



# **“Keep on Running! You’re on the Right Track!”**

Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Oxford, FL

*September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

### **NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE**

Four weeks of warnings for Christians begins on this Sunday that the life of faith will be marked by difficulties. These warnings are given so that the believer will be prepared to meet these challenges with the confidence of the cross. Today we see that the Word of God doesn't always unite—it also divides. The living and active Word of God does not bring peace between believers and unbelievers, but division.

**WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS THIS MORNING!** We are honored by your presence and invite you to return to worship with us again. If you do not have a church home, consider making ours – yours! If you would like more information about Open Bible Lutheran, please feel free to speak to Pastor Schulz or to one of the Greeters. You may reach Pastor Schulz at 352-753-9038. Or go to our web site: [www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com](http://www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com). Please stay and visit for fellowship after the Worship Service.

### **FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE**

**Restrooms** can be found on the right side of the fellowship hall.

**Personal Hearing Assistance Devices** are available. Ask an usher.

**Please turn off all cell phones** Personal and other electronic devices. Thank you.

**Prayers for Worship** can be found on pages 10 and 11 in the front of the hymnbook.

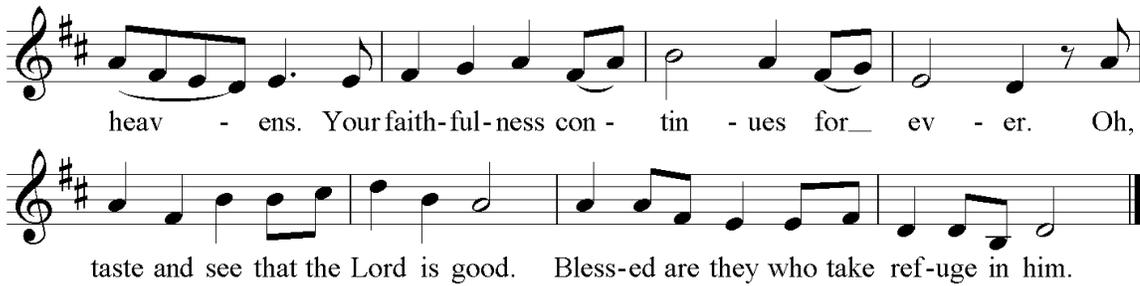
**Applause:** Please refrain from applause during the service.

**Photographs:** Please refrain from any photographs during the service.

† For respect of those who use the sanctuary for meditation before the service, please refrain from any unnecessary noise once the pre-service music has begun.

We have 3 Large Print Hymnals available, please ask an usher for a copy.  
Return at the end of the service.





**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Kings 11:1-3. 12-18**

**pg. 568**

*As the faithful fight to hold to the truth of the will of God, relationships may be ever destroyed. The righteous will live by faith with souls forever protected in the Lord’s free and faithful grace. With this confidence, we risk all to carry out the will of the Lord and cling to his promises.*

When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes, who were about to be murdered. She put him and his nurse in a bedroom to hide him from Athaliah; so he was not killed. He remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the Lord for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

Jehoiada brought out the king’s son and put the crown on him; he presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him, and the people clapped their hands and shouted, “Long live the king!”

When Athaliah heard the noise made by the guards and the people, she went to the people at the temple of the Lord. She looked and there was the king, standing by the pillar, as the custom was. The officers and the trumpeters were beside the king, and all

the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her robes and called out, "Treason! Treason!"

Jehoiada the priest ordered the commanders of units of a hundred, who were in charge of the troops: "Bring her out between the ranks and put to the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest had said, "She must not be put to death in the temple of the Lord." So, they seized her as she reached the place where the horses enter the palace grounds, and there she was put to death.

Jehoiada then made a covenant between the Lord and the king and people that they would be the Lord's people. He also made a covenant between the king and the people. All the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols to pieces and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars. Then Jehoiada the priest posted guards at the temple of the Lord. NIV

**Psalm 139a:** The Psalmist knows the Lord truly understands him. The Lord travels with him every step of the way. His Lord will guide him and when facing trying times, will hold him firmly with his right hand.

## PSALM 139a

*Intro*

*Refrain*



*Psalm Tone*



1. O LORD you have searched me and you know me; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
2. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

*Refrain*

3. Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

4. If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

5. If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
sea,

if I settle on the far side of the

6. Even there your hand will guide me,  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
As it was in the beginning,

your right hand will hold me fast.  
and to the Holy Spirit,

is now,

and will be forever. Amen.

