Divine Service

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church
Kearney, Nebraska

Welcome to Zion!

All worshippers please fill out an attendance card in the pew rack and let us know how we might be of service to you.

Holy Communion at Zion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation as Jesus has given it. As he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. *All communicants* need to register in the narthex prior to the service.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked not to commune until they are able to speak with our pastor first. He is happy to visit with you about the Christian faith and how to receive the Lord's Supper for your good and for the good of others. Those not communing are invited to come to the altar, cross your arms in front of you, and bow your head to receive a pastoral blessing.

The Lord Jesus Is with His Church in the Apostolic Ministry of the Gospel

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus is with His Church through the word of His apostles, who *"are witnesses of all that he did."* He was anointed by God *"with the Holy Spirit and with power,"* and *"he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,"* and so He was with those whom He sent *"to preach to the people"* (Acts 10:38–42). The Holy Spirit is bestowed on those who hear that apostolic preaching, who are *"baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,"* so that *"everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name"* (Acts 10:43–44, 48). For as He came by the water of His Baptism, even to the blood of His Passion, so the Spirit testifies to the truth with *"the water and the blood"* in the apostolic ministry of the Gospel (1 John 5:6–7). By these means, Christ Jesus speaks to us, that His joy may be in us and that our *"joy may be full."* For this purpose, He appointed the apostles to *"go and bear fruit"* in order to make known His divine friendship to us (John 15:11, 15–16).

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Confession and Absolution

548 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Exhortation

LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 151

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

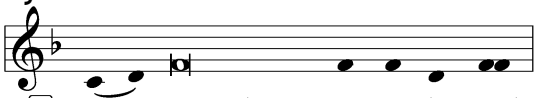
Introit

Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16

Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*
  and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.
Shout for joy to God, | all the earth;*
  sing the glory of his name; give to him | glorious praise!
Bless our God, O | peoples;*
  let the sound of his | praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the | living*
  and has not let our | feet slip.
Blessèd | be God,*
  because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast | love from me!
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.
Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*
  and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.

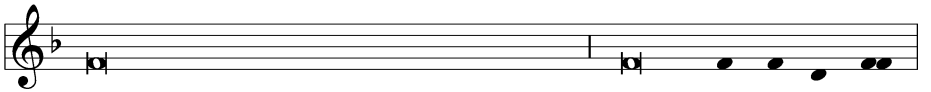
Kyrie

LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



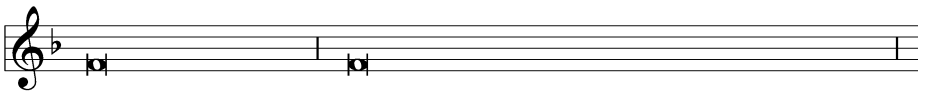
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mer - cy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

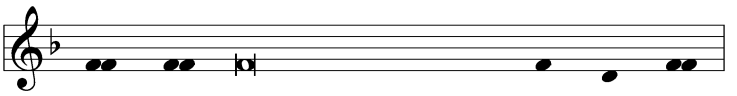
C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



This Is the Feast

LSB 155

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.
O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Acts 10:34–48

Gentiles Hear the Good News

34 Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows
no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is
right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel,
preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),
37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning
from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed
Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about
doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was
with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of
the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a
tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41 not
to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who
ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded
us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by
God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear
witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins
through his name."

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all
who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who
had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was
poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in
tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 "Can anyone withhold
water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as
we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus
Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.*
[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle

1 John 5:1–8

Overcoming the World

[1]Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God,
and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.
[2]By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and
obey his commandments. [3]For this is the love of God, that we keep his
commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. [4]For
everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the
victory that has overcome the world—our faith. [5]Who is it that overcomes
the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Testimony Concerning the Son of God

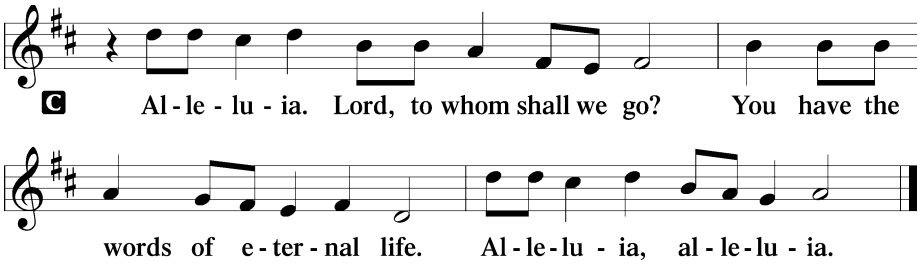
[6]This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the
water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who
testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. [7]For there are three that testify: [8]the
Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



