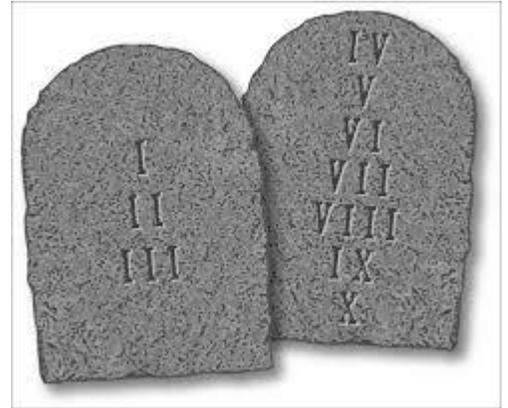


**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**—Ask any of our FaithWalkers how it is the Ten Commandments are to be divided up... Or, as the teacher of Jewish Law in our reading today does, ask them what the two greatest commandments are, and they'd tell you: Love God with all that you are, *AND* love your neighbor as yourself.

As followers of Jesus in the Lutheran way, the *Small Catechism* reminds us how this comes to bear in the way we read the Ten Commandments. They tell us not only what we are NOT supposed to do; they also, at the very least, imply what we ARE supposed to do, from the standpoint of loving our neighbor.



In fact, we could even say that one of the most important words that Jesus speaks today is that little word “AND”—Love God AND love your neighbor. We might even say that we love God BY loving and caring for the needs of our neighbors. **Perhaps there is no more important practice of our faith than that in this moment of time.**

## INVITE

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### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

#### \* BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*We pause in silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most Merciful God,

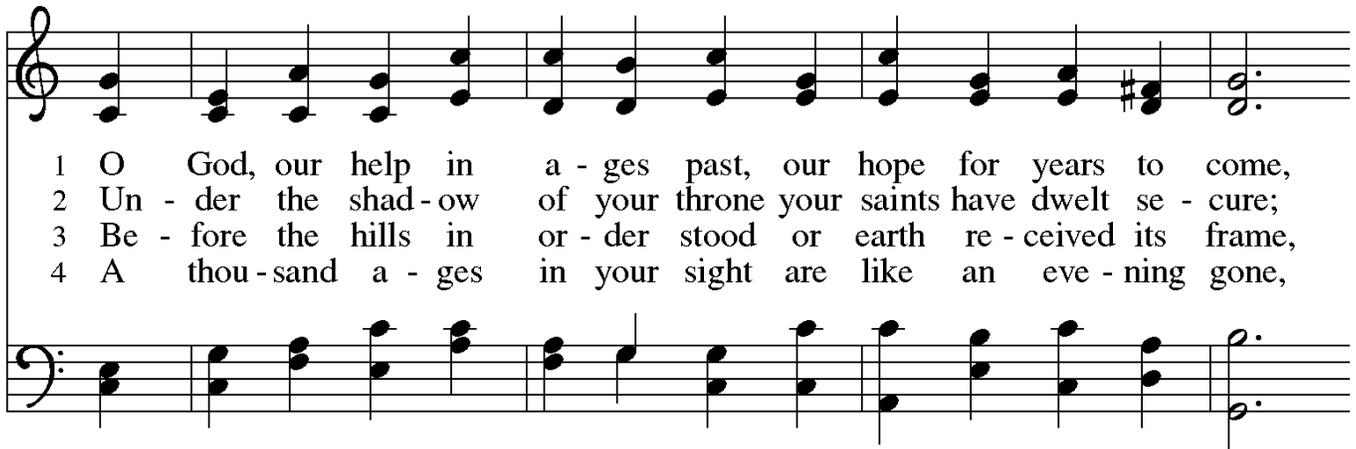
**C We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. But for the sake of your Son, Jesus 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.

