

Crowned with Blessing!

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration: 1970-2020



CROWN *of* **LIFE**

Lutheran Church & School

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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2020



Crown of Life Lutheran Church is affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).



Welcome to Crown of Life! We're glad you are with us today! We pray that the message from God's Word in today's service blesses you with God's grace and guidance through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Today's service continues Crown of Life Lutheran Church's 50th anniversary celebration. This service is the second of three services throughout 2020 to mark this milestone. For a complete list of our anniversary services throughout the year and their unique emphases, please refer to the back cover.

Our original plans were for this service to take place in the afternoon of May 31, with former members, neighboring congregations, and the community invited, and a dinner and program after the service. Due to Coronavirus concerns, the May 31 celebration was rescheduled for today, the celebration is taking place in all three of our regular weekend services, and we are forgoing a presentation and meal. Although this is not as "grand" of a celebration as first planned, we hope that our time together with current and former members in God's house renews our appreciation for the gifts of his grace on Crown of Life congregation for the past 50 years.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister Pastor Johnold Strey
 Preacher Pastor Donn Dobberstein
 Assisting Ministers Pastor Em. H. Jack Freiheit, Seminarians Erik Lund & M. Andrew Dey
 Organist Pastor Bryan Gerlach
 Vocal Trio Emily, Lydia, & Johnold Strey
 Brass Quartet Patricia Backhaus, Dan Hubert, Mark Schroeder, Jeff Sitzman

Prelude

Variations on Westminster Abbey

Richard Proulx, 1968

These variations are based on the melody of the first hymn.

Sonata Pian' e Forte

Giovanni Gabrieli (c. 1554/1557-1612)

The music of this piece is both solemn and jubilant—an appropriate combination for an anniversary service held during a pandemic and at a troubling time in our country. No matter what may cause us grief in these days, God's promises endure.

Order of Worship

Processional Hymn

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Christian Worship #531

Setting by John Ferguson, 1996

Stand as the hymn is introduced and face the processional cross in the back of the assembly. Turn toward the front of the church as the cross is carried past your row to the chancel, where it stands as a symbol of the primary message of Christian worship.



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord
3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful All the gifts
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon -



and cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
of hosts, and stay; Come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
they ask to gain, What they gain from you for - ev - er
or to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one, Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear your peo - ple as they pray, And your full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain, And here - af - ter
Ev - er Three and ev - er One, One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Speak with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry Ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

Dialogue of Praise

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works!

The works of the Lord are great and glorious. His name is worthy of praise!

O Father Most Holy, gather us together in the name of Jesus whom the saints and angels adore as the Lamb on his throne and whose name is above every name,

that all we do might be done at your bidding,
filled with your grace,
directed by your wisdom,
informed by your truth,
accomplished to your glory.

The works of the Lord are great and glorious. His love endures forever!

O Father Most Gracious, bring us together in the name of Jesus, that in him we might be a spiritual temple, that founded on him we might be built together as living stones, that in him we might offer to you the spiritual service

of praise and thanksgiving,
of lives lived in your love,
of proclaiming your words and work,
of sharing your gifts to us.

The works of the Lord are great and glorious. Tell of all his wonderful deeds!

O Father eternal, you have sent out an invitation, you have prepared a great feast that all might enter the courts of your presence and the mansions of your paradise. Grant to us your blessing and peace,

that we may be witnesses of your truth,
the reflection of your glory,
the ambassadors of your kingdom.

The works of the Lord are great and glorious. May our mouths be filled with his praise!

To you, O Father, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God from all eternity and to all eternity, be glory, wisdom, power, and dominion forever.

Alleluia! Amen!

Song of Praise

O Lord, Our Lord

Text and tune by Kurt Eggert (1923-93)

Setting for brass by William Braun, 1999



O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.



Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life



with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;



you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your



on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. O Son of



God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us;

you made your Fa - ther known; you washed us from our sins in
 your own blood. You are the King of glo - ry; you are the Lord!
 O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord of the Church, for fifty years you have blessed this congregation of believers and united us together in faith and mission with fellow believers throughout our synod. Increase our faith, knit us together in the bonds of love, and make our fellowship an example to all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Exodus 24:1-11

Israel's leaders experience fellowship with God

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, ² but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."

³ When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." ⁴ Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. ⁶ Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."

⁸ Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. NIV

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 103:1-2

Setting by William Croft (1678-1727)

O give thanks unto the Lord, and call upon his name;
Tell the people what things he hath done.
O let your songs be of him, and praise him;
And let your talking be of all his wondrous works.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

Paul is grateful for the Philippians' partnership

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. NIV

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Setting by Gian Francesco de Majo (1732-70)

"Alleluia" is traditionally sung before the Gospel as an expression of the congregation's joy as they anticipate hearing the good news of Jesus Christ in the Gospel account that follows.