Holy Gospel *John 15:9–17*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

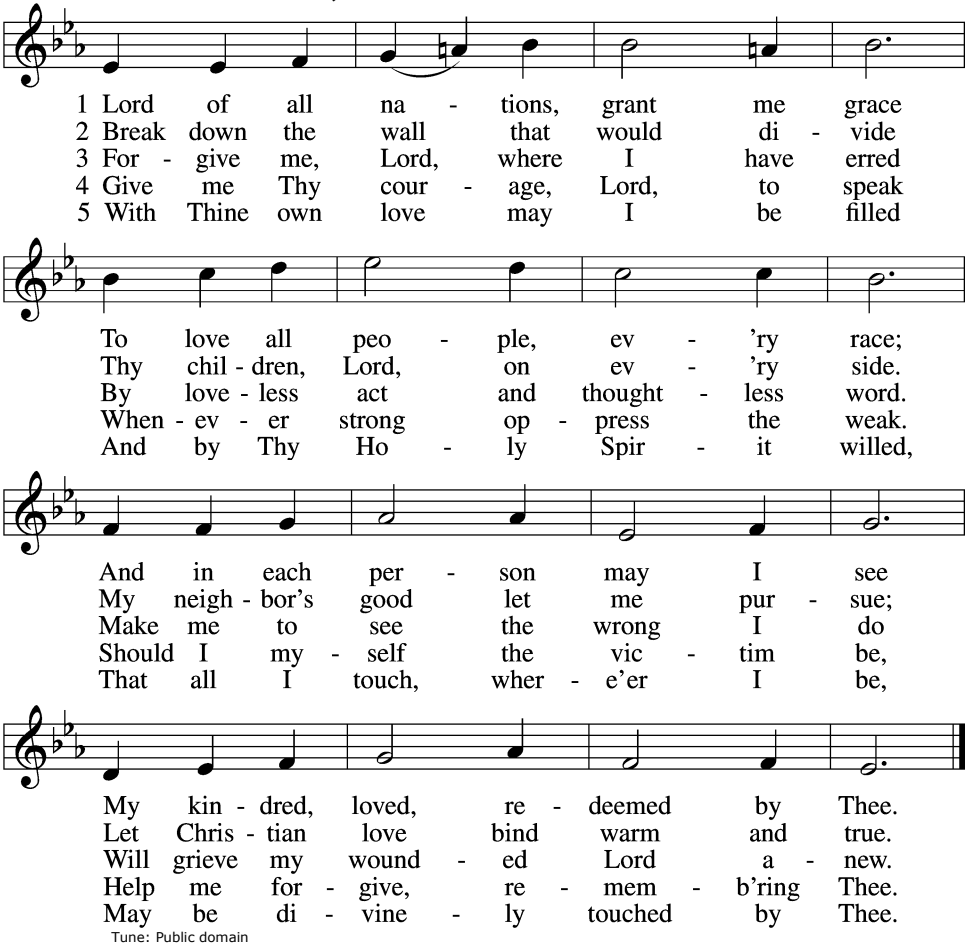
[9][Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide
in my love. [10]If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
[11]These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that
your joy may be full.
[12]"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved
you. [13]Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life
for his friends. [14]You are my friends if you do what I command you. [15]No
longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his
master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from
my Father I have made known to you. [16]You did not choose me, but I
chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that
your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name,
he may give it to you. [17]These things I command you, so that you will love
one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

844 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



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Sermon – "St. Peter's Impartial God"

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C **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 the Church

Sit

Offering

Offering Options:

There are several options:

1) Place your offering in the basket as you leave
2) Go to zionkearney.churchtrac.com/give
3) Go to zionkearney.com and click on the ChurchTrac icon
4) Mail your gift to Zion Lutheran Church, 2421 C Ave, Kearney, NE 68847 or place it in the mail slot on the south side of the building.

Offertory

LSB 159

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

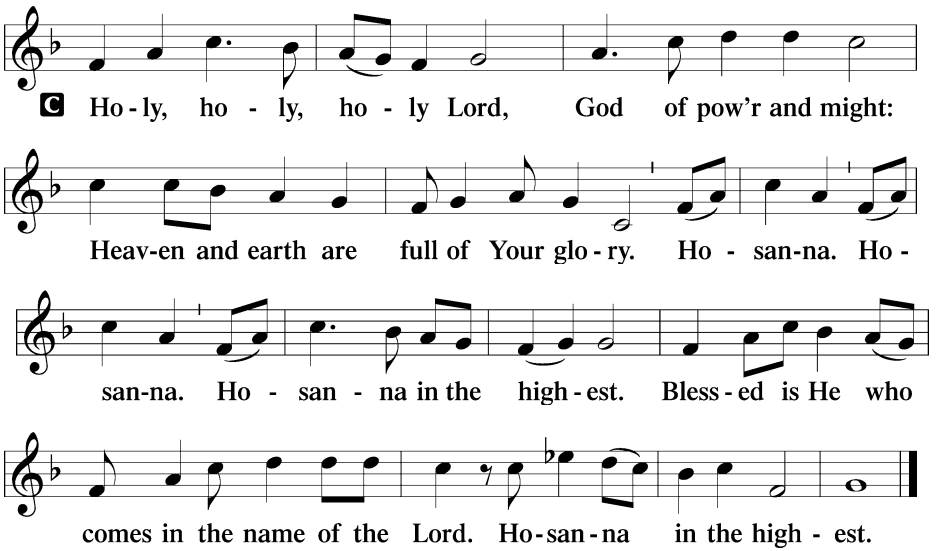
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

