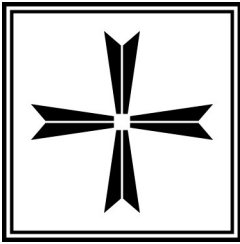




THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, ONE WORD AT A TIME:

LONGING

AUGUST 10TH, 2014



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

*BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
AUGUST 10TH, 2014*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sound / Music: Erik Roberson

Ushers: Erik Roberson, Roger Benz

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul clearly and succinctly lays out God's plan of salvation. As we study this book, we are going to see how it describes the main points of our saving faith, one word at a time.

Today's word that summarizes our lesson is "longing." Paul teaches a lesson on longing for God's plans to come to fruition. Even creation groans for release from the bondage of sin and longs for the freedom of the children of God. One day, God will make all things new and return creation to the perfection with which he made it. Until then, we preach the Word that plants faith that looks for a better world to come and produces the fruit of hope that lets us wait for it patiently.

BEFORE WORSHIP

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the lessons, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES

Children's Activity Sheets give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for the day. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.

Children's Church is a special place for younger children to hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft. You can escort your child to our children's church just before the sermon as noted in the service folder.

INFORMATION

Bathrooms are located at the end of the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, check out our information table in the entryway, speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com, or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving all fifty of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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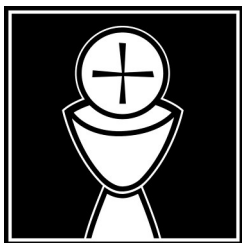
~ **Scripture** is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ® NIV® ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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~ **Divine Service I**. © 2006 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

~ **When Peace Like a River**, Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888, alt. Tune, Setting: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876.

~ **How Firm a Foundation**, Text: A Selection of Hymns, London, 1787, alt. Tune, Setting: Traditional American Melody; Caldwell's Union Harmony, 1837,

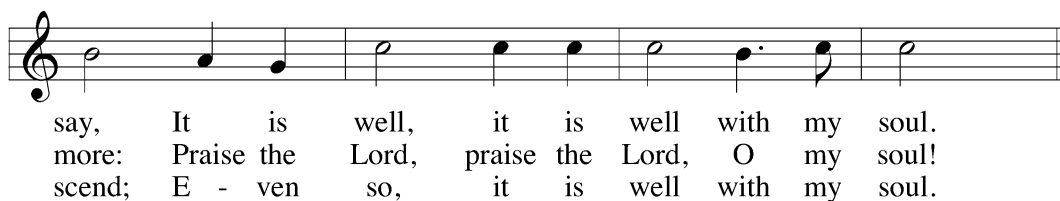
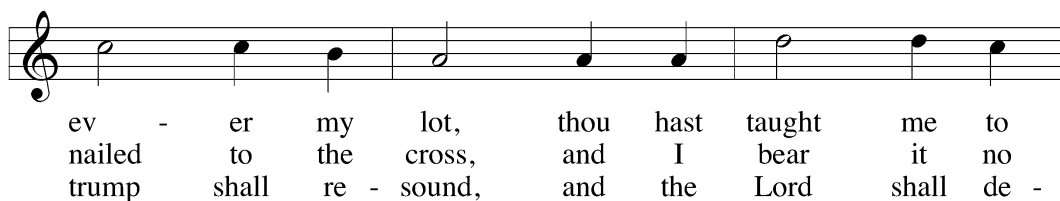
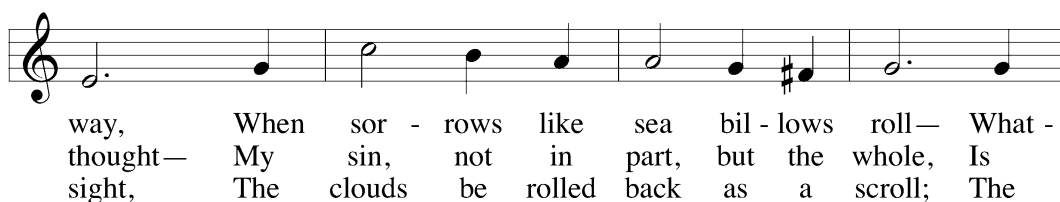
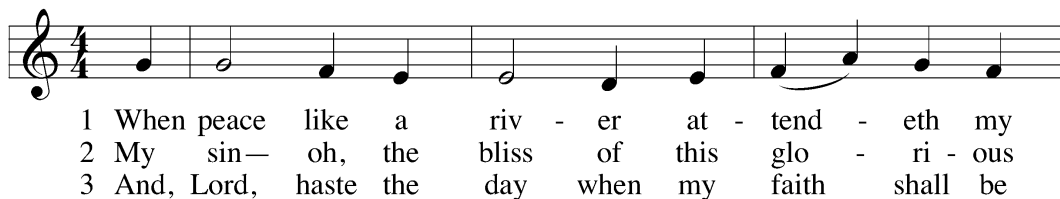


DIVINE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

#760

WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER



INVOCATION

~PLEASE STAND

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

L As we prepare to worship God and have our faith fed through Word and Sacrament, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

The use of the keys (the power to forgive sins) is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners (See John 20:21-23).

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.

Silence for personal confession and reflection

LORD, HAVE MERCY ~ KYRIE



"Kyrie" is the Greek word for "Lord." The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest responses in the Christian church.

