

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAITH FAMILY

For the Lord's healing and protecting hand on:

Bobby Rice, who suffered a stroke.

Jennifer Rowe, Vicki Harden's daughter-in-law, with bone cancer;

Dorel Antim, with ongoing health concerns.

Bob Powell, prayers for healing after suffering a stroke.

Alice Robenson, who suffered a stroke.

John Samson, who has colon cancer.

Veronica, Dorel's daughter, who is terminally ill.

Tammy Kwiatkowski, who is in recovery after a recent surgery.

Margaret Clarke, who is starting 6 month chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Madonna Sandunsky, with health concerns during pregnancy.

Arlene Milton's relative **Peter**, who is recovering from a stroke, and her niece's husband,

Dick Hoyt, who has bacterial meningitis.

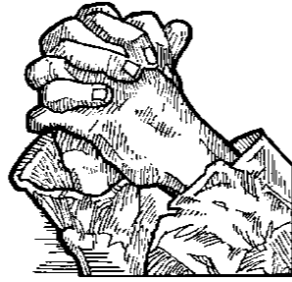
Mike Butala, step-father of Pastor Wenz, who is recovering from surgery.

Jimmy Soria, who has an infection in his leg.

Carol Cope, daughter of Verna Vogt, with colon cancer.

Sarah Tehkanan, recovering from broken hip.

William and Betty Winters' grandson Demetrius, who was born on Sept. 4th, two months premature.



Thank You For:

For Those That Are Home Bound:

Vern Formoe, Jim Godec, Vivian Criswell.

Those in the Military:

Robert Hureto, Eric David Martz, Oscar Acabal & Bradley Carpenter in Iraq;

Daniel Loeschen who is now at Fort Hood, TX;

Jeremy Jackson and Rod Dove who are in Afghanistan;

Rick M. Ferrell who is at Fort Carson, CO;

Joshua Kwiatkowski who is stationed in Le Moore, CA;

Ryan German, who is on the USS Enterprise in Norfolk, VA;

Chris German, who is stationed at Bremerton, WA;

Comfort For:

The family of Grace Eckhardt whose funeral is Monday, Dec. 13 at 11:30 am at Faith.

*If you are need of prayers please contact the office or **Heather Svika** (951) 688-3827 so we can add your prayers to our prayer chain and be aware of your needs.*

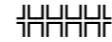
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*"Bringing
God's
Children
Home"*