℗ It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



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 Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

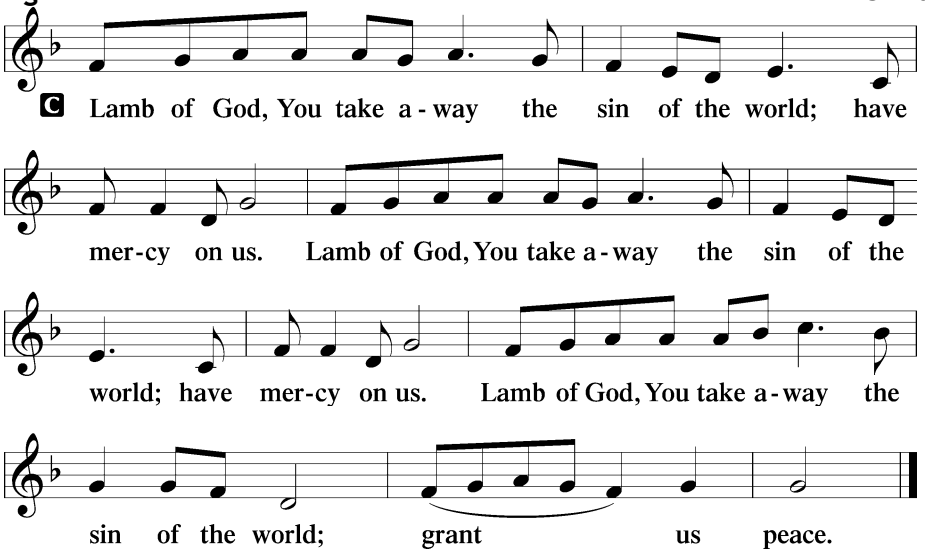
LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