L 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

□ In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

GLORY BE TO GOD ~ *GLORIA IN EXCELSIS*

Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

The musical score is written on ten staves of five-line music staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The text is: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." The score includes various musical notations such as clefs, key signatures, notes, rests, and bar lines.

Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -
 ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

SALUTATION

This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word and the Sacrament sections of the service.

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

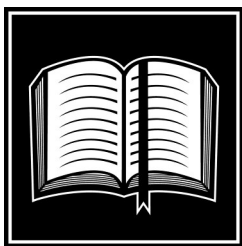
PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray:

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

~PLEASE BE SEATED



Though many seeds fall among soil that does not produce fruit, Isaiah gives us God's promise that his Word will never return to him fruitless.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 55:10,11 (PG. 1149)

- ¹⁰ As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM #65

*God has shown his
goodness to all people
by producing bountiful
harvests.*

- 1 Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion;
to you our vows will be fulfilled.
- 2 O you who hear prayer,
to you all men will come.
- 3 When we were overwhelmed by sins,
you forgave our transgressions.
- 4 Blessed are those you choose
and bring near to live in your courts!
**We are filled with the good things of your house,
of your holy temple.**
- 5 You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness,
O God our Savior,
**the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas,**
- 6 who formed the mountains by your power,
having armed yourself with strength,
- 7 **who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.**
- 8 Those living far away fear your wonders;
**where morning dawns and evening fades
you call forth songs of joy.**
- 9 You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.
The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.
- 10 You drench its furrows
and level its ridges;
**you soften it with showers
and bless its crops.**
- 11 You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.
- 12 The grasslands of the desert overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.
- 13 The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 8:18-25 (PG. 1757)

Paul teaches a lesson on longing for God's plans to come to fruition.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

VERSE OF THE DAY

DEUTERONOMY 30:14



L Refrain.

C Refrain.

L The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so that you may obey it.

C Refrain. (sung twice)

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23 (PG. 1516)

~PLEASE STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the word of Christ, our King.

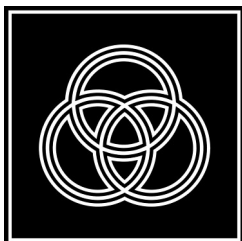
God comforts us by pointing to what his Word does in the good soil: it plants great faith that does great things.

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁸"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. ²²The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. ²³But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:





Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christian's composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

** The original text here reads "catholic," a word meaning "universal." The Church consists of all believers in heaven and earth, of every time in history.*

NICENE CREED ~ CREDO

■ 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 for 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.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

Children are invited to assemble at the front for a children's message.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

During the singing of the hymn, parents may choose to escort their young child(ren) to our children's church, where they will hear a Bible story, sing songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints
 2 "Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path -
 5 "Through - out all their life - time my peo -

of the Lord, Is laid for your
 not dis - mayed; For I am your
 for re - pose I will not, I
 way shall lie, My grace all - suf -
 ple shall prove My sov' - reign, e -

faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What
 God and will still give you aid; I'll
 will not, de - sert to his foes. That
 fi - cient shall be your sup - ply. The
 ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love, And

more can he say than to you
 strength - en you, help you, and cause
 soul, though all hell should en - deav -
 flames will not hurt you; I on -
 then, when gray hair shall their tem -

he has said Who un - to the
 you to stand, Up - held by my
 or to shake, I'll nev - er, no
 ly de - sign Your dross to con -
 ples a - dorn, Like lambs they shall

Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!
 some and your gold to re - fine.
 still on my shoul - ders be borne."

~PLEASE STAND

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

Cre - ate in me a

pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -

in me. Do not cast me a - way from your

pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from

me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

~PLEASE STAND

The Lord invites our prayers and asks that Christians pray for many people and circumstances.

L Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

C Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

L Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

L Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

C Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

L Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

L Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

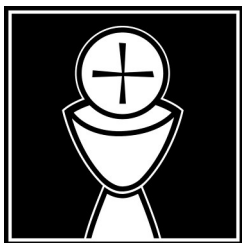
C Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

L Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

C Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

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.**



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is good and right so to do.

L It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that where two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

The opening words of the communion liturgy mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshipers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ~ SANCTUS

"Sanctus" means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -
ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L 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, 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, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

LAMB OF GOD ~ AGNUS DEI

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. A - men.

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.



The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another who are united around a common confession of faith.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Savior Lutheran Church asks that only members come forward to receive the sacrament.

There is a Personal Preparation for Communion available on page 156 in the red hymnal.

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON ~ *NUNC DIMITTIS*

The "Nunc Dimittis" ("Now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon." Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

~PLEASE STAND

In peace, Lord, you let your

ser - vant now de - part ac - cord-ing to your word. For my

eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre-pared for

ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the

glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

L O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C **And his mercy endures forever.**

L O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

L The Lord has refreshed us with His Word. Let us head into this new week equipped for lives of service.

C **Our mission is to worship God, to spread his Word to our community and to all nations, and to nurture all believers to prepare them for lives of Christian service.**

BLESSING

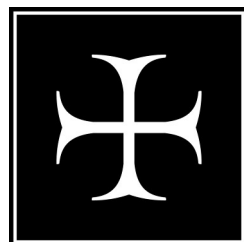
L Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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 **Amen.**



The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).

~PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

#417

I'M BUT A STRANGER HERE



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