

## AS WE GATHER

Physical fitness is “in.” The message of health spas is that if you just work hard enough and get your body into good enough shape, then somehow, you’ll be “fit for life.” Advertising has picked up on this theme and embellished it to amazing proportions. Today, you will be led to understand we have a different kind of life altogether, a life that is made “fit” not by the world’s standards, but by a gift of God. The promise of Jesus tells us how we can be not only physically, but also emotionally and spiritually “Fit for Life.” Jesus said, “*I have come that they may have life. And have it to the FULL!*” Jesus promised to give you MORE LIFE! He fulfilled that promise by giving His life as the sacrifice to take away your sins, and by rising to life again. Jesus is the Lord of Life. Open your ears and your heart to His Word and let Him be the Lord of YOUR life.

## Gathering Songs

### Trumpet Tune by John Stanley

#### The Summons

All - <sup>1</sup> Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Aidan- <sup>2</sup> Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?

Girls- <sup>3</sup> Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Boys- <sup>4</sup> Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

All- <sup>5</sup> Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

CCLI Song # 4668756 “The Summons,” words and music by David Peacock, Graham Maule & John L. Bell. © 1987 Hope Publishing Company. Used By Permission. CCLI License #1530621

## Welcome & Invocation

### Commencement of Bethlehem’s 115<sup>th</sup> Educational Year

Pastor: Here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, we historically have cared about offering a complete Christian education. In providing for a full Christian education, as we’ve heard from some of our youth, music is one of those factors. Martin Luther once said: “Music I have always loved. He who knows music has a good nature. Necessity demands that music be kept in the schools” He also said: “Music is a very fine art. The notes can make the words come alive. It puts to flight

every spirit of sadness." From its early years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has made certain that we are not only a praying church, but a singing church. No matter what happens in our world or in our life, singing is God's way of keeping the faith. Today we embark on a new era for Bethlehem as we begin our 115<sup>th</sup> year of singing God's praise in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Today we join all God's people young and old in singing His praise!

## Opening Song

## Praise the Lord, The Almighty LSB 790 1,3,4



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your  
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly  
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His  
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has  
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.  
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.

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## Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: Despite all of God's actions on our behalf, we still struggle with sin in our lives. Our tongues still curse. Our feet still stumble. Our ears still listen to lies and vicious gossip. But our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him for restoration, renewal, and forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we have sinned against You and our neighbors in what we have said and what we have left unsaid. We have neglected opportunities to love our neighbors. We have stumbled and fallen again and again. We ask that You restore us, renew us, and forgive us on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, in His boundless love sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for our forgiveness and eternal life. Because of Jesus, we are restored, body and soul. Therefore, as a called and ordained 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.

**People: Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We are renewed and restored. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You have entrusted to Your people the task of teaching all nations. Enlighten with the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn that the joyous truth

of the Gospel may be known in every generation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **Installation of Sunday School Superintendent & Teachers**

**Reader**

*Tom Gitzlaff*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Deuteronomy 6:4–15*

*(Teaching the Lord's words to children)*

<sup>4</sup>Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

<sup>10</sup>And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, <sup>11</sup>and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, <sup>12</sup>then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>13</sup>It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. <sup>14</sup>You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you, <sup>15</sup>for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God, lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.”

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Reading**

*Acts 2:37–41*

*(The promise is for you and for your children.)*

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup>And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel Reading**

*Luke 18:15–17*

*(Jesus calls the children to come to Him.)*

<sup>15</sup>Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Presentation of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Bibles & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechisms

### Song of the Day

### We Praise You and Acknowledge You O God LSB 941



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,  
2 The band of the a-pos-tles in glo-ry sing Your praise;  
3 You, Christ, are King of glo-ry, the ev-er-last-ing Son,  
4 You sit in splen-did glo-ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing, by all the earth a-dored.  
The fel-low-ship of proph-ets their death-less voic-es raise.  
Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res-cue ev-'ry-one:  
Up-hold-ing earth and heav-en by forc-es You com-mand.



To You all an-gel pow-ers cry a-loud, the heav-ens sing,  
The mar-tyrs of Your king-dom, a great and no-ble throng,  
You laid a-side Your glo-ry, were born of vir-gin's womb,  
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi-nal day,



The cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim their prais-es to You bring:  
Sing with the ho-ly Church through-out all the world this song:  
Were cru-ci-fied for us and were placed in-to a tomb;  
So help Your ser-vants You have re-deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth;  
"O all-ma-jes-tic Fa-ther, Your true and on-ly Son,  
Then by Your res-ur-rec-tion You won for us re-prieve—  
May we with saints be num-bered where prais-es nev-er end,



Your maj-es-ty and glo-ry fill the heav-ens and the earth!"  
And Ho-ly Spir-it, Com-fort-er— for-ev-er Three in One!"  
You o-pen-ed heav-en's king-dom to all who would be-lieve.  
In glo-ry ev-er-last-ing. A-men, O Lord, a-men!

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### Sermon

### ***FIT FOR LIFE: "How Fit Are We?" (Confession)***

*Pastor Aaron Boerst*

### Mission Sequence

Pastor: Our mission together is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed:  
Guided by the Light of Christ,

**People: we will Serve, Shine, and Share His Love!**

Pastor: We exist to encourage and equip people be sent out into the world as everyday missionaries in our community, communicating the personal faith our Lord has blessed us with! Remembering our call to stand together with the missionaries of each century, we confess our Christian Creed:

### **Creed – 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.**

### **Prayer of Remembrance**

Pastor: Gracious God, You are the source of every lasting security. We remember those innocent victims of terrorism whose earthly lives ended on September 11th, 2001. Grant that their memories among us remain and their lives not be forgotten. We also remember the rescue workers who gave their lives that day seeking to assist the victims of the tragedy. Grant that their examples of bravery and sacrificial concern for others serve to inspire each of us as we live out our lives in these times. Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### **Prayers of the Church**

Pastor: With humble hearts, Lord, we bring You our prayers. We pray for the world in which we live, that world to which our Lord was willing to come to carry out the plan of salvation. Grant that peace and justice, understanding and harmony, and goodwill prevail all over the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for all those who are involved in Christian education: teachers, administrators, church workers, and volunteers. Give us a full appreciation of the gift that each person is who shares the faith today and who has shared it in the past. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: With gratefulness, we remember Your saints of all time, including those who have instructed and guided us and all those we hold dear in our hearts. Grant that we be inspired by their faithful witness and seek to serve You constantly all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

***Local concerns are added by congregational elder.***

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### **Sharing Peace**

Pastor: The joy of growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ is for learners of every age in every place. It is a shared endeavor. Together let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

## Offering Trumpet Solo – Thou Art the King of Glory

### Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [Psalm 145:15, James 1:17]

People: **Amen.**

### Holy Communion

#### Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [2 Timothy 4:22]

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**The Words of Our Lord** [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

#### Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. [1 Cor. 11:26]

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [Revelation 22:20]

**Lord's Prayer** [Matthew 6:9–13]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

#### Distribution

#### Sanctuary (Pre-Recorded Instrumental)

#### Eat This Bread LSB 638





2 As of-ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un-til He comes a-gain.



3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.



4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.



5 If we be-lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

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### Trumpet Solo

### Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

### Announcements

### Sending Song Lift High the Cross LSB 837 1, 3, 4



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris-tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,  
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied  
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.  
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

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