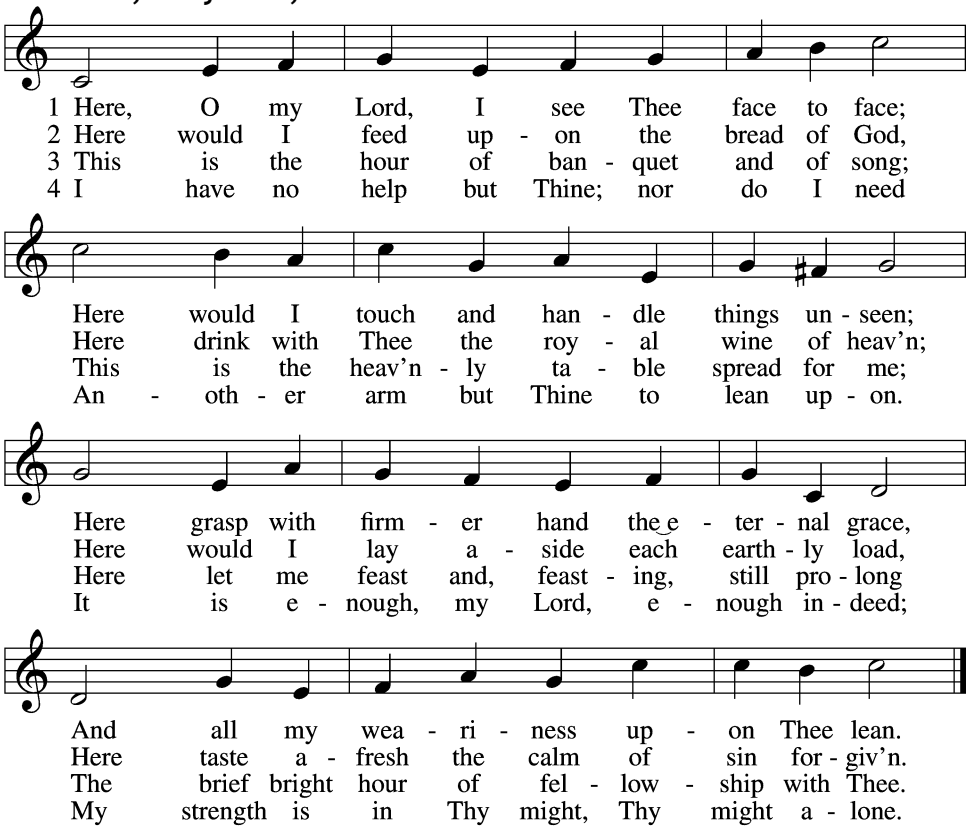
LSB 163



Sit

Distribution

631 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face



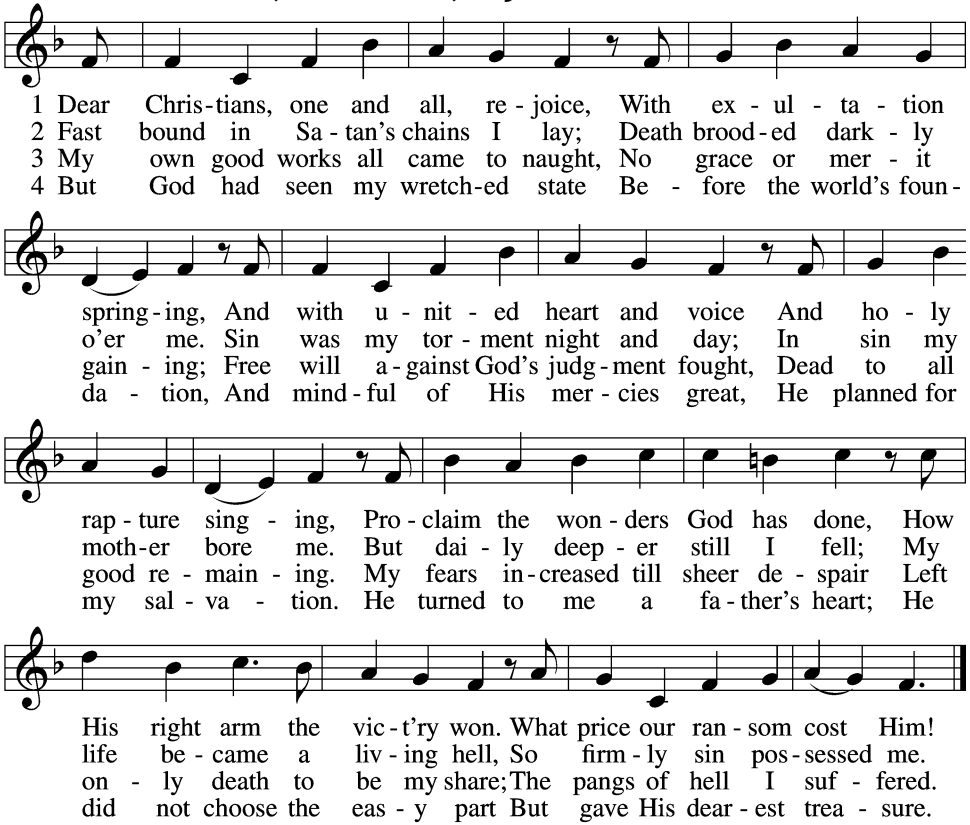
5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text and tune: Public domain

556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



5 God said to His belovèd Son:
"It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with You forever."

6 The Son obeyed His Father's will,
Was born of virgin mother;
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,
He came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;
A servant's form, like mine, He wore
To lead the devil captive.

7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me,
I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I Myself will be;

For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, and you are Mine,
And where I am you may remain;
The foe shall not divide us.

8 “Though he will shed My precious blood,
Me of My life bereaving,
All this I suffer for your good;
Be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict’ry win;
My innocence shall bear your sin,
And you are blest forever.

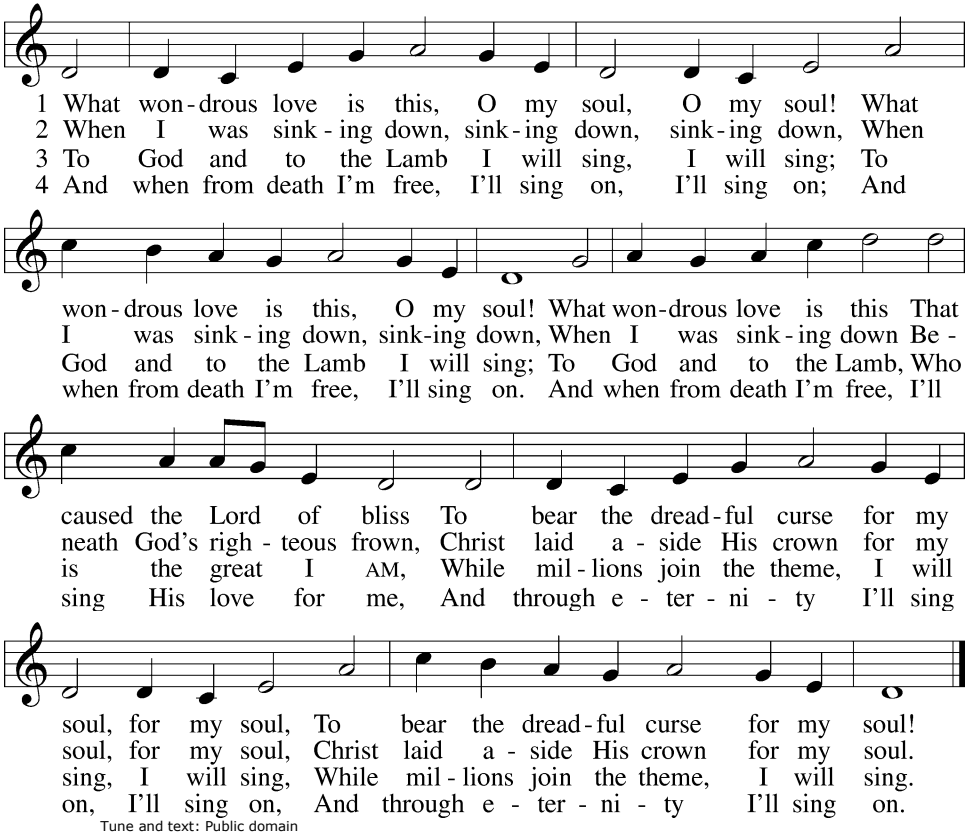
9 “Now to My Father I depart,
From earth to heav’n ascending,
And, heav’nly wisdom to impart,
The Holy Spirit sending;
In trouble He will comfort you
And teach you always to be true
And into truth shall guide you.

