



## Memorial Day Celebration

May 30, 2021



## First Evangelical Lutheran Church

(Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod)

231 W Smoke Tree Lane, Prescott, AZ

**Rev. Fredric E. Piepenbrink**

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- **First-time visitors**—please fill out the yellow card in the seat in front of you and return this card to the offering plate or the pastor.
  - You can follow the **order of service** printed out in the **bulletin**.
  - **Hymns** are found in the red hymnal in front of you.
  - A printed copy of today's **sermon** is located on the table in the narthex.
  - Please reserve the back pews for parents with **small children**. If you have a fussy child, feel free to use the parents' room in the back of the sanctuary.
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### MEMORIAL DAY ACCLAMATION:

M: We worship in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To you, our God, we fly for mercy and for grace. Oh, hear our lowly cry and do not hide your face!

C: O Lord, stretch forth your mighty hand and guard and bless our native land.

M: The powers that you ordained with heavenly wisdom bless; may evil be restrained, replaced by righteousness.

**C: O Lord, stretch forth your mighty hand and guard and bless our native land.**

M: Though vain and foolish, still we are your people, Lord. Oh, bend us to your will: we'll serve no other God!

**C: O Lord, stretch forth your mighty hand and guard and bless our native land.**

M: This day has found a special place in our national calendar. Well it should, for any nation which is unmindful of its heroic past will be heedless of its possible future. A sense of dependence upon God as a nation will contribute much to the spirit which makes a nation strong.

**C: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."**

M: As human beings with limited vision, we have been plagued by the questions of "Why?" when loved ones have been lost in war. God's final answer is his sovereignty.

**C: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

M: The righteous perish,

**C: And no one ponders it in his heart;**

M: Devout men are taken away,

**C: And no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil.**

M: Those who walk uprightly enter into peace;

**C: They find rest as they lie in death.**

**Moment of Silence:**

In memory of those who gave their lives to preserve our freedoms.

M: Let us recommit ourselves to service. Let us honor the memory of those who have given their all. Let us serve the Lord who gave his all, that they, and we, might live forever.

**C: The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers:**

M: May he never leave us, nor forsake us.

**C: May he turn our hearts and the hearts of our children to love him and to walk in all his ways.**

**OPENING HYMN:**.....CW #517 (st. 1-3) – Almighty Father, Strong to Save

**INVOCATION:**

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 AND ABSOLUTION:**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

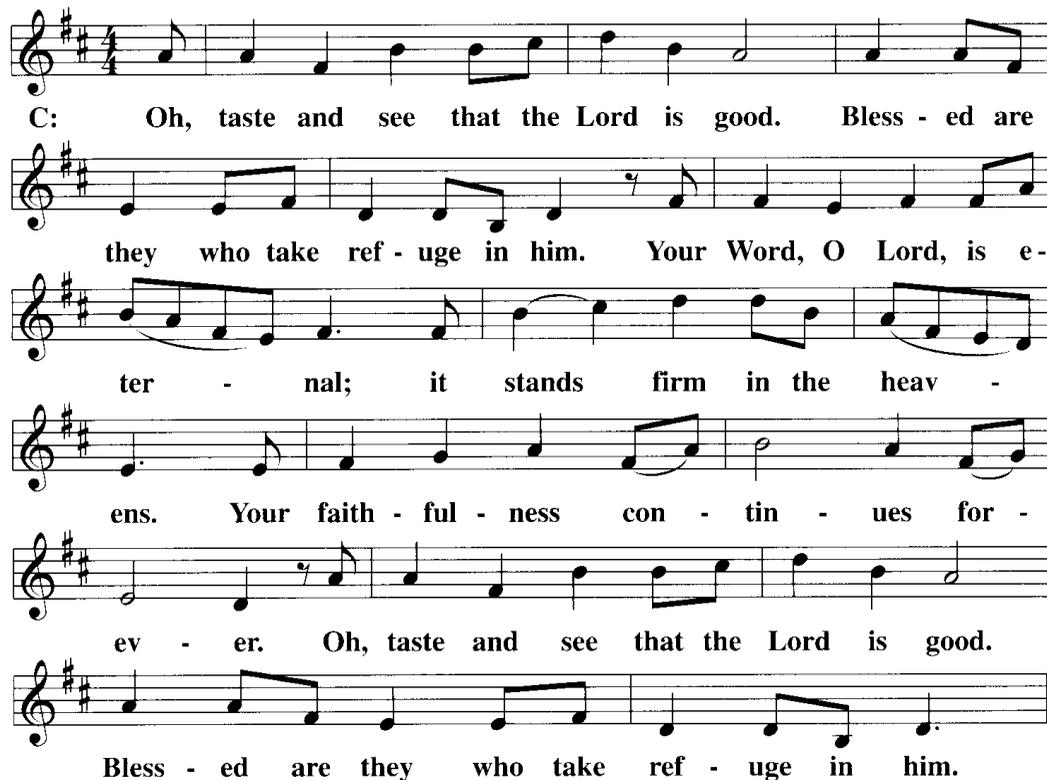
**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**SONG OF THE LITURGY:**



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

M: Almighty God, you are our strength and our shield. We give you thanks for the men and women of our armed forces, past and present, and especially for those who have died while serving. May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace, and may our nation be ever grateful for their service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: Remember the soldiers who died for their country.**

Judges 5:1-9

On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song: <sup>2</sup>“When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the LORD! <sup>3</sup>“Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I, even I, will sing to the LORD; I will praise the LORD, the God of Israel, in song.

<sup>4</sup>“When you, LORD, went out from Seir, when you marched from the land of Edom, the earth shook, the heavens poured, the clouds poured down water.

<sup>5</sup>The mountains quaked before the LORD, the One of Sinai, before the LORD, the God of Israel.

<sup>6</sup>“In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned; travelers took to winding paths. <sup>7</sup> Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel. <sup>8</sup> God chose new leaders when war came to the city gates, but not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. <sup>9</sup> My heart is with Israel’s princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the LORD!

**ALMIGHTY FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE:.....CW #517 (st. 4)**

**C: O Trinity of love and pow’r,  
Your people shield in danger’s hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them all where’er they go;  
Thus evermore to you shall be  
Glad praise from air and land and sea.**

**SECOND LESSON: Remember the saints who died for their faith.**

Acts 7:54-60

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

<sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

<sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**FOR ALL THE SAINTS:.....CW #551 (st.1-3)**

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
All who their faith before the world confessed,  
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
  
2. You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight  
And in the darkness drear their one true light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
  
3. Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old  
And win with them the victor’s crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**GOSPEL LESSON: Remember Christ who died for all. John 12:20-28a**

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!”



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: .....CW #376 - Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness**

**SERMON: .....John 15:13**

## **The Ultimate Sacrifice**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### 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.**

### BENEDICTION:

**M: 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**..... CW #469 – Take My Life and Let It Be

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## PARTICIPANTS

Officiant: Pastor Fred Piepenbrink

Organist: Mrs. Bev Wischmann

**It is the custom** of this church to conduct an open forum the Sunday before a voter's meeting in order to receive input from the congregation concerning the joys and challenges facing the church. Please consider joining us immediately following the service today to receive updates on important decisions coming up.