Rev. Paul Wenz
Pastor



Caitlin St. John
Organist



Sundays:
**Worship
Services**
8:00 and 10:30 am

**Bible Study
& Sunday School**
9:15 am



4785
Jackson Street
Riverside, CA
92503

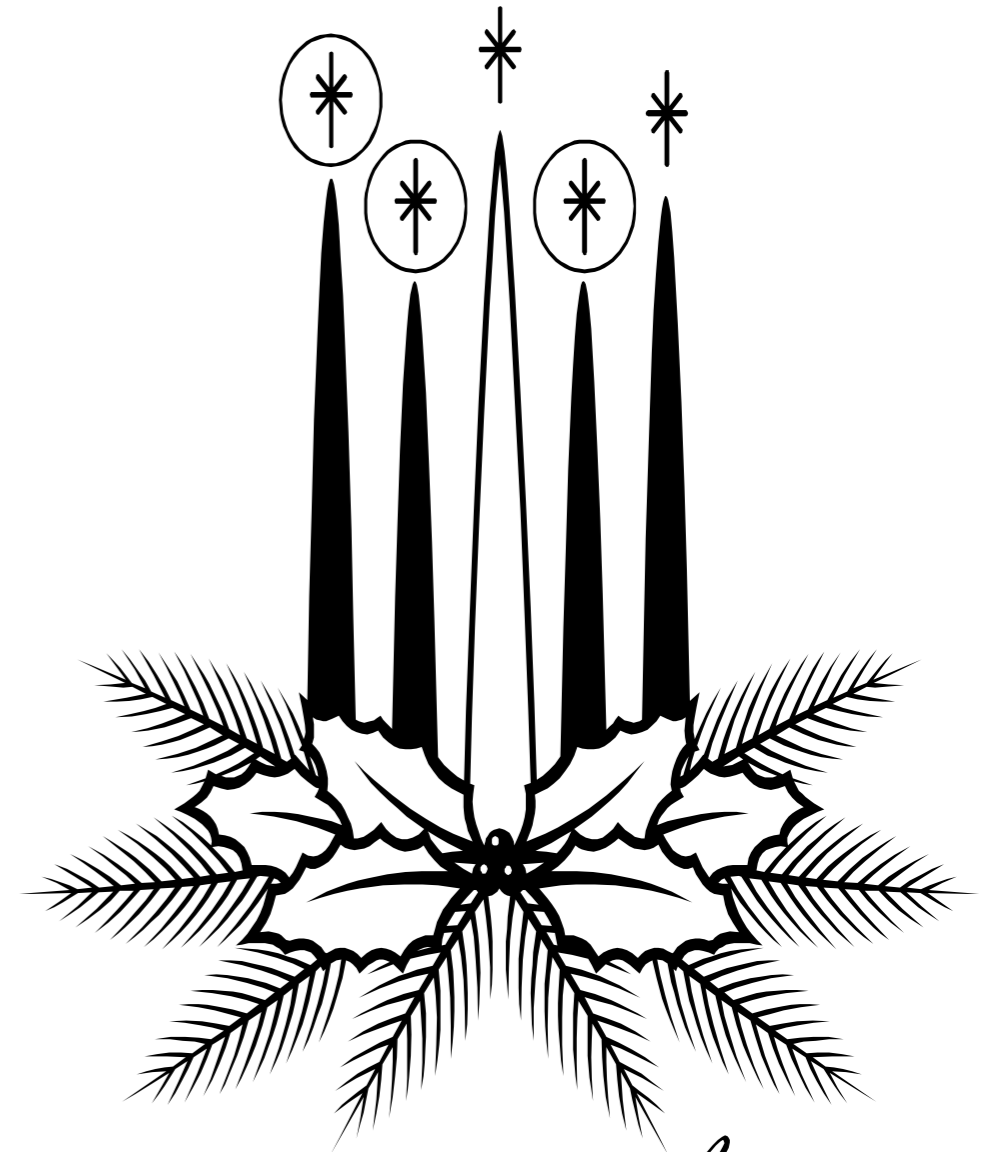
Church Office
(951) 689-2626

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(951) 689-3829

Web Sites:
www.faithriverside.org

[Facebook.com/
FaithRiverside](https://www.facebook.com/FaithRiverside)

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3RD SUNDAY OF Advent

Worship Service
Third Sunday in Advent
December 12, 2010—8:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 12, 2010, 8:00 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see *“the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful”* (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, *“be patient”* and *“establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand”* (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John, the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as *“the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,”* so is the good news of Jesus preached to you, also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His holy Church, so that *“sorrow and sighing shall flee away”* (Is. 35:10).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand
OPENING HYMN “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” *LSB 532*

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Pastor: May God judge His people with righteousness and justice.
People: May He defend the poor, deliver the needy, and crush the oppressor.
(Psalm 72:2, 4, adapted)
Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God. *(Psalm 146:5)*
People: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. *(Psalm 146:7b-8a)*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION [*LSB p. 167*]

(Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.)
Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.,
People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8-9*
Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
People: 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.
Pastor: 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. *John 20:19-23*
People: Amen.

Leave your checkbook at home.
*Faith Lutheran Church Accepts
Electronic Giving, EFT (checking/Savings)*

A Simple, Generous Choice
Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our Church. Please contact Bruce Duerfeldt to learn how you can participate.



Season of Generosity

As you contemplate donations this holiday season, please keep **Faith Lutheran** in mind. Your contributions are needed for everything from special programs to basic operating expenses—both are deserving of your support. Please be as generous as you can this holiday season and in the year ahead. For the convenience of church members, we offer electronic giving. Contact Bruce Duerfeldt for more information.