10 “What I on earth have done and taught
Guide all your life and teaching;
So shall the kingdom’s work be wrought
And honored in your preaching.
But watch lest foes with base alloy
The heav’nly treasure should destroy;
This final word I leave you.”

Text and tune: Public domain

543 What Wondrous Love Is This

LSB 543



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Stand

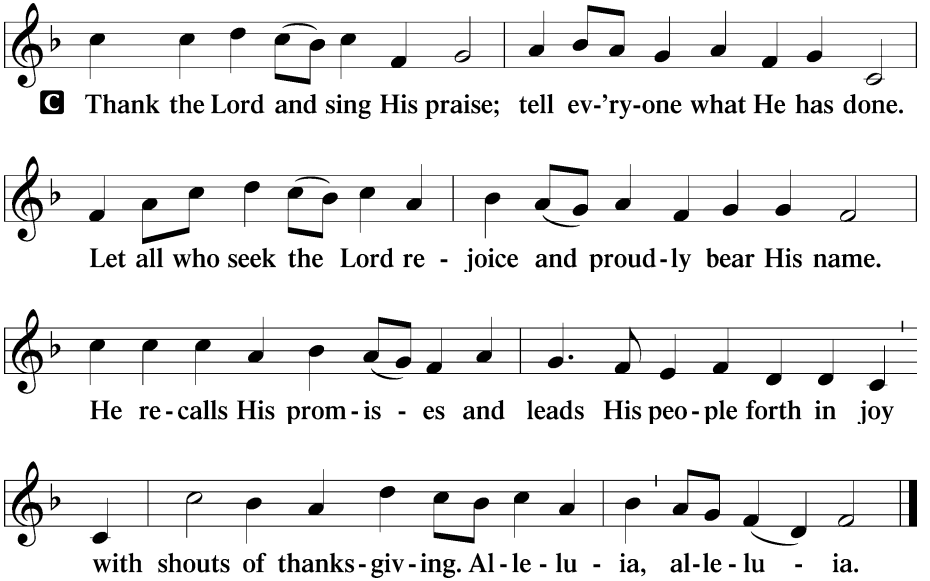
The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✢ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

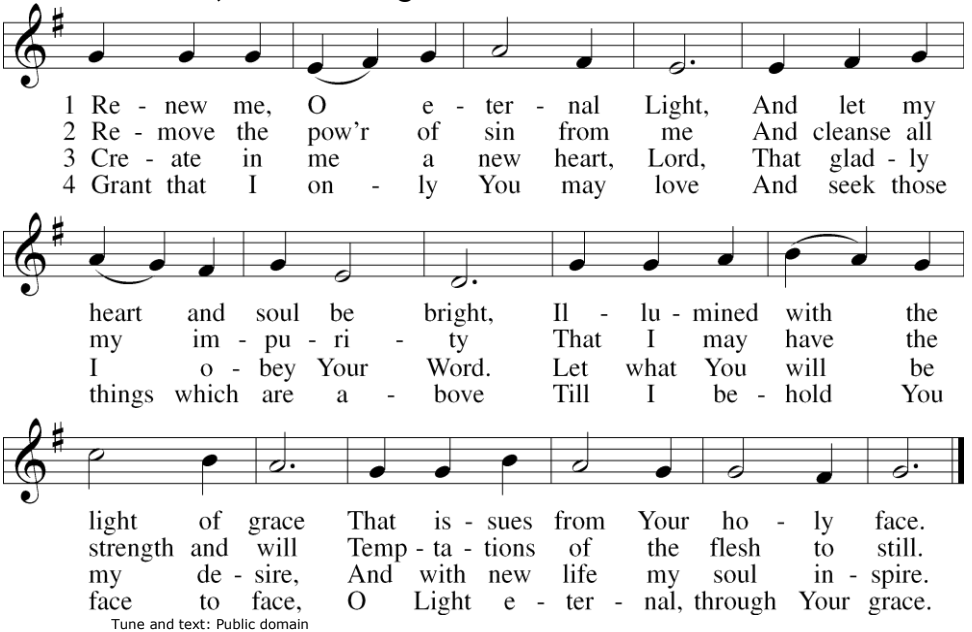
Benediction

LSB 166

P 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.