*Refrain*

**THE EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 12:1-13**

**pg.1816**

*Running the race of life requires perseverance because the Word of God brings division and persecution and violence. There will be hardships that cause the heart to grow weary. But God promises that these trials—even to the point of shedding of blood—are meant for our good.*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
because the Lord disciplines those he loves,  
and punishes everyone he accepts as his son.”

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

**NIV**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**C: Alleluia. The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia.**

No Intro

C: 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!

**THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 12:49-53**

**pg. 1568**

(Please stand out of reverence for Christ)

*The fire of the Word has come to destroy evil and bring peace between God and his people. Jesus warns that his fire will bring division between believer and unbeliever, even within that most intimate of human relationships, the family.*

“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” **NIV**

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you O Christ!

**HYMN OF THE DAY #431 “I Walk in Danger” vs 1,2,5,6**

**SERMON:**  
**Text: Hebrews 12:1-13**  
**“Run your Race with Perseverance!”**  
**Pastor Mark M. Schulz**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: *Apostles' Creed (Please stand)***

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.

**THANK OFFERING**

*The members of Open Bible congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering that supports our church's ministry, but you are welcome to do so.*

Octet: Judy Anderson, Peggi Carrier, Pastor Rodger Dale, Fred Hainen,  
Judy Hainen, Chris Moellring, Karen Pearson, Les Stauske, Stacy Vance

**Psalm 139 Bible/Allen Pote**

REFRAIN

Lord, you have searched me and known me,  
You know everything I do.  
When I rise up, when I lie down,  
You are with me through and through.  
Before a word is on my tongue,  
You know what I will say,  
Your presence follows me day by day.

Where can I flee from your Spirit?

Where can I go to run away?

If I go to heaven, or live in hell, you are there. REFRAIN

CODA

Search me, O God, and know me,  
Try me and know my heart.  
See if there be any wicked way in me,  
And lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

**Jim Bassett**  
**Chris Bassett**  
**Jerry Borton**  
**Bill Graff**  
**Maria Graff**  
**Bob Martin**  
**Stacy Vance**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P:** O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Give us faith to trust you in all circumstances, in good times and in times of painful trial. Give us courage to be faithful to our Lord Jesus even when it means we are rejected by the world and separated from those who are nearest and dearest to us. Help us make Jesus our priceless treasure.

**C:** **Lord, help us to give our first loyalty to Jesus and never to feel it a hardship.**

**P:** Strengthen your Church in the world. We pray for our missionaries, Protect them from any danger or illness. Give them wisdom, zeal for the work and love for souls that overcomes all cultural barriers. You tell us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth workers into the harvest field. Teach us, O Lord, to pray every day for the work of your kingdom and for those who serve in the various ministries of the church.

**C:** **Give us a heart for the lost so that we pray for their salvation.**

**P:** O Lord, have mercy on our nation. Our leaders seem to be more interested in political party and personal interests than in serving the nation. They run up government debt to the point of bankrupting our nation. We have been at war for a decade without success and live with the threat of terrorism at home and abroad. Give us good and wise leaders who can lead us through this so that America is preserved as a nation of freedom and good in the world.

**C:** **Bring peace to our world, especially the peace that only Christ can bring.**

**P:** Defend marriage and the family and give fathers and mothers understanding of their roles so that they provide loving protection to their children.

**C:** **Make the homes of our nation secure and peaceful, havens of love and rest.**

**P:** Bless and comfort all who are grieving, lonely, in pain or ill.  
Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious Father, we pray boldly in the name of Jesus, both because in ourselves we have no strength or hope, and because we are confident you will hear us for his sake.

**C:** **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, 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.**

**HYMN: #467**

**“May the Mind of Christ My Savior”**

**P:** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**P:** 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.



**CLOSING HYMN: #537 “Onward, Christian Soldiers”**

**Please join us for Fellowship following the service.  
We Welcome New Members**

**Acknowledgements:**

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Please listen to our Radio Ministry on Sunday’s at 103.5  
“The Shepherd.” Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am.

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“Growing in Christ through the Word, making His Salvation Known”

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

[www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com](http://www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com)



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