 ty, still as your days your strength shall be. Refrain



So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the



vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;



yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; (Ref): Constance Dever, b. 1960

Tune: Constance Dever, b. 1960

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Thy Strong Word

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976 Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944

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## WELS CONNECTION and ANNOUCEMENTS



More than 400 delegates, guests, and members of synod leadership met at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, July 21-24.

### **New Synod Officers**

- Rev. Joel Voss was elected as the new synod first vice president.
- Rev. John Bortulin was elected as the new synod second vice president.
- Rev. Tyler Peil was elected as the synod's new recording secretary.

WELS President Rev. Mark Schroeder announced he is serving his final term, ending his service as synod president at the 2027 synod convention.

**175 years as a Synod** Rev. Joel Otto, professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., recapped 175 years of WELS history in his presentation to delegates.

Martin Luther College Professor Rev. Paul Koelpin provided a presentation on the history of Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn. Learn more at [welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th](http://welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th).

**Long-range Strategic Plan Adopted** Rev. Jonathan Hein, a member of the synod's Long-Range Planning Task Force, presented a proposed ten-year long-range strategic plan as WELS enters its eighth generation of God's grace.

The plan includes four intertwined priorities:

- Culture: Cultivating a gospel-driven culture
- Congregations: Strengthening WELS' backbone
- Calling: Producing workers for a growing harvest
- Commission: Bringing Christ to the nations

For complete news coverage, archived livestream, photos, and reports and resolutions, visit [welsconvention.net](http://welsconvention.net)