C **Amen.**

704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light



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Prayers for Our Members

Jade Florang, Monique Pohlman	Expectant Mothers
Norman Abels (*Brookestone Meadows – Elkhorn*)	Healing
Judy Ahrens	Healing
Vaughn Albrecht (Mount Carmel)	Healing
Tom & DyAnn Altwine	Healing
Lyle Colsden (*Mother Hull*)	Healing
Pat Flodine (*Cambridge Court*)	Healing
Vi Fox (*Prairie View*)	Healing
Verleen Gentry	Healing
Ruby Hatfield	Healing
Boyd Millsap	Healing
Michelle Millsap	Healing
Roger Riekenberg	Healing
Don Richmond	Healing
Marion Richmond	Healing
Ivan Bombeck	Cancer
Fran Junge	Cancer
Bertha Marienau	Cancer
Bev Nuttelman	Cancer
Kim Vos	Cancer

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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Pr. Doug Gaunt, Pastor + (308) 455-0552
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Tony Splittgerber, Principal + (308) 293-0168
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Church Office
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Email: school@zionkearney.org
Phone: (308)-234-3410 **Fax:** (308) 236-8100
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
Radio Broadcast: Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. on 1460 AM
Website: www.zionkearney.com

Prayers for Our Members' Family & Friends	
Dawn Gaunt *(Pr. & Carol Gaunt's daughter-in-law)*	Expecting
Nicole Teten (*Chris & Sarah Hoehner's daughter)*	Expecting
Naomi Wollberg (*Andy & Jeanne Wollberg's daughter-in-law)*	Expecting
Mariah Rodriguez (*Quentin & Janel Lange friend*)	Expecting
Family & Friends of Sherman Luhn (*Kim Vos' father)*	**Grief**
Will Brennemann *(Jami Helmbrecht's father)*	Healing
Tom DiMartino (*Don & Shirley Helmbrecht's brother-in-law)*	Healing
Reg Duke *(Westman's brother-in-law)*	Healing
James Gentry *(Verleen Gentry's son)*	Healing
Roger Hoffman *(Marc's father)*	Healing
Sharon Kreutzer *(Richard's mother)*	Healing
Lyra Mais (*Zion student)*	Healing
Bailey Markowski *(Steve & Fran Junge's great niece)*	Healing
Mary Ann Mertz *(Pam's Uhlir's friend)*	Healing
Tim Powers (*Kim Wilken's brother)*	Healing
Roy Reynolds *(Verleen Gentry's son-in-law)*	Healing
Lynne Saathoff (*Verleen Gentry's sister-in-law)*	Healing
Randy Solomon *(Beth Rosenthal's father)*	Healing
Spellman Family *(Quentin & Janel friend)*	Healing
Janet Stalder *(Carol Florang's sister)*	Healing
Angela Well *(Charles Marineau's granddaughter)*	Healing
D.D. Dugger (*Sue Kaiser's brother)*	Cancer
Stuart Gronewoller *(Lonna's brother-in-law)*	Cancer
Ron Halvorsen *(Jeff's dad)*	Cancer
Carol Haubold *(Don Helmbrecht's sister)*	Cancer
Randy Jochum *(Ken Hockemeier's brother-in-law)*	Cancer
Fred Koch *(Pam Uhlir's cousin)*	Cancer
Lynda Kreutzer (*Rich & Carol's sister-in-law)*	Cancer
John Moore (*family of Susan Tonniges)*	Cancer
Sharon Mulhair *(Pam Uhlir's cousin)*	Cancer
Jeannie Schmidt *(Lisa Splittgerber's sister-in-law)*	Cancer
Tyrone Uhlir *(Pam's nephew)*	Cancer

Today's Radio Broadcast is given to the Glory of the Lord by Ed & Connie DeLaet

Worship Assistants

Sunday, May 9 ~ 9:00am

Elder: Dan Oertwig
Usher: Marc Hoffman & Steve Junge
Engineer: James Marquardt
Announcer: Lonna Gronewoller
Altar Guild: Carolyn Westman & Linda Nuttelman

Sunday, May 16 ~ 9:00am

Elder: Ken Hockemeier
Usher: Roger Riekenberg & Robert Glanzer
Engineer: Jared Nuttelman
Announcer: Carol Kreutzer
Altar Guild: Carolyn Westman & Linda Nuttelman

