

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HURRICANE RELIEF CONCERT: Saturday, October 11 at 7:00 PM.

Chris Driesbach will provide his engaging music and message to communicate the message of Christ and the love of Christ during the recovery in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Donations will be gathered to send to WELS Committee on Relief for distribution to Gustav and Ike victims. **Thrivent will give \$1 for every \$2 given up to \$2000.**

Ways you can help out:

- 1. **Take business cards and posters and give out freely**
- 2. **Invite a friend**
- 3. **Bring refreshments for after the concert (see sign-up sheet)**

PLUG INTO THE WORD! Here are the weekly opportunities to connect with the Word and fellow Christians:

Sundays @ ...9:00 AM: Study of Church and State Issues (*Pastor Geiger*)
Ladies' Bible Study (*Kathy Ahlers*)

Study for Children and Youth & Teens

Tuesdays @ ... 7:00 PM: Bible Information Class (*Pastor Geiger*)
9:00 PM: Study of Church and State Issues

(*Teleclass w/ Pastor Geiger*)

Wednesdays @ 9:30 AM: Ladies' Bible Study – Topic: Job
6:00 PM: Youth Confirmation
6:30 PM: Teen Study & Fellowship

COMING SOON: Men's Small Group: Wings & the Word This gathering for men will begin soon. Speak with Pastor Geiger if interested in being part of this.

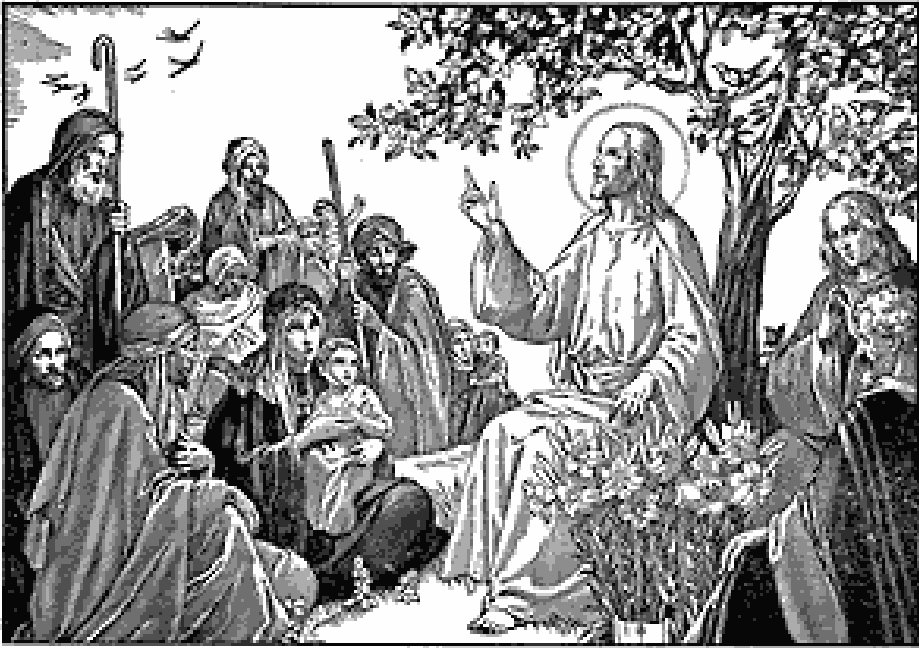
“Nurturing the faith of all believers” is a core activity of our mission. If you are not involved in a weekly Bible Study, this week is a great time to start!

LADIES' SUNDAY AM BIBLE STUDY: Next Sunday the Ladies will be starting a new study and you are all welcome to join us. The name of the study is called **Victoriously Frazzled: The Frazzled Female's Guide to Restoring Her Sanity** by Cindi Wood.

Cindi lives in Kings Mountain, NC and is the mom of 2 boys. Through this 5-6 week study we will find victory in all our stresses as we spend time with Jesus. The topics include:

- 1) Spending time with God
- 2) Trusting God in all our Circumstances
- 3) Responding God's Way
- 4) Experiencing God's Practical Power
- 5) Being Content with Growing Older

If you would like to join us, we would love to have you! Please let Kathy Ahlers know if you would like a book purchased for you. The cost per book is \$10.



HEALING miracle
 SPIRIT doing
 refresh
 community

SEED HEARING
 grace
 GROWING

Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost

OCTOBER 5, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
1155 Executive Circle, Cary, NC 27511
(919) 465-4400

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Pastor Mike Geiger pastormike@treeoflifenc.org
Vicar Steve Neuman vicarsteve@treeoflifenc.org

**LET ME TELL YOU A STORY
ABOUT... FEASTING**

Good morning! As we wrap up the series on the stories of Jesus, this compelling story of the Parable of the Wedding Banquet drives home the reality for one who comes to the feast of the Lord and the one who rejects the invitation to the feast. Understanding this parable is a matter of eternal life or eternal death. God bless us as we listen to his Word and respond to him!

Opening Song..... “Here, O My Lord, I See You Face To Face”
Christian Worship Hymn 315

Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon you lean.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
Here is the heav'nly table spread anew.
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with you.

I have no help but yours nor do I need
Another arm but yours to lean upon.
It is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in your might, your might alone.

Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon you lean.

