



**LEARN
FROM
ME**

**A Service Celebrating
Christian Education**

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Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Day School Newsletter Notice

We invite you to join us for a special worship service to mark the start of the school year and celebrate learning that is firmly grounded in the teachings of our Lord. Through the hymns, Bible readings, sermon and prayers, we will celebrate the wonderful opportunity that students, faculty and staff have to learn from Christ and live for him.

Day School Bulletin Notice

Thank you for joining us for this special worship service to mark the start of the school year and celebrate learning that is firmly grounded in the teachings of our Lord. Through the hymns, Bible readings, sermon and prayers of this service, we will celebrate the wonderful opportunity that students, faculty and staff have to learn from Christ and live for him.

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Order of Service

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me. Matthew 11:29

Opening Hymn *Werde Munter* **87 87 77 88**

Speak, O Lord, your servant listens, let your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me, let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, wars against your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor that I cling to you forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near you and to listen to your voice;
Let me ever love and hear you, let your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord, flee in terror at your Word;
But to all who feel sin's burden you give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, your words are waters living when my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, your words are bread life-giving; on your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, your words will be my light through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing and my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e'er be near me that I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise, from my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given in the endless joy of heaven.

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

P *We come together to offer praise and thanks to our God, to receive his gift of forgiveness in Christ our Lord and to hear and learn from his Word. We dedicate ourselves anew, as those who teach and those who learn, to grow in grace and knowledge as we listen to Jesus, our Teacher and our Savior.*

C **Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!**

Confession and Absolution

P *Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." What do we learn from Jesus?*

C **We learn that our God is gracious and merciful. He sent his Son to be our Savior.**

P *Let us confess our sins to our gracious God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of his Son.*

C **Almighty God, we have turned away from your will and followed our own desires. Instead of listening to your Word and learning from you, we listen to the temptations of the world around us. We sin against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus our Savior and forgive our sins.**

P *God sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus took onto himself the heavy burden of our sin and guilt. He died for us and rose on the third day to win forgiveness and eternal life for us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." What do we learn from Jesus?*

C **We learn the joy and freedom of bearing the easy yoke and the light burden of faith in his name. We learn that in him alone we have forgiveness and peace.**

Hymn Jesus Loves Me 77 77 and refrain

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Children's Message

Hymn**Jesus Loves Me 77 77 and refrain**

Jesus loves me! He who died heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, lets his little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Old Testament Lesson**1 Samuel 3:1-10**

Epistle Lesson.....**2 Timothy 3:14-17**

Gospel Lesson.....**Matthew 11:25-30**

Sermon Hymn**Nun Danket All CM**

Let children hear the mighty deeds, which God performed of old,
Which in our younger days we saw, and which our parents told.

Our sons and daughters we shall tell and they again to theirs
That generations yet unborn may teach them to their heirs.

Sermon

Hymn of Response**Nun Danket All CM**

O teach them with all diligence the truths of God's own Word,
To place in him their confidence, to fear and trust their Lord,

To learn that in our God alone their hope securely stands,
That they may never doubt his love but walk in his commands.

Offering

Prayer of Dedication for Teachers

(All day school, Sunday school and youth and adult Bible class teachers may stand.)

P Heavenly Father, pour out your blessings on these teachers, and on all who teach and all who learn. Guide parents and teachers as they instruct their children and students. Help students of all ages to grow in knowledge and wisdom and to put what they have learned to use in

serving others. We especially ask you to bless the educational ministries of our congregation. By the power of your Spirit, guide all Christian teachers, students and families in the truth of your Word, that the good news of salvation in Christ Jesus might be clearly taught, readily learned and joyfully expressed in lives of faith and service. We ask this in the name of our Teacher and Lord, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Speak, Lord,

C Your servant is listening.

Lord's Prayer

P Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished praying,

C One of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

P We pray together the prayer our Lord taught to his disciples and to us:

C Our Father...

(Holy Communion, if offered, is celebrated at this time.)

Benediction

P Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

C Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn..... Regent Square 87 87 87

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful, to your truth may we be found.

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Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- **The Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to tune *Werde Munter* 87 87 77 88:

Speak, O Lord, your servant listens, let your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me, let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, wars against your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor that I cling to you forever!

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Lord, your words will be my light through death's cold and dreary night;
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May your Spirit e'er be near me that I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise, from my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given in the endless joy of heaven.

- **The Invocation** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

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

C Amen.

P We come together to offer praise and thanks to our God, to receive his gift of forgiveness in Christ our Lord and to hear and learn from his Word. We dedicate ourselves anew, as those who teach and those who learn, to grow in grace and knowledge as we listen to Jesus, our Teacher and our Savior.

C Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!

- **The Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.” What do we learn from Jesus?

C We learn that our God is gracious and merciful. He sent his Son to be our Savior.