Our Response to the Gospel

Date: 05/02/2021

Offering: $6,341.50
Weekly Need: $7,542.37

This Week at Zion

Sun		**Mother's Day**
05/09	**9:00a**	**Divine Service**
	10:30a	**Radio Broadcast 1460am**
Mon	**7:00p**	**Mary Martha-FH**
05/10	*Birthdays*	---
	Anniversaries	---
Tues	**1:30p**	**Sleeping Mats**
05/11	**7:00p**	**Bd of Elders**
	7:00p	**Bd of Trustees**
	Birthdays	*Sophia Strong*
	Anniversaries	---
Wed	**8:30a**	**Chapel**
05/12	*Birthdays*	---
	Anniversaries	---
Thurs	**6:30p**	**Ascension Day Service at Holy Cross**
05/13	*Birthdays*	*Roger Riekenberg*
	Anniversaries	*Ed & Connie DeLaet*
Fri	**6:30p**	**School Spring Musical**
05/14	*Birthdays*	*Paige Ahrens*
	Anniversaries	---
Sat	**5:00p**	**Divine Service**
05/15	*Birthdays*	*Anthony Wilbur*
	Anniversaries	---
Sun	**9:00a**	**Divine Service**
05/16	**10:30a**	**Radio Broadcast 1460am**
	Birthdays	---
	Anniversaries	---

Zion Lutheran Church

Where our Triune God strengthens us through His mercy in faith toward Him and in fervent love toward one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ascension Day Service – Please plan to attend an Ascension Day Service hosted by Holy Cross this Thursday, May 13th at 6:30pm. There will be an ice cream social following service hosted by Holy Cross LWML.

Card Shower – Zion is hosting a card shower for:

- Anthony Splittgerber for 21 years in Lutheran Education
- Darcy Willers for being at Zion for 20 years
- Carol DeLoach for 10 years at Zion.

Zion is extremely blessed to have all of them on staff and part of our family! Congratulations! Thank you for all that you do for Zion and the students!

Please place the cards in their church mailbox or drop them off at the office.

Mary Martha – Mary Martha will meet on Monday, May 10th in the fellowship hall.

Offering Options:

1) Place your offering in the basket as you leave
2) Go to zionkearney.churchtrac.com/give
3) Go to zionkearney.com and click on the ChurchTrac icon
4) Mail your gift to Zion Lutheran Church, 2421 C Ave, Kearney, NE 68847 or place it in the mail slot on the south side of the building.

A Bible Study – is prerecorded and available each Sunday, along with a study guide you can use to follow along. We are studying the three lessons for the day—the Old Testament, the Epistle, and the Gospel. Go to Zion's website www.zionkearney.com to access the video and study guide.

Church Management System – Zion has switched to a web-based church management system called ChurchTrac. Please pick-up a yellow sheet in the narthex to get setup today to view all of the benefits and features.

Radio Broadcast - Please help Zion spread the Gospel! There are several open dates.

Mission Offerings - The second quarter missions will support Higher Things and Issues Etc. If you would like to donate to these missions, please use the mission envelopes located in the narthex. Thank you for your support. To learn more about these organizations please visit:

https://higherthings.org/about

https://issuesetc.org/support/

Crossroads Mission - Mary Martha Peace Circle is collecting items for the Crossroads Mission Avenue, the homeless shelter in Kearney. If you would like to contribute, a collection bin for their critical needs will be located at the church through May 16th. Items will also be collected at the May 10th Mary Martha meeting. Thanks for your support.

Critical needs include:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Non bleach floor cleaner
- Glass cleaner
- Disposable gloves (large & extra large)
- Trash bags (13 & 33 gallon)
- Disposable cups
- Laundry detergent
- Bath towels
- Twin sheets
- Pillows
- Cough drops
- Ibuprofen/Tylenol
- Cold medicines
- Shaving razors
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Canned food
- Butter/flour/sugar
- Cooking spices

Vacation Bible School - The date has been set for July 18-22 from 6:00-8:00pm . It will be for preschool to 5th grade. We will also be recruiting volunteers for anyone from 6th grade up to help out. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those that are willing to volunteer and for those that would like to participate. There will be more information to come, please continue to watch the bulletin.

SCHOOL NEWS

Spring Musical – The kindergarten – 8th grade students will hold their spring musical on Friday, May 14th at 6:30pm in the gym.

Last Day of School – The last day of school for the students will be Wednesday, May 19th with an 11:30am dismissal.

Best of Kearney - Congratulations to the Zion preschool for being voted Best of Kearney by the Kearney Hub readers seventh year in a row.

Registration Open - Registration is now open for the 2021-2022. There are limited preschool spots available. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office. Please tell your family and friends about Zion. Enroll early to make sure you have a spot.

Scrip Cards - Scrip cards are still available during this time. Visit the office during normal hours to purchase your gift cards.

NLSA
National Lutheran School Accreditation

Did you know?

On March 15-16, Zion hosted an accreditation validation team. The team studied Zion's self-study for a month, and spent two days at Zion verifying that information. They interviewed students, parents, and staff. They also studied all aspects of our school program. Here are the results:

The Validation Team's Overall Impression of the School

- ✓ Positive school climate, very welcoming,
- ✓ Christ-centered interactions and instruction.
- ✓ Supportive relationship with church and school.
- ✓ Unified and exceptional leadership
- ✓ Cohesive faculty/staff
- ✓ Curriculum and instruction impressive-Classical
- ✓ Growing enrollment.