“Early Communion Class for all 5th graders and up”

Pastor Wenz will be starting an Early Communion class to prepare 5th graders or other students in 5th through 8th grade who have not yet taken this class, to receive Holy Communion. We will start on January 9, 2011 and the next three Sundays after church from noon till 1 pm. To sign up please contact Pastor Wenz or the church office. A work book will be provided.



LWML CHRISTMAS PARTY

All the ladies are invited to the L.W.M.L Christmas Party at Flo’s Restaurant, 5620 Van Buren Blvd. on Saturday **December 18th at 11:30 am.** Also please bring a white elephant gift for exchange! For more information call Caroline Schroder (951) 687-0391



Angel Tree is Here!

Faith has our Angel Tree gifts for children available again this year to bless financially struggling families through your generosity. There are tags for boys’ and girls’ gifts you can buy and bring to church to be given to local families. We are also partnering with the national ministry called **Project Angel Tree**, which blesses children whose parents are incarcerated. Look for the “Angel Tree” in the narthex to sponsor a child—either locally or for Project Angel Tree.



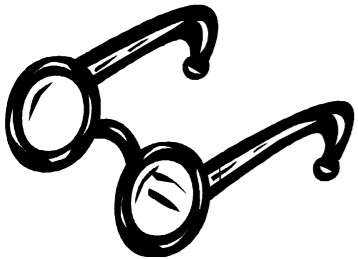
Starting Monday January 10th at 6 pm Woman’s Bible Study will be held in the Fellowship Hall. For more information please contact Karen Rice (951) 293-6593 after 5 pm.



FROM THE TREASURER . . .
FOR THE WEEK AT FAITH: 12/5/2010
Attendance: 8 am—89, 10:30 am—60

Amount needed per week (average) to operate our Church:	\$4,100.00
Last Week's offering for expenses for the Lord's work at Faith:	\$
Difference	-\$
Dedicated Funds offerings (for specific programs or purpose):	\$

Social Ministries is now collecting jackets, blankets, and sleeping bags to provide for the homeless during colder weather. We are accepting new and used ones. All used items need to be in good condition. **We are not accepting any other clothing at this time!**



Got Glasses?

Do you have old eyeglasses that are just laying around the house? If so, then donate them today! Social Ministries is collecting old and used eye glasses to provide for the homeless and needy families. There will be a drop off box located in the Narthex. For more information please see Stephanie Michaud, or call the office.

On Sunday Dec. 19th Thrivent Financial will be hosting a brunch between services. Join us as Thrivent talks about how members can use their "Choice Dollars" to benefit Faith's ministries. This is open to all, not just current Thrivent members.



Upcoming Worship Schedule 2010

Dec. 15 at 1:00 & 7:00 p.m. – Mid-week Advent Service

Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m. – Children's Christmas Program

11:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve candlelight service

Dec. 25 at 10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day Worship Service

The Third Advent Candle - The Candle of Joy - The Creacy Family

The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. Our lives, in and of themselves, are not naturally filled with joy. By nature we are the objects of God's wrath and destined to live lives filled with sadness of sin, the terror of tribulation, and the despair of death. Therefore, we are led to join King David in confessing our sins and pleading for God to restore us to joy:

"...I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me...Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." —Psalm 51: 3-5, 8-12 NIV

God has responded and through Christ has rescued us from our fearsome situation. We can indeed respond with joy to the Good News proclaimed by the angels to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." - Luke 2 10-11 NIV

We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the source of our eternal joy as we sing:

1 Light one can-dle for hope, one bright can-dle for
 2 Light one can-dle for peace, one bright can-dle for
 hope, He brings hope to ev - 'ry heart, He
 peace, He brings peace to ev - 'ry heart, He
 comes! He comes! comes! He comes!
 3 Light one can-dle for joy, one bright can-dle for joy,
 3 - first ending
 Ev - 'ry na-tion will find sal - va-tion in Beth-l'em's ba - by boy.
 3 - second ending
 Ev - 'ry na-tion will find sal - va-tion in Beth-l'em's ba - by boy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Be seated

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 35: 1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.⁸ And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.⁹ No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord;

