



175TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SUGGESTIONS

The 175th Anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

April 26, 1847–2022

Only Jesus: No Other Name

*“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”
(Acts 4:12).*

*Note: With great delight, we give thanks for 175 years of fellowship and faithful confession in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; with even higher delight, we praise God for the glorious resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, the very Lamb of God, who was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. Our Synod exists to proclaim **only Jesus** — and not ourselves — as Lord. Our worship and the Church Year likewise are ordered to proclaim Jesus, that by believing we may have life in His name and no other. In this spirit, we offer these worship suggestions and sermon helps for congregations to commemorate this anniversary and give thanks without abandoning this Sunday after Easter and its proclamation of the pure spiritual milk, which is Christ and His Word. Only Jesus shall be our cause to gather each first day of the week, which by His resurrection has now become His day. God grant it that our Missouri Synod would continually confess in her life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God!*

For the Bulletin:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) believes, teaches and confesses faith in Jesus Christ as taught in the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions. For 175 years, the Holy Spirit has kept us in the one true faith and still continues to gather sinners into the Holy Christian Church by grace through faith — all on account of Christ. As we give thanks for our Synod’s founding on April 26, 1847, we rejoice in the 175th-anniversary theme, “Only Jesus: No Other Name,” based on Acts 4:12. Until Jesus comes, the LCMS will continue to trust in, teach and preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Three-Year Lectionary Series C: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

That You May Believe and Have Life in His Name

On the Lord’s day, St. John the apostle was given a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. He is the Living One, “the firstborn of the dead” (Rev. 1:5). He died for all people, and behold, He is alive forevermore! Therefore, He has “the keys of Death and Hades” (Rev. 1:18). For His death atoned for sin and conquered death, and in His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to us. The “sharp two-edged sword” of His mouth (Rev. 1:16) calls you to “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,” that by such faith “you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). To that end, He sends His ministers of the Word, as the Father sent Him, “to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31).

One-Year Lectionary Series C: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Quasimodo Geniti)

The Wounds of Christ Give Us Life

“For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood” (1 John 5:7–8). These three point to Christ and flow from Christ. Jesus shows His disciples His hands and side, from which blood and water flowed, saying, “Peace be with you” (John 20:19). He presents the wounds that turn our fear to gladness and that restore us to the Father. Jesus breathes on His disciples and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). His breath, His words are Spirit and life. They raise up our dry, dead bones and give us new and everlasting life (Ezek. 37:1–14). Christ now gives His ministers to speak His forgiving, Spirit-filled words to the penitent in His stead.



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Our Lord continues to come to His people, presenting His wounds to us in the Sacraments of water and blood. He bids us to touch His side at His table, to receive His risen body and blood in true faith, that believing we may have life in His name.

(Summaries for every Sunday and feast in both lectionaries are available at [lcms.org/worship](https://www.lcms.org/worship).)

For Service and Sermon:

Series C Hymn Suggestions

470 “O Sons and Daughters of the King”

The appointed Hymn of the Day. The German tune (rather than the French tune, 471) has enjoyed a longer history of use in the LCMS.

480 “He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

Easter hymn written by C.F.W. Walther, first president and a founder of the Missouri Synod.

473 “Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free”

This hymn is based on the Easter Day epistle and combines simple praise of Christ with exhortation to confess Christ and live together in holiness, a fine prayer for our Synod. The composers of text and tune were both active in the LCMS in the past century.

548 “Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious”

Originally an Easter hymn (see The Lutheran Hymnal 207) and a fine summary of Christ’s saving work for the forgiveness of sins (Gospel reading). Perhaps use at distribution or as a closing hymn.

614 “‘As Surely as I Live,’ God Said”

This catechetical hymn teaches the fifth chief part, which is drawn from the Gospel reading. Useful in light of the LCMS’ historic emphasis on both objective justification and confession and absolution.

533 “Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure”

A fit with the epistle from Revelation and the theme of “Only Jesus.” Suitable during distribution.

585 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

A prayer for the church, that Christ would preserve her. This is an ideal hymn for the anniversary and a fine choice for a closing hymn. It could also be sung at a Bible study, luncheon or other anniversary event outside the service itself.

655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Ideal for a closing hymn or other final prayer against the enemies of God’s Word and the work of the church instituted by Christ.

One-Year Hymn Suggestions

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421 “Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”

A fine choice during distribution, drawing on John 20: “peace” found in Jesus’ wounds. Stanzas 1, 4 and 5 are especially appropriate, though it may be wise to retain the stanzas about struggling against sin, since the Sacrament strengthens us for this.



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(See [Hymn Planning Suggestions](#) from LCMS Worship and [LSB Hymn Selection Guide](#) for more hymns suited to the propers of the day.)

General Sermon Points:

- Note: It would not be appropriate to hijack the entire sermon for the purposes of a Synod anniversary, but a few thanksgivings, examples, exhortations and prayers could be made by the preacher. These connections and points are offered as prompts for the preacher’s further development.
- The chosen theme of the 175th LCMS anniversary is “Only Jesus: No Other Name,” from Acts 4:12: “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
- Thanksgiving: for faithfulness, for preservation, but above all for Christ in whom we have salvation. God — not us — has preserved His church and our Synod. What do we have that we have not received (1 Cor. 4:7)?

- Prayer: that He would preserve the name of Jesus and His Gospel among us; that He would spare us from doubt and keep us from false teaching; that His Word would not return void, neither among the lost nor in our life and conversation; that He would send laborers into His harvest among us; that the Holy Spirit would unite the one church in a true and united confession here on earth.
- Examples: Consider any number of historical highlights from the historical information sheets written by Concordia Historical Institute and available from the LCMS.