Stand.

Gospel

John 17:20-26

Jesus prays for unity among believers

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” NIV

After the Gospel:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

God Is Here! As We His People

Christian Worship #532

Setting for brass by Michael Burkhardt, 1997

Trio setting by Tony Alonso, 2019

The trio sings stanza 2.



1 God is here! As we his peo - ple Meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us Of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come In the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of Church and King - dom, In an age of



praise and prayer, May we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace. Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



What it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -
Here the cross has cen - tral place. Here, in hon - es - ty of
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the
Help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -



round us, All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the
preach - ing, Here, in si - lence as in speech, Here, in
Ser - vant Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it
ca - tion, All we have to give, re - ceive; We who



com - ing of his Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.
new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
means in dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.
can - not live with - out you, We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

**A Glorious Anniversary Prayer:
Be One!**

Stand.

Confession of Faith

*The explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles'
Creed from Martin Luther's Small Catechism*

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Remain standing.

Anniversary Litany

For those whose faith, courage, and Christian conviction and whose diligent effort and financial sacrifice resulted in the formation of this congregation:

We thank you, Lord.

For those who labored with mind and hand to design and construct this sanctuary that the people of God might worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:

We thank you, Lord.

For all those ministers of the gospel who have led your people in worship here throughout the past fifty years, who have preached your word from the pulpit, and who have administered the sacraments to waiting and believing hearts:

We thank you, Lord.

For those who founded our school, for teachers who instructed young souls in the wonders of God's creation and the message of salvation, and for the students who grew in the grace and knowledge of their Savior:

We thank you, Lord.

For those who have brought their children here for baptism, for those who have pledged their love to one another at this altar, and for those who in Christian faith and trust have here parted with loved ones and committed them to your grace:

We thank you, Lord.

For all those who have here confessed their faith in Jesus Christ, and have shared in the life and witness of the Church:

We thank you, Lord.

For sins that have been confessed and forgiven here, for burdens that have been made easier to carry, for distressed and troubled hearts that have known the peace that passes all understanding, and for lives that have been inspired to new heights of love and service:

We thank you, Lord.

For our fellowship in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, for the opportunity to support the Christian education of teenagers at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, and for the privilege of enriching the education of students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary who serve among us:

We thank you, Lord.

For all who have come to this place seeking your mercy and finding peace in Christ Jesus:

We thank you, Lord.

Lord God, you have graciously blessed this congregation of believers for the past fifty years. Be with us in the future as you have been in the past that with faithful hearts we may receive your grace, rejoice in your salvation, serve you with cheerful hearts, confess your name in this community, and finally praise you together with your whole Church when your Son returns and bestows on us the crown of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

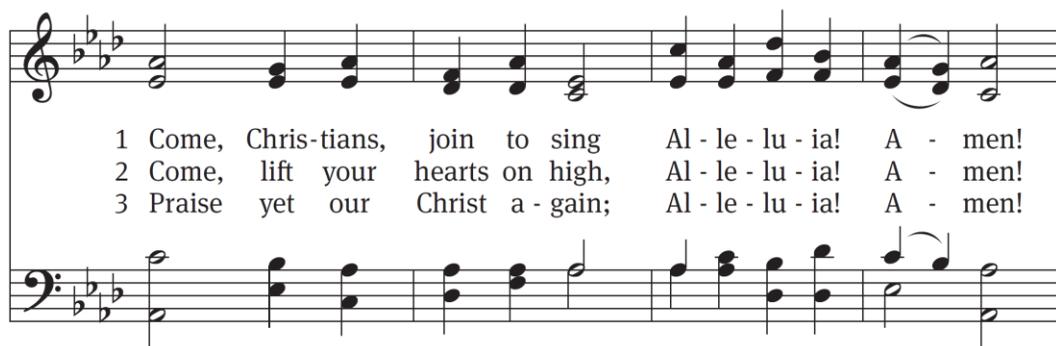
Come, Christians, Join to Sing

to be published in the new WELS hymnal

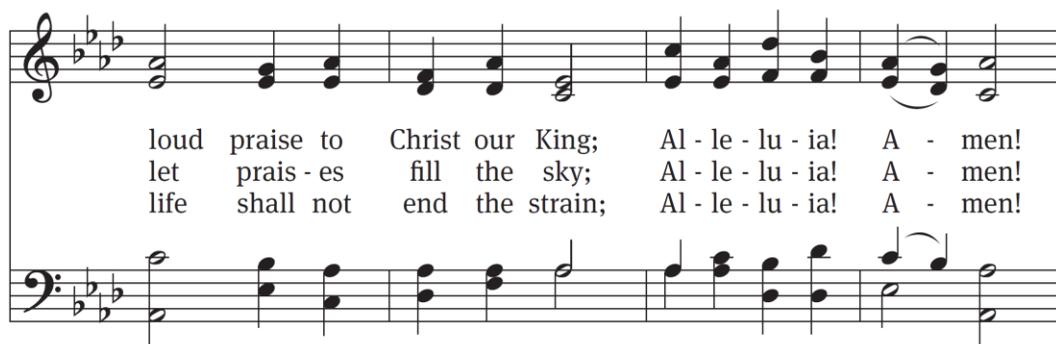
Text: Christian H. Bateman (1813-89)