Outstanding Strengths

- ✓ Impressive curriculum and instruction as reflected by student testing results.
- ✓ Exceptional administrative leadership
- ✓ Encouraging and welcoming,
- ✓ Christian School culture
- ✓ Clear Lutheran identity
- ✓ Dedicated Teaching staff
- ✓ Great congregational-school relationship

Major Deficiencies

- ✓ NONE

Accreditation Recommendation

The members of the Validation Team recommend:
ACCREDITATION IN GOOD STANDING

These are great marks! From here, Zion has developed an action plan to continue to improve over the next 5 years! God has blessed this school!
Thanks for being a part of it!

Nebraska District LCMS
www.ndlcms.org

Two Concerns for the Church:

1 **The Equality Act** currently before Congress in Washington D.C

2 **K-12 Health Education Standards** proposed by the Nebraska Department of Education

What is it?

The Equality Act that is being considered by Congress sounds innocent. All Americans should enjoy equality and the protections of the U.S. Constitution. But in elevating sexual orientation to a protected class, the Equality Act will bring sweeping changes to current laws, to the great detriment of the religious and constitutional freedoms of biblically faithful churches, institutions, Christian schools and individuals.

In fact, those churches and institutions that are bound by the Word of God to the truth of marriage between a man and a woman could be punished for simply standing on our consistent beliefs. The Equality Act effectively outlaws the words of Christ and our free exercise of religion.

The Equality Act expands the definition of "public accommodation" and puts an ultimatum to individuals, religious non-profits, food banks, schools, charities, adoption agencies and others: "Change your faith-based practices or face government punishment."

*Read a letter from Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison and find additional information and resources at the link provided.

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) recently released a **first draft of K-12 Health Standards**. These standards are meant to guide curriculum for all Nebraska schools, including public and non-public schools.

The Health Standards are a deeply flawed, ideologically driven document. Should such standards be adopted by schools, children will be placed in peril, many educators will find their professional judgment and conscience under attack, and the culture will move toward a further normalization of child sexualization.

Read the proposed Health Standards and take special note of the "Human Growth and Development" section in each grade. Here are a few highlights:

- In Kindergarten, students will "discuss different kinds of family structures (e.g. single parent, blended, intergenerational, cohabitating, adoptive, foster, same-gender, interracial). Note that traditional marriage between a man and woman is not mentioned.
- In 1st grade, students "define gender, gender identity, and gender-role stereotypes."
- In 4th grade, students "distinguish between sex assigned at birth and gender identity and explain how they may or may not differ."
- In 8th grade, students would be taught that abortion is "reproductive care" and how to develop a plan to eliminate an unplanned pregnancy.

*Find the proposed Health Standards and additional information and resources at the link provided.

What can you do?

The Equality Act

1. Treat all people with kindness and respect ("You shall love your neighbor as yourself" Mark 12:31).
2. Become informed about the **Equality Act** and the issues of gender dysphoria.
3. Consider your role as Christian citizens and make your voice known to your elected officials. Our friends at Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI) have created **a simple web tool** to allow you to reach out to your congressperson.
4. Pray for our officials, government, and the church in these challenging days.

Additional resources regarding the Equality Act:

- **Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty**
- **Alliance Defending Freedom** — The True Impact of the "Equality Act"
- **Heritage Foundation** — 11 Myths About H.R. 5, the Equality Act of 2021

K-12 Health Education Standards

1. Pray for Christian teachers and staff serving in our public schools, that they may find opportunities to freely share their faith.
2. Double down on your commitment to Christian education for your own family.
3. Talk about your concern for the new health education standards with your friends. Make sure that they are aware of the educational standards being proposed for every public school in Nebraska.
4. The Nebraska Department of Education is seeking feedback about these standards. Please take some time to fill out the **NDE online survey** and speak up for all Nebraska kids!
5. Watch for local Health Education Standards.

Looking for more information?

* Full details and all resources mentioned can be found on the Nebraska District LCMS website at **www.ndlcms.org/action-alert**

FREE to be FAITHFUL

Directions for Distribution of the Lord's Supper

1. ***Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle for you to use prior to communing*.**

2. **Those sitting in the south pews will commune on the right side of the altar.**

3. **Those sitting in the north pews will commune on the left side of the altar.**

4. **The usher will alternate between the south and north sides when releasing people to commune. *Please allow the group from the other side to exit the aisle before you enter it so there is only one line at a time in the aisle.***

5. ***Each side of the table will have a maximum of five or six people at a time (except when family members commune together) so we can keep an appropriate distance from others*.**

6. **The first person of a group from the south side will stand just to the right of the center of the communion rail and the others will follow as they fill in around the right half of the altar.**

7. **The first person of a group from the north side will stand just left of the center of the communion rail and the others will fill around the left side of the altar.**