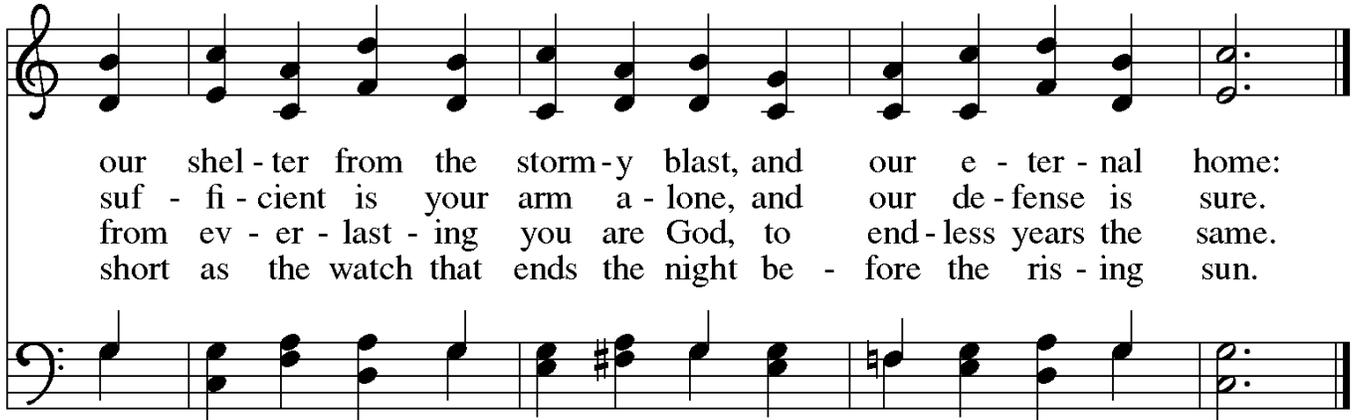
P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by the authority Jesus has given his Church to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

\* OPENING HYMN | #632 "O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST" (Vs. 1-3 & 6)



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home!

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. *(Silence is kept to gather all for prayer.)* Lord,

**C You are the one God, and besides you there is no other, but how can we love you with all our strength when we fall so far short in loving our neighbor as ourselves? Help us unravel the mystery of a love so amazing that it blesses not the rich who give a little out of their abundance, but the poor who give everything out of their poverty, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## EQUIP

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### THE WORD— Mark 12:28-34

R The reading comes from the Gospel, the Good News, according to Mark, Chapter 12, beginning with verse 28.

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

While Jesus was teaching in the Temple courtyard, <sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

<sup>29</sup> "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> And the second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

<sup>32</sup> "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. <sup>33</sup> To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

<sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**KIDS' TIME—PASTOR MIKE**

**SERMON—PASTOR MIKE**

\* HYMN OF THE DAY | #656 "BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS"

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

\* APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

\* PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC |

\*OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves; our time;

and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SEND

### \* SENDING BLESSING

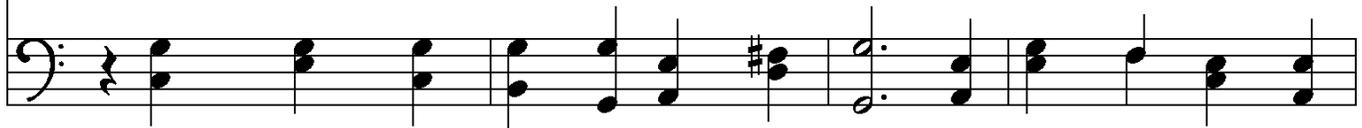
P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

### \* CLOSING HYMN | #504 "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"



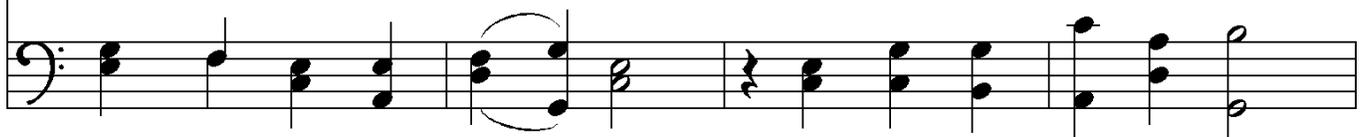
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat-'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe!      With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he!      Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage!      His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse,      though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight.      On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored.      He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail!      One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day.      The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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**\* DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!      C **Thanks be to God**