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING James 5: 7-11

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

L This is the Word of the Lord;

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Those Serving and Assisting You in God's Service Today:

Pastor Paul Wenz – Organist, Caitlin St. John

Altar Guild 8:00 a.m. Heather Svika & Teresa Wilson

10:30 am Dee Moore

Elder 8 & 10:30 am Forrest Fulk

This week at Faith:

Dec. 12, 2010

**** Today****

8:00 am **Traditional Worship Service**

9:15 am Adult Bible Study and Sunday School

10:30 am **Contemporary Worship Service**

Monday

11:30 am **Grace Eckhardt Memorial Service**

6:00 pm Elders' Meeting

Tuesday

6:00 pm Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday

10:00 am Christine Cahill graveside @ Olivewood

11:00 am Bible Study at Whispering Fountains

1:00 pm Advent Midweek Service

6:00 pm Bell choir practice & **ADVENT SUPPER**

7:00 pm Advent Midweek Service

8:00 pm Christmas Choir Practice

Thursday

10:00 am Bible Study

Friday

7:00 pm Tacky Christmas Party @ Pastor Wenz's House

Saturday

7:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Next Sunday

8:00 am **Traditional Service**

9:15 am Adult Bible Study and Sunday School & Brunch sponsored by Thrivent

10:30 am **Contemporary Worship Service**

Christmas Open House

JOIN US TODAY! Sunday, Dec. 12th

3:00 - 6:00 p.m

Pastor and Kedma Wenz invite you to their house at:



15811 Skyridge Dr.

Riverside, CA 92503

(call church or our home at 951-352-6554 for directions)

**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 (*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Cor. 11:23–25*)

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord + be with you always.
People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *Sung, see LSB p. 180 for music)*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”	LSB 673
	“O Come All Ye Faithful”	LSB 379
	“Angels from the Realms of Glory”	LSB 367

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Mighty and merciful Lord, Your promise is not only the redemption of all You have made but the restoration of all that was lost to us because of sin and its death. We rejoice in the hope and promise of all that is to come when Christ returns in His glory, restoring what was lost to us and granting us even more than we could ever imagine. Bring us at last to that day when we shall exchange the broken realities of this world for the new heaven and new earth of Christ's promise; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN "Let Our Gladness Have No End" LSB 381

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*To God Alone Be the Glory!*

**ALLELUIA and VERSE** *Luke 3:4b, 6*

**P** Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
**C** **make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 11: 2-15

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter:  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples<sup>3</sup> to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”<sup>7</sup> As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. <sup>9</sup> Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. <sup>13</sup> For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup> And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. <sup>15</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**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.

*Be seated*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** *Missy Creacy*

**SERMON HYMN** “Once in David’s Royal City” LSB 376

**SERMON** "In Christ We Have Victory for Every Challenge We Face"

*by Pastor Paul Wenz*

**OFFERING**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our Synodical president, Rev. Matthew C. Harrison and our district president, Rev. Larry Stoterau, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For Barack Obama, our President, for Arnold Schwarzenegger, our Governor, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the sick and all in need of God's merciful healing, (*especially \_\_\_\_\_*) and for all who in any affliction or need cry out to the Lord for relief, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

[Additional petitions for prayer may be inserted here, ending with . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**People: Alleluia.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**People: To You, O Lord. Amen.**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

**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.**

Pastor: 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS** (*Sung, see LSB p. 178 for music*)

***Holy, Holy Holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:***

***Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: O Lord, God of power and might, In Your righteousness Your anger burned against us because of sin, yet Your love sought to redeem us from sin and death. We give You thanks for the love that spoke mercy through the prophets and delivered up Your own Son to bear the burden of our sin and to suffer the pain of its death on our behalf. We give You thanks for redeeming Your fallen creation through Your Son and making the bold new promise of all things made new by His death and resurrection. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may believe in our Lord Jesus and wear as our garment of salvation the holiness and righteousness He gave to us in our Baptism. Feed us on heaven's bread and salvation's cup in this Holy Supper of His body and blood.

**People: 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**