Brass descant by Patricia Backhaus, 2001

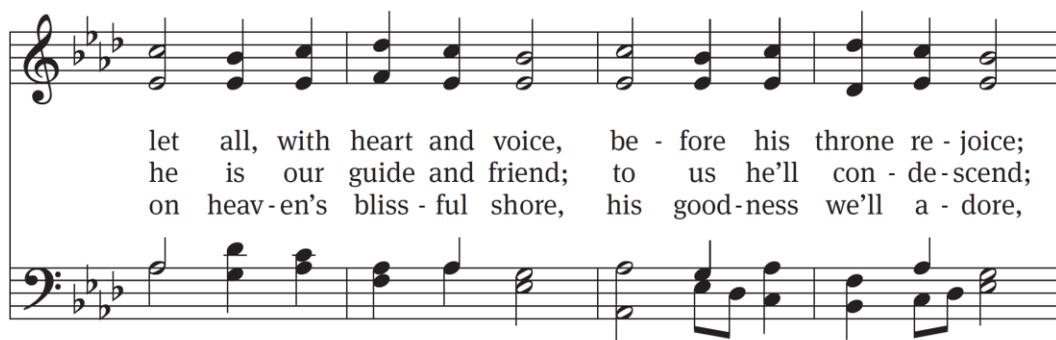
[I've asked Mike S. if he has a melody-only version of this from the new hymnal that we can use.]



1 Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2 Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
he is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
on heav - en's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra-cious choice: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!
 his love shall nev-er end: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!
 sing-ing for-ev-er-more, "Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!"

Be seated after the hymn.

Postlude

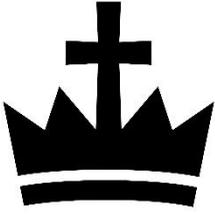
Prelude in G Major (BWV 550)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please remain seated for the postlude. The announcements for the week are spoken following the postlude, after which the congregation is dismissed.

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- **O Lord, Our Lord:** Tune © 1993 by Kurt J. Eggert.
- **God Is Here! As We His People:** Text © 1979 by Hope Publishing Co.
- **Anniversary Litany:** Adapted from a responsive prayer, "On the Anniversary of a Church," in *The Wideness of God's Mercy: Litanies to Enlarge Our Prayer*, © 1985, 1995 by Jeffery W. Rowthorn.



CROWN *of* LIFE

Crowned with Blessing!

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration: 1970-2020

Crown of Life Lutheran Church is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2020. We are marking this milestone in three special services throughout the year.

Sunday, February 2 – 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Crowned with Blessing—in our past history

Our first anniversary service, held on February 2, coincided with the first service held by Crown of Life congregation on February 1, 1970. We welcomed Pastor Michael Helwig as our guest preacher, who served our congregation from 2003 to 2018, and now teaches religion at Lakeside Lutheran High School in Lake Mills, Wisconsin. We were also honored to welcome the Seminary Chorus from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon as our guest choir.

Thursday, September 10 – 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 13 – 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Crowned with Blessing—in our present partnerships

Coronavirus concerns postponed our original plans for this second anniversary celebration, originally scheduled for the afternoon of May 31 (Pentecost Day), now rescheduled for our three regular services this weekend. This second service focuses on the blessings of fellowship we enjoy in our church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). Our guest preacher is Pastor Donn Dobberstein, WELS Director of Discipleship. Pastor Dobberstein was also our church's consultant in the WELS Self-Assessment and Adjustment program in 2018. We also welcome Pastor Bryan Gerlach, WELS Director of Worship, as our guest organist, and several guest instrumentalists from area WELS congregations.

Sunday, November 29 – 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Crowned with Blessing—in our future ministry

Our final 50th anniversary service will encourage us to look ahead to the next phase of our history with a mission mindset. This service coincides with three events from Crown of Life's history that all occurred on December 1: the first exploratory meeting (1969), the adoption of the church's constitution (1970), and the dedication of the first church sanctuary (1975). Our guest preacher will be Pastor Greg Sitzman, a "son" of Crown of Life congregation who serves Emmanuel Redeemer Lutheran Church in Yale, Michigan. Branches Band will provide the music for this service.