Gospel Reading Connections (both lectionaries):

- John 20: the Upper Room, the Office of the Keys and Thomas
- In this Gospel, we see the means of the world’s salvation:
 - Christ’s wounds that bring peace
 - The fact of His resurrection
 - (Objective justification)
- Proclaimed in the Gospel:
 - The absolution, which delivers what it says, not to the exclusion of every other proclamation of the Gospel
 - The creation of faith by the Holy Spirit
 - The object of faith: Christ’s person and work
 - (The Means of Grace, that is, the Word and the Sacraments)
- Creating, reviving and sustaining saving faith:
 - Making glad the disciples, who had failed
 - Restoring Thomas, answering his questions, shoring up
 - (Subjective justification)



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Series C Sermon Connections: First Reading (Acts 5):

- In Acts 5, the apostles bear up under pressure to stop preaching the truth about Christ. The LCMS was formed for this purpose, and it is still the primary objective of organizing our congregations and workers. The Synod's objectives are to “conserve and promote the unity of the true faith . . . and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism, and heresy” and “strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world” (LCMS Constitution, Article III:1–2).
- v. 20 — “Speak to the people all the words of this Life.” The name of Jesus is now “Life” because He is risen from the dead, because He is the source of life, and because “the way” of His Christians is lived in Him. He is our life. The aim of our Synod and the Lutheran church is to hear the words of life and to live in Him together.
- v. 29 — We obey (i.e., both hear and heed) God's Word above that of men. This is true in our teaching, which is always derived from the Scriptures and does not change with the fancies of the times. It is also true of life and deed.
- v. 30–32 — The Trinity and “Only Jesus.” The reply of the apostles confesses that the Father raised Christ from the dead and the Spirit bears witness to Him. The whole Trinity is at work for our salvation, accomplished by Christ's death and resurrection. These have worked repentance and forgive sins. Thus, there is no other name.

Epistle (Revelation 1):

- Much could be made of the words of blessing (vv. 4–5), doxology (vv. 5b–7) and announcement (vv. 8, 17–18), which are tied up with who Christ is and what He has done for us.
- His blood has freed us from our sins and so has made us all a kingdom of priests (vv. 5–6). This is a fine definition of the church and the reason to remain faithful, united and connected as a Synod.
- Christ sits on the throne as Lord of His church. This is wise to remember, lest we imagine that the church is our creation, ours to keep or ours to make successful. We are His own; we live under Him in His kingdom; and we serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness (Small Catechism, Second Article).

One-Year Sermon Connections: Old Testament (Ezekiel 37):

- If an anniversary is a time to give thanks, it is also an opportunity for renewal. The dry bones revelation to Ezekiel might serve as a fine example for our Synod's instruction:
 - Whenever the church becomes ossified, certainly it is because our hope in Christ has been lost or supplanted.
 - What animates the church is always the breath of God, namely, the Word and the Spirit of Christ who is at work in her.



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- The Lord is able to raise even the dead, as we believe He will do for us at the Last Day. Certainly, He is also able to raise up whatever we fear is lacking to preserve and grow His church among us. He will do it by the Word of Christ.
- God the Lord has spoken; He will surely do it.

Epistle (1 John 5):

- The victory that overcomes the world is our faith on account of the object of our faith: Jesus only, the Son of God, the Lord.
- The testimony of the Holy Trinity concerning Jesus Christ is clear, and we receive it in the Holy Scriptures. There is no other name by which we are saved.
- The “faith” mentioned here is firm trust in who Christ is and what He has done, that it has been done for us. His promises will hold; therefore, faith that believes the promises and testimony is said to “overcome” and win victory.

If our Synod and churches wish to continue and even to prove victorious, it must be in this birthright: believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Him only. God grant that we would continually hold this testimony in ourselves and, accordingly, confess it publicly before the world, whom He has overcome.

Petitions *(for inclusion in the Prayer of the Church):*

General Prayer/Responsive Form:

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for Your gifts to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the past 175 years. Chiefly do we thank You

for the gift of Jesus Christ, who alone is our salvation. By His death, You have atoned for our sins; by His resurrection, You have justified us; and by His Word and Holy Spirit, You have brought the Gospel of peace to us. We give thanks that for 175 years in the congregations of our Synod, You have richly and daily forgiven the sins of believers. Not unto us, but unto Your name, O Lord, be glory!

We implore You, O Lord, to sanctify and keep the congregations, schools and organizations together with all our people in the truth. Your Word is truth. Preserve us from false teaching; bring us to repentance for every place where love or zeal has faltered; grant us and our children bold and steadfast hearts to remain faithful to this confession and church, suffering all rather than to fall away from it; and unite us with all Christians in a true confession of Jesus Christ, in whom the world has redemption: the forgiveness of sins. [Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**]

Ektene Form:

For 175 years of God’s blessings to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, especially for the gift of Jesus Christ who alone is our salvation, let us give thanks to the Lord; and that He would preserve these blessings among us for many years to come, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

In thanksgiving for Christ’s death, which has atoned for our sins; for His resurrection, which has justified us; and for His Word and Holy Spirit, which have brought the Gospel of peace to us, that Jesus only may remain our Synod’s constant joy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**



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For the congregations, schools and organizations of our Synod, together with all our people, that God would sanctify and keep them in the truth of His Word, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That He would preserve us from false teaching; bring us to repentance for every place where love or zeal has faltered; grant us and our children bold and steadfast hearts to remain faithful to this confession and church, suffering all rather than to fall away from it; and unite us with all Christians in a true confession of Jesus Christ, in whom the world has redemption: the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

(See also the [“Let Us Pray”](#) prayers provided by LCMS Worship.)

