

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Circuit One Reformation Festival Service



The Lutheran Chorale Service: The Quincentenary (500th Anniversary) of the *Deutsche Messe*, Luther's German Mass

October 25, 2026, 4:00pm

Resurrection Lutheran Church

4620 Cypress Gardens Rd, Winter Haven, FL 33884

Order of Service: *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* Rite Four

“Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass, for the Mass is retained by us and celebrated with the highest reverence. All the usual ceremonies are also preserved.”
—Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV; ELH p. 16

Preservice Music

Organist: Nathan Madson, Grace Lutheran—Vero Beach

The Service of Preparation

-Stand-

Entrance Hymn - A Mighty Fortress Is Our God ELH 250

“To begin the service we sing a hymn or a German Psalm.”

—Martin Luther, *“The German Mass and Order of Service”*; *Luther’s Works* 53:69

1. All

A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need
That hath us now o’ertaken.
The old evil Foe
Now means deadly woe:
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

2. Men

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there’s none other God,
He holds the field forever.

3. Women

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They cannot overpow’r us.
This world’s prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He’s judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

4. All

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thank have for it;
He’s by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Let these all be gone,
They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession of Sin

P: Let us confess our sins to God and pray:

We poor sinners confess to You, O God, not only that we have been conceived and born in sin, but also that throughout life we have often and in many ways offended You, our Lord and Maker, in thought, word and deed, so that You could with perfect justice reject and condemn us for all eternity.

Therefore we come before You with sorrow of heart, in dread and terror of Your holy justice and of everlasting death. Our sins are a grievous foe, which we should hate in every way as long as we live. O merciful God, You still grant us in this hour to be reminded of Your fatherly goodness. According to the promise of Your Word we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, and implore You, dearest Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son, our Brother, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised again for our justification:

Forgive us all our sins through faith, which the Holy Spirit increases in our hearts to full assurance.

C: We therefore pray You, O Lord, through Your servant to declare to us the forgiveness of all our sins. We poor sinners are willing to forgive all who have offended against us. We earnestly desire to grow in true godliness. Help us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Absolution

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord:

Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

-Be Seated-

Kyrie Hymn (Pastor's Choir) - Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above *ELH 34*

Gloria Hymn - All Glory Be to God on High *ELH 35*

Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray: O Lord God, heavenly Father: Pour out, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people; keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptation, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church militant Your saving peace; through the same, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Devotion - The Service of Preparation

Pastor Matthew Luttman, Grace Lutheran—Vero Beach

The Service of the Word

Epistle - Romans 3:19–28 (NKJV)

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

²⁰Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²²even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Gradual Hymn - We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost ELH 33

“After the Epistle a German hymn, either “Now Let Us Pray to the Holy Ghost” or any other, is sung.”

—Martin Luther, “The German Mass and Order of Service”; Luther’s Works 53:74

-Stand-

Gospel - Matthew 11:12–15 (NKJV)

P: The Holy Gospel is written in the eleventh chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the twelfth verse.

Jesus said, “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. ¹⁴And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

P: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C: God be praised for His glad tidings.

Credal Hymn - We All Believe in One True God ELH 37

“After the Gospel the whole congregation sings the Creed in German: ‘In One True God We All Believe.’”

—Martin Luther, “The German Mass and Order of Service”; Luther’s Works 53:78

-Be Seated-

Devotion - The Service of the Word

Pastor Rodney Rivera, Peace Lutheran—Kissimmee

-Stand-

Prayer of the Church

“It seems that the ancients did so in the pulpit, so that it is still the custom to read general prayers or repeat the Lord’s Prayer in the pulpit.”

—Martin Luther, *“The German Mass and Order of Service”*; *Luther’s Works* 53:80

P: Everlasting and merciful God, we beseech You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C: To have mercy upon us and to hear our prayer.

P: Look in mercy upon Your Church. Protect it and sanctify it by Your truth. May Your Word be taught in its purity and Your Sacraments be rightly administered. Grant unto Your Church faithful pastors who shall declare Your truth with power and shall live according to Your will. Send forth laborers into Your harvest and open the door of faith unto all the heathen and unto the people of Israel. In mercy remember the enemies of Your Church and grant to them repentance unto life.

C: O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear us in the truth of Your salvation.

P: Let Your protecting hand be over our country and over all who travel. Prosper what is good among us and bring to naught every evil counsel and purpose. Protect and bless Your servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this state, our judges and magistrates and all in authority. Fit them for their high calling by the gift of Your Spirit of wisdom and fear, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

C: Hear, O Lord, and have mercy! Lord be our helper.

P: According to Your promise, O God, be the defender of the widow and the father of the orphan. Relieve and comfort the sick and the sorrowful. Graciously help those who are assaulted by the devil and who are in peril of death. Be the strength of those who are suffering for the sake of Christ’s holy name. Grant that we may live together in peace and prosperity. Bestow upon us good and seasonable weather; and bless us with upright Christian counsel in all that we undertake.

C: O Lord, be with all in trouble. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your Name.