P Let us confess our sins to our gracious God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of his Son.

C Almighty God, we have turned away from your will and followed our own desires. Instead of listening to your Word and learning from you, we listen to the temptations of the world around us. We sin against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus our Savior and forgive our sins.

P God sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus took onto himself the heavy burden of our sin and guilt. He died for us and rose on the third day to win forgiveness and eternal life for us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.” What do we learn from Jesus?

C We learn the joy and freedom of bearing the easy yoke and the light burden of faith in his name. We learn that in him alone we have forgiveness and peace.

- **The Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Jesus Loves Me 77 77 and refrain:

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

- **The Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

(Needed: a Bible)

P One of our Bible lessons today is from the story of Samuel. Samuel lived in Israel in Old Testament times. When he was just a little boy, he went to live and work in the temple of God. The temple was a place to worship God, like our church building. What kind of work do you think he did in the temple? (*Let children answer.*) We know Samuel helped the priest Eli. Maybe he helped to clean the temple. In the mornings, Samuel opened the temple doors so that people could come in to worship.

One night as Samuel slept in the temple, he heard a voice calling him: "Samuel! Samuel!" He got up and ran to Eli, thinking that the priest had called him. But Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to sleep." But when Samuel was lying down again, he heard the voice call his name. Again he ran to Eli. This happened three times, until finally Eli said to Samuel, "It is the Lord who is calling you. When he calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" God called Samuel again, and Samuel answered just as Eli had told him. God told Samuel what was going to happen to Eli and his family.

If God called you, would you answer, "Speak, Lord, I'm listening"? (*Let children answer.*) I think you all want to listen to God. God does speak to you! He speaks to all of us! (*Open the Bible.*) This is the Word of God. In the words of the Bible, God is speaking to us. In these words, God tells us that he loves us. He tells us about his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. He tells us that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead for us! Whenever you listen to Bible stories in church, at Sunday school or at home, you hear God speaking. Just like Samuel, you can say, "Speak, Lord, I'm listening!" Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, help us to be good listeners, especially when we hear your Word. Help us to pay attention to your words and learn from you. Thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior and for teaching us about him in your Word. We pray in his name. Amen.

- **The Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Jesus Loves Me 77 77 and refrain:

Jesus loves me! He who died heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, lets his little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

- **The Old Testament Lesson**, *1 Samuel 3:1-10*, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

- **The Epistle Lesson**, *2 Timothy 3:14-17*, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- **The Gospel Lesson**, *Matthew 11:25-30*, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- *The Sermon Hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune Nun Danket All CM:*

Let children hear the mighty deeds, which God performed of old,
Which in our younger days we saw, and which our parents told.

Our sons and daughters we shall tell and they again to theirs
That generations yet unborn may teach them to their heirs.

- *The Sermon is delivered by the pastor:*

(P) “The word of the Lord was rare in those days.” That’s what it was like in the days of Samuel. The Word of the Lord was rarely heard. Is that what it’s like in our day? Not in this building perhaps, and hopefully never among us. Here the Word of the Lord is always proclaimed and faithfully taught. Here the people of God are faithfully listening. What about the world outside of this place? Is the Word of the Lord rare in our days? We might think so. Surely the Word of the Lord is proclaimed in the world, but it has a lot of competition. Teaching and learning are going on all around us. But who is teaching? What is being taught? You have only to turn on the television or sign on to social media. What voices are you hearing? What voices are your children hearing? What lessons are they learning? We like to think that we won’t pay much attention to the competing voices. We think we know better. But all too often, we too refuse to hear the Word of the Lord, or if we hear it, we don’t really listen or act on what we hear. We would rather watch and read things we shouldn’t watch or read. We would rather have conversations—in person or online—that we shouldn’t have. We make our excuses: “This show is popular; everyone is watching it!” “The latest gossip is just so interesting!” “It’s really not that bad.” We do not always teach the lessons we want our children to learn. We do not always provide examples of the behavior we want them to imitate. Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.” But there are just so many other things to learn and experience, more tempting things, that demand our attention.

There was a time when the Word of the Lord was not rare, when the Word was present on earth in the flesh, in the Person of our Savior Jesus. You might think that everyone would have been eager to hear what he had to say. Certainly crowds gathered around him, but while his voice was heard, not everyone was truly listening and learning from him. Before the words and events of our Gospel reading for today, Jesus had been teaching his disciples. He taught them how to be disciples, how they themselves would preach and teach the Word of God. He warned them that not everyone would listen. It would not always be easy to be disciples of Jesus. Following Jesus meant taking up a cross. It meant finding their lives only by losing their lives in Jesus and for him. But some people would hear the disciples’ message. They would receive the good news. They would listen and believe.

Jesus, having finished teaching his disciples, continues on to teach in the surrounding cities. But before he begins, he receives messengers sent from John the Baptist. John had been