**OCTOBER 5, 2008
THE WEEK AHEAD**

Today! *WELCOME! THANK YOU for joining us this morning!
We pray that you were blessed by your time with us!*

- 12:00 PM Outdoor Work Day
- 12– 3 PM Fun Day @ Gethsemane

Monday
• 7:00 PM Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

Wednesday
• 9:30 AM Ladies' Wed. AM Bible Study (*Book of Job*)
• 6:00 PM Confirmation Class
• 6:30 PM Teen Group Meeting

Saturday
• 7:00 PM Hurricane Relief Benefit Concert featuring
Singer/Songwriter Chris Driesbach @ 7 PM

Next Sunday
• 9:00 AM Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Class
• 10:30 AM Worship
• 11:45 PM Choir Practice

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 2nd Joint Reformation Worship at ToL @ 5 PM
(Fellowship Meal Coordinators Needed!)

**THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING
THIS WEEK:**

KEYBOARDIST / MUSIC Dawn Williams

REFRESHMENTS Ahlers Family & Austin Family

KID'S CHURCH Families Together

CHURCH CLEANING
Side A J. Austin & P. Johnson
Side B Ahlers Family

GREETERS
Door Greeter John Schmitt
Worship Greeter Janet Austin

USHERS
Head Usher Gerard Lum
Assistant Usher: Scott Strack & Conrad Simon
Acolyte Devan Strack & Kelsey Strack

**SERVING NEXT WEEK:
OCTOBER 12TH**

KEYBOARDIST / MUSIC Wendy Malone

REFRESHMENTS Collins Family & Englander Family

KID'S CHURCH Families Together

CHURCH CLEANING
Side A Booker Family
Side B Berg Family

GREETERS
Door Greeter Ken Ahlers
Worship Greeter

USHERS
Head Usher John Schmitt
Assistant Usher: Rex Mauthe & Phil Williams
Acolyte Liz Mauthe & Chris Swift

Welcome to Tree of Life!

The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)**
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell:
"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that:
"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper:
"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)**
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior:
"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)

We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
Here is the heav'nly table spread anew.
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with you.

I have no help but yours nor do I need
Another arm but yours to lean upon.
It is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in your might, your might alone.

Text and Tune: public domain. *Setting: c 1969 Concordia Publishing House..

Service of Word and Sacrament *Christian Worship page 26*

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise “Lord, Have Mercy”
Christian Worship page 27

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: *(sing)* **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: *(sing)* **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: *(sing)* **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious: his name is worthy of praise.

“Here I Am to Worship” *Choir*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **AMEN.**

BE SEATED

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are his.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Blessing, honor, glory, and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

For the Lamb who was slain
Has begun his reign. Alleluia!

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: c 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.
*Tune and Setting: c 1975, 1988 Richard Hillert.

“Thank The Lord” *Christian Worship page 36*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise.
Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re-joice
and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth
in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

BLESSING

Christian Worship page 37

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn “This Is The Feast Of Victory”
Christian Worship Hymn 265

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Continued on next page

**FIRST LESSON
ISAIAH 25:6-9**

“The Lord has prepared a marvelous banquet of grace for his people.”

⁶ On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine- the best of meats and the finest of wines.

⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

⁹ In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 23 *Christian Worship page 72*

Refrain: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

*The Lord is my `shepherd;**
I shall not `be in want.

*He makes me lie down in green `pastures;**
he leads me beside quiet `waters.

*He re`stores my soul;**
he guides me in paths of righteousness
for his `name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley
*of the shadow of death, I will fear no `evil,**
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they `comfort me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of
*my `enemies.**

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup `overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me
*all the days `of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
for`ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen

Refrain

SECOND LESSON
PHILIPPIANS 4:4-13

“In any and every situation, rejoice!”

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

C: *(sing)* **Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!**

**These words are writ-ten that we may be-lieve
that Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

STAND

GOSPEL LESSON
MATTHEW 22:1-14

“Many are invited, but few are chosen.”

¹ Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

Continued on next page

“Holy, Holy, Holy” *Christian Worship page 34*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

You are my God, and I will ex-alt you.
I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-va-tion.

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, when ever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

“O Christ, Lamb Of God” *Christian Worship page 35*

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A-men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

<p>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,</p>	<p>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 forever. Amen.</p>
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THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion*Christian Worship* pages 33-36



At Tree of Life, we desire to have all commune with us at the Lord's Table. However, since the Scripture encourages us to "recognize the body and blood of the Lord," "examine ourselves," and join together as "one body," we ask those who are visiting with us this morning to take the time to understand these teachings and establish a unity of beliefs with us before partaking of this act of fellowship. By this practice of close communion, we are in no way judging your personal faith and relationship with Jesus, we just ask for an opportunity for us to share our beliefs with you so that together we can make a true expression of oneness at the Lord's Table.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (sing) And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sing) We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: (sing) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

4"Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

5"But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.

6The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

8"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' 10So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

13"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14"For many are invited, but few are chosen."

After the reading of the Gospel Lesson:

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn "Jesus, Your Blood And Righteousness" *Christian Worship* Hymn 376

Jesus, your blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

Lord, I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
You have for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.

Bold shall I stand in that great day
Who can a word against me say?
Fully through you absolved I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then this shall be all my plea:
Jesus has lived and died for me.

Lord, I believe your precious blood,
Which at the very throne of God
Forever will for sinners plead,
For me -- e'en for my soul -- was shed.

Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

**GOD HAS PREPARED A FEAST
FOR YOU!**

Matthew 22:1-14
Pastor Mike Geiger

Statement of Belief Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BE SEATED

Friendship Registers

Offering

STAND

Prayer of the Church *Christian Worship Page 32*

M: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give to us to eat and drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waiver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith, and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.