P: We especially commend to Your care and keeping this Your congregation which You have bought with a great price. Keep from us all offenses and bind us together in the unity of Your holy love. Grant that the little ones who are baptized in Your name may be brought up in Your fear. At Your table give to those who there commune with You peace and life everlasting.

C: Let all rejoice who trust in You; let them shout for joy because You defend them.

P: Be merciful, O God, to all, according to Your great love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. When our final hour shall come, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection to Your glory.

C: Amen. Grant us Your peace, O Lord!

-Be Seated-

Offering

The offering will reimburse any expenses for the supper and support the work of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, the college of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The Service of the Sacrament

“Here we retain the vestments, altar, and candles until they are used up or we are pleased to make a change. But we do not oppose anyone who would do otherwise. In the true mass, however, of real Christians, the altar should not remain where it is, and the priest should always face the people as Christ doubtlessly did in the Last Supper. But let that await its own time.”

—Martin Luther, “The German Mass and Order of Service”; Luther’s Works 53:69

Devotion - The Service of the Sacrament

Pastor Caleb Strutz, Our Savior & Resurrection Lutheran—Lakeland & Winter Haven

-Stand-

Exhortation

“The admonition itself has since become a public confession. In this way... the Lord would be remembered, even as He commanded at the Supper”

—Martin Luther, “The German Mass and Order of Service”; Luther’s Works 53:80

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ: “This is My body, which is given for you; this is My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins,” you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ’s words “for the remission of sins” you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says “Take, eat; drink of it, all of you,” and “this do in remembrance of Me.”

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ’s body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.

You should also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

C: 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.

Consecration

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: “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, gave thanks, and 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 and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Sanctus Hymn (Pastor's Choir) - Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old *ELH* 40:1

“We do not want to abolish the elevation, but retain it because it goes well with the German Sanctus and signifies that Christ has commanded us to remember Him. For just as the sacrament is bodily elevated, and yet Christ's body and blood are not seen in it, so He is also remembered and elevated by the word of the sermon and is confessed and adored in the reception of the sacrament. In each case He is apprehended only by faith; for we cannot see how Christ gives His body and blood for us and even now daily shows and offers it before God to obtain grace for us.”

—Martin Luther, *“The German Mass and Order of Service”*; *Luther's Works* 53:82

-Be Seated-

Distribution and Reception of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord's Supper is a loving act given to us from the Lord. We do not want anyone to receive it improperly but only to receive it with blessings. If you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, we kindly ask that you not receive the Lord's Supper today. If you would like to commune with us in the future, please speak to our pastor for more information. Non-communicants are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, indicating so by crossing their arms across their chest. Thank you for respecting our practice.

Distribution Hymns

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy *ELH* 41

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior *ELH* 316–317

O Lord, We Praise Thee *ELH* 327

-Stand-

Collect of Thanksgiving

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give ☩ you peace.

C: Amen.

-Be Seated-

Closing Hymn - God's Word Is Our Great Heritage ELH 583

"This is what I have to say concerning the daily service and instruction in the Word of God, which serves primarily to train the young and challenge the unlearned. ... For among Christians the whole service should center in the Word and sacrament."

—Martin Luther, "The German Mass and Order of Service"; Luther's Works 53:89–90

Announcements & Postlude

Meal Prayer

The eyes of all wait upon You, O Lord, and You give them their food in due season; You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Acknowledgments

<i>Celebrant:</i>	Rev. Jesse Jacobsen—Port St. Lucie
<i>Preachers:</i>	Rev. Matthew Luttmann—Vero Beach; Rev. Rodney Rivera— Kissimmee; Rev. Caleb Strutz—North Lakeland & Winter Haven
<i>Organist:</i>	Nathan Madson—Vero Beach
<i>Instrumentalists:</i>	Mark & Rebecca Wold—North Lakeland

Congregations of the ELS in Circuit #1

Christ Lutheran Church, Port St. Lucie	Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach
Peace Lutheran Church, Kissimmee	Resurrection Lutheran Church, Winter Haven
Our Savior Lutheran Church, North Lakeland	Peace Lutheran Church, South Lakeland
New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples

Oktoberfest Meal

A special Oktoberfest / Reformation meal follows this service. Many thanks to our host congregation, Resurrection Lutheran Church, for coordinating the festivities and to the other congregations of the circuit for various contributions of food and effort.

Offering

The offering will first reimburse any expenses for the service and supper today, and the remainder will help support the work of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, the college of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Thank you.

ELS Florida Women's Mission Rally

November 14, 10:00am, Christ Lutheran Church—Port St. Lucie, FL

ELS Florida Circuit Golf Outing

December 12, 12:00pm, Sandridge Golf Club—Vero Beach, FL



The Apology of the Augsburg Confession Article XXIV: The Mass

At the outset, we must again make this preliminary statement: we do not abolish the Mass, but religiously keep and defend it. Masses are celebrated among us every Lord's Day and on the other festivals. The Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. And the usual public ceremonies are observed, the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other such things.

The front cover is a sixteenth-century German woodcut which illustrates distribution in both kinds in the Lord's Supper (see Augsburg Confession Article XXII; ELH p. 15). The back cover is an illustration of a communion service in 19th century Denmark, which would have been similar to services in the early years of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.